

**Yukon Legislative Assembly**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Wednesday, December 10, 2008 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

## DAILY ROUTINE

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

Tributes.

## TRIBUTES

### In recognition of International Human Rights Day

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** I rise today to recognize Human Rights Day, which is being celebrated today around the world. Sixty years ago on December 10, 1948, the founding members of the United Nations gathered in Paris to sign the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* was ratified by a count of 48 to zero. The historic vote in Paris allowed for the first steps toward equality in dignity and rights for all people. This ratification was the genesis of international human rights recognition and emphasized core freedoms: the freedom of speech; the freedom of belief; the freedom from want; and the freedom from fear.

Today we recognize the major advances we have made in this field. Mr. Speaker, Canadians have always been at the forefront of promoting human rights. Canadians have a reputation as being a sturdy prop for the weak and defenceless. I'm sure all of us think of Canadians like Louise Arbour, a former Supreme Court of Canada Justice, who is now the High Commissioner for Human Rights for the United Nations.

Mr. Speaker, I also think of our peacekeepers and soldiers around the world who willingly sacrifice their lives for these rights that we hold so dear.

We see more children going to school; we see more women finding meaningful and interesting work in previously inaccessible careers. More people can practice religious beliefs without fear of persecution. Still, there is work to be done. People are devalued, subjugated, persecuted or tortured in different regions because of their race, religion, politics or gender. Today is a day to celebrate the advances we have made in the field of human rights.

Here in the Yukon, the Select Committee on Human Rights, of which I am a member, has completed its review of the *Human Rights Act*. I want to thank the members opposite for their work on this very important issue. I would also like to thank the public and stakeholder groups for their thoughtful and informative contributions.

The Yukon Global Arts Jam concludes on December 13 after a month of arts activities to celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

I would like to congratulate the organizing committee, artists, entertainers, speakers and guests for creating this festival

and ensuring that December 10, 1948, is remembered by Yukoners for its important place in the history of human rights.

I thank all the Yukoners and all the Canadians who work to promote human rights in the territory, in the nation and around the world every day.

Thank you. Günilschish.

**Mr. Inverarity:** I rise today, Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Official Opposition to pay tribute to International Human Rights Day also.

In Canada, there existed little in the way of anti-discrimination legislation prior to World War II. This was due in large part to the dominant political and social culture of the time. The Second World War was a pivotal event in the evolution of human rights legislation in Canada. Events such as the Holocaust, the wartime internment of Japanese-Canadians, and Canada's signing of the United Nations *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* served as a catalyst for human rights awareness and societal openness to the principle of state-enforced, anti-discrimination legislation.

Today, December 10, 2008, is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of that *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*.

This historic document is often labelled a modern-day Magna Carta and outlines the human rights standards for the United Nations that the UN believes should be enforced by all nations. Among them are the rights to life, liberty and nationality, the rights to freedom of thought, conscience and religion and the rights to work, be educated and take part in the government.

The 2008 theme for International Human Rights Day is "Dignity and justice for all of us". Dignity and justice is still not a reality for many people. Discrimination affects societies in every region of the world and is a root cause of many human rights violations, especially in poor countries. There is still much to be done in turning human rights into reality.

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* and its core values — human dignity, non-discrimination, equality, fairness and universality — apply to everyone, everywhere and always. Since its adoption in 1948, the declaration has been, and continues to be, a source of inspiration for national and international efforts to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms.

We pay tribute today to the extraordinary vision of the declaration's original drafters and to the many human rights defenders around the world who struggle to make their vision a reality.

We also commend and recognize the hard work done by the Yukon Human Rights Commission and the Yukon Human Rights Panel of Adjudicators in defending the rights of many Yukoners.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I wish to say that I had the privilege and the opportunity to be appointed to the Select Committee on Human Rights. The select committee, on a Yukon-wide tour, was able to discuss and receive the recommendations from many Yukoners on how to improve the Yukon's 21-year-old *Human Rights Act* — an act that needs to be more comprehensive and modernized. I look forward to the implementation

of the recommendations and the amendments to the Yukon *Human Rights Act*.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I rise on behalf of the NDP caucus today to pay tribute to this International Human Rights Day. This year's theme is "Dignity and justice for all of us". Today we celebrate the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Commitment to the universal declaration and its objectives is even more important today than it was 60 years ago. Since its passage much has happened and is happening today that may make us wonder if dignity and justice for all is achievable. Wars, famine, poverty and disease continue to exact an unbelievable toll on people the world over. All of these problems can easily be solved with the political will to do so.

Although we tend to think of indignity and injustice as part of the rest of the world, Canada is no exception. I am proud to note that the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* was drafted with the assistance of a Canadian. Even in a rich country, adults and children suffer unacceptable rates of poverty, mental illness and violence. Racialized people and women face a shortage of decent employment opportunities, education and housing.

As a land of immigrants, we are using them to shore up our extravagant way of life. Environmental disasters that threaten everyone's right to clean water and air seem to be ignored. Surely this cannot go on.

As if poverty and violence, pollution and the mistreatment of the mentally ill are not enough in Canada, the human rights of many Canadians are being eroded by the current desire for international security. We are following and supporting the bellicose actions of our neighbour to the south in stripping citizens of their civil rights in the misplaced fear of international terrorism, and sending soldiers to die in Afghanistan.

Each of us has a duty to stand up, not just for our own rights, but for those of others both in our country and around the world. The 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* must encourage us all to recommit to creating a world in which every person can realize dignity and justice, and these rights ought to be theirs simply as our sisters and brothers in life.

### In remembrance of Lawrence Leith Tremblay

**Mr. McRobb:** It is indeed an honour to rise in remembrance of Lawrence Leith Tremblay, formerly of Haines Junction. I wish to recognize the efforts of his family in preparing this tribute today.

Larry was born July 5, 1929, in Athabasca, Alberta — one of five children. After his mother passed away when he was 12 years old, a local school teacher came to the assistance of the family and took him in. At age 15, he performed as a bareback bronco and bull-riding cowboy with Knight Brothers of Alberta.

In 1952, Larry met and married his future life-partner, Lois Durnal, in Nebraska. In the following year, he became a back country warden for Parks Canada, stationed at Waterton Lakes Park, Alberta. Larry and Lois called it their "Honeymoon Park."

In the summer of 1955, Larry transferred to the Blue Creek District of Jasper National Park where he was solely responsible for patrolling hundreds of square miles of wilderness.

He and Lois were blessed with five children during those 11 years at Jasper.

They returned to Waterton in 1966 where Larry happily continued his duties and was promoted to chief warden. In 1972, Parks Canada chose Larry as its first chief warden to help open what is arguably its most precious asset today — the magnificent mosaic of pristine mountains, glaciers, lakes and rivers proclaimed as Kluane National Park and Reserve.

The Village of Haines Junction became his family's new home for the next 15 years. There, his duties included promoting the new park, cooperating with First Nation co-management partners and recruiting and training his team of new park wardens. His duties also called upon him to act as ambassador for Kluane to the federal government. This task was rife with paperwork and frequent trips to Ottawa which he greeted with diligence and occasional resistance. Larry's passionate work on behalf of Kluane National Park has brought considerable international recognition and benefit to the Yukon Territory.

During his time in Haines Junction, Larry contributed tirelessly to the community. He was a member of the St. Elias Lions Club, badminton and curling clubs, volunteered as a hockey coach for young women's teams, hockey refereeing, and was instrumental in promoting the Youth Conservation Corps. His family also helped several young First Nation women from other communities in the Kluane region attend high school in Haines Junction by taking them into their home.

After some 33 years with the Parks Service, Larry retired in 1986. Although he and Lois later moved to Nanaimo, B.C., his love for the Yukon never waned. Each spring, he would faithfully drive the 3,000 kilometres to his gold claim near Burwash Landing, a trek that would be reversed each fall for 22 years.

When not working industriously at his small placer mine, he spent much of his time in local coffee shops, continuing as ambassador for Kluane and the Yukon by regaling locals and tourists with helpful advice and, often, colourful stories.

To continue his legacy, Larry has left us with his darling wife, Lois; children Scot, Wyatt, Kristy, Terry and Kelli; nine grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. On October 18 of this year, they scattered his ashes in the Alsek Valley, one of his favourite places. Later that day, the family hosted a celebration of life for Larry at the convention centre in Haines Junction, where scores of friends and former colleagues heard several wonderful recollections about this very special person.

For nearly 35 years, Larry Tremblay was an integral part of the fabric of the Yukon. We owe him a debt of gratitude for making it an even better place than he found it.

I can confirm that Larry was a great communicator. I always looked forward to meeting up with him while he exercised his talents in the many coffee shops along the highway. He would always have the latest news and was indeed a great storyteller. Not only would he give tourists a warm welcome, he'd invite them to his table, where they would learn interest-

ing facts about beautiful Kluane. Sometimes this was sprinkled with a harrowing tale from his warden years, often involving grizzly bears.

Larry also had a keen interest in politics. Never one to swallow things at face value, he often sought the more revealing story behind the story. Finally, Mr. Speaker, I'd like to share a bit of a family secret — the story behind the story, if you will.

It has to do with "Larry the Miner". In fact, he's likely the Yukon's most celebrated miner, referenced by his first name only. Readers of the editorial cartoon in the *Yukon News* have for years seen a mysterious variety of depictions to "Larry's Mining," often appearing on equipment, jackets and ball caps. This was his son Wyatt's way of saying, "Hi, Dad. We love you."

With your indulgence, Mr. Speaker, I invite all members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming to the gallery today several family members, former co-workers and friends: his daughter, Kristy Tremblay; her sons Rick and Daniel Staley; her husband, Ken Roberts; Larry's son, Wyatt, the infamous cartoonist, and his son Adam; from Haines Junction, former co-workers with Kluane National Park, Kevin McLaughlin, Rick Staley, Scott Stewart, Kim Henkel, and Lloyd Freese. They are accompanied by Tom Elliot from Whitehorse.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Are there any further tributes?  
Introduction of visitors.

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** I would ask all members of the Assembly to join me in welcoming Mr. Gary Morgan, a teacher at Del Van Gorder School in Faro, and many of the students in the grade 10 and 11 class. Welcome.

*Applause*

**Speaker:** Are there further introductions of visitors?  
Are there returns or documents for tabling?

## TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I have for tabling the Property Management Agency Annual Report, 2007-08.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I have for tabling the Yukon Lottery Commission Annual Report for 2007-08.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** I have for tabling the Yukon Law Foundation report for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2007.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I have for tabling a written question to the minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation regarding the Yukon Housing Corporation and the Whitehorse Housing Co-operative.

**Speaker:** Are there any further documents for tabling?  
Are there any reports of committees?  
Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motion?

## NOTICES OF MOTION

**Mr. Nordick:** I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Department of Education and the Department of Health and Social Services to examine the potential of a transfer of Early Childhood Learning to the Department of Education.

**Mr. Mitchell:** I give notice of the following motion:

THAT it is the opinion of this House that the Government of Yukon should, without further delay, bring forth an economic stimulus package that would include, but not be limited to, the creation of new capital building projects or moving existing project plans forward in order that:

(1) Yukon businesses will know of upcoming projects and will have time to plan for them;

(2) Yukon workers will feel assured that work will exist for them in the coming year; and

(3) financial institutions will feel more flexible in extending credit to both businesses and workers.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I give notice of the following motion:

THAT it is the opinion of this House that, on this Human Rights Day, the Government of Canada should stop blocking the United Nations resolution on the right to water and sanitation and recognize that this is a fundamental human right and to:

(1) follow the recommendation of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights that access to safe drinking water be recognized as a human right;

(2) assist in alleviating the world potable water scarcity;

(3) help alleviate the unequal access to potable water in the world;

(4) help prevent diseases related to dirty water that claim more children's lives than war or AIDS; and

(5) support the UN Special Advisor to the General Assembly president, a Canadian.

I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Justice to ensure that staffing levels at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre are adequate to handle the rising incarceration rates in the Yukon so that:

(1) inmates have access to appropriate programming; and

(2) the safety of inmates and staff is not jeopardized.

**Speaker:** Are there any further notices of motion?

Is there a ministerial statement?

This then brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

**Question re:** *Human Rights Act amendments*

**Mr. Inverarity:** I've made a commitment to the members of this House to contribute toward the updated and effective *Human Rights Act* for the Yukon. Again, I congratulate

late the committee members; I appreciate their effort and support and the work that has been done to date by this Select Committee on Human Rights.

At the time I was named to the committee, I made a commitment to be vocal about any concerns with the public consultation process and with the development of the act. I have asked about, and am bringing forward, a few much-needed and immediate amendments to the existing *Human Rights Act* while we wait for the new legislation to be drafted. Now I'm asking the minister if she will commit to having the draft of the new Yukon human rights legislation completed by the spring sitting.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** It indeed was a pleasure to travel the Yukon with the human rights select committee, and we received valuable information from Yukoners on how to improve our *Human Rights Act* for Yukoners. As I reported in this House before, these changes take time, and we will put them into effect as soon as possible.

**Mr. Inverarity:** Mr. Speaker, the Select Committee on Human Rights has been very active over the past six months. The initial public consultations have been completed and many excellent recommendations have been put forth. Some of these recommendations do not need legislative changes to implement. The Justice minister, however, has rejected the committee's recommendations for operational changes within her department that do not require changes to the act. The Justice minister also rejected my suggestion for a few minor changes to the *Human Rights Act* while we wait for the final outcome of the legislative development process.

Will the minister commit to providing a draft of the proposed legislation this spring which could be used as a basis for further public consultation?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Again, we did indeed get some good information from our tour throughout the Yukon and the changes will be made. Perhaps if the member opposite was on the government side he would know that changes take time to do properly. There are some changes that we may have to go back to the public for consultation on. We are criticized for underconsultation and for overconsultation. We will do it in due time and make sure it is correct.

**Mr. Inverarity:** Mr. Speaker, we are dealing with legislation that is old and very much out of date. The Select Committee on Human Rights has done the preliminary consultations with the public and had made a number of recommendations for legislative amendments as well as department changes. Mr. Speaker, this committee has done its part but the government has yet to do theirs. So far the Justice minister has indicated that she will not entertain any changes to the human rights legislation or to the Department of Justice operations, and that concerns me. If the government is not prepared to have something ready for spring, will the Minister of Justice at least lay out the timeline she has in mind for implementing the committee's recommendations?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Mr. Speaker, as I have said many times in this House over the past week, we are looking into the changes to the *Human Rights Act* and they will be done in due time, and done properly.

### Question re: Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board policy

**Mr. Fairclough:** Yesterday a startling statistic was revealed in Nova Scotia relating to the number of injured workers. Nova Scotia's WCB revealed in their annual report that 53 of the province's 18,508 registered employers accounted for 49.66 percent of injuries reported. That's an incredible figure, Mr. Speaker. To put it another way, it is one-quarter of one percent of employers who are responsible for nearly half of all accidents.

Workers have the right to know the safety track record of employers before accepting employment — especially vulnerable are our youth. How many parents would want their son or daughter working for one of these 53 employers?

Would the minister responsible for the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board agree that the names of those employers in the Yukon with the worst safety records should be made public?

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** Mr. Speaker, I thank the member opposite for his concern for the safety of all workers throughout the Yukon.

The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board has a responsibility for providing the service throughout the Yukon. They have appropriate measures in place. I'm pleased to report to the member opposite that our injuries are down from last year, so we are improving our safety in the workplace and look forward to further improvements in the future.

**Mr. Fairclough:** The minister wouldn't agree to have those names of the employers with the worst safety records made public. Yesterday the Nova Scotia Supreme Court ruled that Nova Scotia WCB must release the names of the province's 25 worst offenders. Justice Gregory Warner rejected the argument that the embarrassment to employers would be permanent or prolonged. Justice Warner said, "On the contrary, disclosure should encourage a workplace with a comparatively poor safety record to improve its safety record." He went on to say, "It can only be reasonably expected to affect them in the long term if they do not respond to the serious workplace safety problems ..."

Will the minister responsible agree that Yukon should put the safety of workers ahead of the possible embarrassment of employers with very poor safety records?

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** I thank the member opposite for the question and the fact that he's pointing out that it is important that we look after the safety of all workers. The Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board is doing just that. We are in that process.

I have indicated that our injury reports are down. We've just gone through a long review process, with both employers and employees, and we've built up a good relationship between the two. We feel that we have a good working relationship between the two units.

**Mr. Fairclough:** Well, Yukon's Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board will require a little more prodding on this issue. The chair of Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board is on record as being on the side of employers

with very poor safety records. In fact, I refer to the September 25, 2007 edition of the *Whitehorse Star*, in which the chair is quoted as saying that “he and his fellow board members have no intention of ever releasing the names of companies that continue to boast poor safety records in the territory.”

Wolfgang Zimmermann, the executive director of the National Institute for Disability Management and Research, says that he has seen proof that naming companies with poor safety records keeps people safe. Now that a precedent has been set by Nova Scotia’s Supreme Court, will this minister take the necessary step to ensure that Yukon’s Workers’ Compensation Health and Safety Board revisits their policy with the intent of changing it?

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** I thank the member opposite for the question again. I’ll reiterate what I said before: the safety of all Yukon workers is very important to this government as well as the Workers’ Compensation Health and Safety Board. It has just gone through a substantial review of all its legislation with regard to workers’ compensation. Members opposite have questioned us on several occasions with regard to the progress. We have just completed that process. As I stated earlier, we have a very good working relationship between employers and the employees. We have steps in place to improve the safety at the workplace and for the workers there.

#### **Question re: Taser use**

**Mr. Cardiff:** The use of tasers has created a lot of controversy since these weapons were first introduced to the RCMP. Reports have cited problems with the training of members of the force in how and when to use these weapons as well as the weapons themselves.

In 2007, the RCMP in Yukon used the taser 111 times; 58 times involved multiple firings during a single incident. Firing these weapons multiple times at the same individual is not advised by experts because it can lead to injury or even death.

Will the Minister of Justice tell us how many times tasers were used in the Yukon so far this year, and how many of those incidents involved multiple firings at the same individual?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Mr. Speaker, this is information that I do not have with me today — the actual statistics. I will get back to the member opposite with this information.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I’ll look forward to receiving that information.

More recently, the CBC and Radio Canada hired an independent firm to test tasers manufactured before January of 2006. The findings were disturbing, some might even say shocking. Several units were found to put out a current up to 50 percent stronger than specified by the manufacturer. As a result, some law enforcement agencies are joining the RCMP in doing a safety audit of these older tasers. Will the minister tell us how many of the older tasers the Yukon RCMP has, and what plans there are to test and recalibrate them if necessary?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Mr. Speaker, an interesting tidbit here is that “taser,” which people may not know, stands for “Thomas A. Swift Electric Rifle,” who was the inventor of the taser.

I can tell you now that five tasers have been removed from M Division and are being sent for testing. The organizational

operational impact is negligible. It is my understanding that the RCMP met with CBC in November to discuss test results undertaken by CBC which apparently showed that some taser units they had tested were operating outside the manufacturer’s specifications and these were related to the older tasers. As I said, they have been removed and sent out for testing.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I thank the minister for that information as well.

Tasers have caused more than 290 deaths in North America since 2001, including that of a Polish immigrant last year in Vancouver International Airport. A House of Commons committee has threatened to call for a moratorium on the use of tasers if the RCMP does not begin restricting the use of these weapons by the end of this year. Among other things, the parliamentary Standing Committee on Public Safety and National Security said tasers should be reclassified as “impact weapons”. This means that they should only be used in situations where an individual is combative or poses a risk of “death or grievous bodily harm”. The committee also called for Mounties with less than five years’ experience in the field to be banned from using tasers and for individuals who have been tasered to get immediate medical treatment.

Will the minister tell us if any of these recommendations have been adopted by the local RCMP?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** The RCMP are following all the testing, the stories across Canada and the U.S. very closely. They are reviewing their policies on taser use. It is something that is still under investigation and study.

#### **Question re: Social worker recruitment**

**Mr. Edzerza:** Positions for regional social workers are ongoing employment opportunities advertised by the Yukon government. It has been noted that only one regional social worker has been in the field for any length of time.

Will the Minister of Health and Social Services tell us how many qualified social workers with at least a bachelor of social work are presently in rural Yukon and where they are?

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** We are currently under a drive for social workers, especially in our rural areas. We have put together a plan to assist in recruiting those individuals. The member opposite also knows that it’s very difficult to fulfill these positions in our small rural communities, but we are in the process of doing this and we have a plan of action to go forward and deal with the shortage that we have in our rural communities.

**Mr. Edzerza:** These are generalist positions, which means they are responsible for all or part of the duties and responsibilities of at least 17 department positions in Whitehorse, four of which are supervisory. They report to four different managers and have possibly five positions reporting to them. In only one section of their responsibilities, family and children’s services, their duties include supervising and training staff, investigating, reporting and acting upon complaints of child neglect or abuse, apprehending children, monitoring children’s safety and recruiting, and assessing foster and adoptive homes.

There are several other responsibilities across a wide range of clientele. Does the department have any special recruitment

and retention strategies to attract and retain these challenging positions, and what is your workplan?

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** I thank the member opposite for the question. As I stated, the department is in the process of developing that plan.

We're out for recruitment. We have identified some specific areas in trying to attract workers to our rural areas. But I will again state that it is sometimes very difficult to recruit to some of our smaller communities because it's basically the choice of the worker where they want to work. So that in itself sometimes creates its own difficulty. But I will say that we have been successful in some rural communities in fulfilling those requirements, and we hope to have those positions filled very soon.

**Mr. Edzerza:** Other responsibilities of a regional social worker are social assistance, counselling, adult protection, youth probation, home care program development, community development and emergency social service coordinator in the event of a community disaster. They travel frequently and are at risk of vehicle accidents in adverse weather conditions. They are in frequent contact with First Nation administrations, the RCMP, local school and nursing staff, inter-agency and other community committees and other Yukon government officials.

The day-to-day management of an isolated office with hostile clients means that the position is at risk for abuse and assault.

The job description says that the emotional and secondary traumatic stress in normal social work is aggravated in the position. What supports does the department offer to these positions in order to retain anyone committed to staying in rural Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** Mr. Speaker, with regard to staffing in our rural communities, he has identified several challenges that we have to overcome in order to meet the requirements of putting a social worker in our rural communities. However, as I indicated before, we have a plan that we are going to go forth with, and we hope that it will produce fruits of our labour in filling these positions. We will also be looking at ensuring that these individuals have the safety or security in place for their situation, depending on where they're located.

#### **Question re: Taser use**

**Mr. Inverarity:** Mr. Speaker, I'd like to follow up on the health and safety risks associated with the use of tasers that we talked about earlier.

The RCMP in some Canadian provinces have decided to test tasers that have been manufactured before 2006. In some other Canadian jurisdictions, however, all of the tasers are going to be tested for correct operation.

We think this is a prudent move, considering that some 25 Canadians have died after being tasered. We're confident the local RCMP is on top of this issue and, essentially, we'd like an update on the plans to test the tasers in the Yukon. If the minister could help us with that, we'd appreciate it.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** I can tell you that the RCMP have identified 24 tasers that were acquired prior to January 1, 2006, and have already directed that these units be removed from service. Five tasers have been removed from M Division and are being sent for testing.

**Mr. Inverarity:** This is not the first time the safe operation of tasers has been questioned. The more research we do into the operation of tasers, the less confident we become that the effects of these stun guns are, in fact, temporary and predictable.

Last year it was revealed that the Whitehorse Correctional Centre had a taser and had actually used it on an inmate. I appreciate it was used in accordance with the operations procedures, but my question is, can the minister confirm that the tasers at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre will also be tested?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** The taser at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre is being tested.

**Mr. Inverarity:** We're concerned about the health and safety of Yukoners. We are allowing the use of this high-voltage shock treatment on people without a good understanding of exactly what is going to happen to the person when they're stunned with 50,000 volts or more.

I'm sure the Minister of Justice is aware that all electronic devices must be approved by the Canadian Standards Association. I'm also sure that the minister is aware that tasers have no such safety approval. There is now enough evidence to suggest that we don't fully understand the effects of this device.

Will the minister support a moratorium on the use of tasers until we know for certain that they can be used safely, please?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** The steps taken by the RCMP to remove some tasers from service and to conduct tests is part of ongoing efforts to ensure our policies and practices continue to be appropriate and are based on the best available information that is out to date.

In the last year, the RCMP have made a number of improvements in policies, training, practices and reporting requirements, including restricting the use of tasers to incidents involving threats to officer or public safety, requiring RCMP officers to be recertified annually on the use of tasers and the enhanced use of force reporting. The RCMP continue to believe that when used appropriately by officers who are properly trained, the taser is a useful tool which contributes to the safety and security of the public and our police officers.

#### **Question re: Economic outlook in Yukon**

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, Yukoners are wondering why this government has waited until the last three days of the sitting to finally realize what the opposition has been telling them throughout this sitting. The economy needs our attention now, not later. As recently as yesterday the Premier said, "We're doing that with key stakeholders, and I've informed the Leader of the Official Opposition what those key stakeholders are saying — it is to maintain the course".

Well, Mr. Speaker, less than 24 hours later the government is using one of the last three days of this sitting to debate their motion calling for action on the recessionary economy. Such flip-flopping does nothing to engender confidence in the business community or among workers. The motion calls for debate and for committees to monitor.

It appears the Premier was very late in acknowledging this issue. Now is the time for action. What does the Premier pro-

pose for direct increased stimulus to Yukon's economy in the near term?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** I'm not really sure what point the member is making here, but at least the government has tabled a \$54-million plus supplementary budget. We're debating that budget today. It's an investment in infrastructure and in public health and safety — an area that creates more jobs. It's an investment in education — for example, hiring more teaching assistants. It's an investment in labour market capacity, meeting another gap in our economy that is a challenge overall, consistent with what's going on in the global cycle. Of course, our discussions and processes internally in monitoring trends and engaging with key stakeholders have been going on for some time.

The upside for Yukon is that for six years in a row, we've had a year-end surplus. We have a net financial position that's very healthy, and that financial position allows us options — many more options than we would have had without this kind of fiscal prudence being applied in the territory for the last six years. Those options will allow us to do even more beyond the \$54-million supplementary budget that we're debating today.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, it appears that the Premier's strategy is to talk about the economy, and hope that Yukoners might come to believe he's actually doing something about it. The Premier notes that we're debating the budget. Mr. Speaker, it was not until the fifth day of this sitting — the last day allowed — that the Premier tabled his supplementary budget. We in the opposition were actually hoping he was re-writing it to reflect what everyone else in the world knew: the economy was in trouble.

Not only did the Premier wait for the eleventh hour to table his budget, it was day 16 before it was called for second reading. That is how this Minister of Finance manages the affairs of Yukon. Now we're down to the last three days, and behold a revelation: the economy needs our attention. Why did this Finance minister and Premier drop the ball on an issue that, frankly, everyone else knew about and was continuously urging him to take action on?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Speaker, I have a revelation for the Leader of the Official Opposition: the fact that the Yukon's economy is in a very positive position is the result of this government's attention to the Yukon's economic fortunes and its economic future. That's why we have an unemployment rate of less than five percent today. That's why we have a number of positive options available to us going forward. That's why we have an ever-increasing population in this territory.

What the member is suggesting here is simply inconsistent with the realities of today's Yukon. We recognize that the global cycle will impact all members of the global community, we being one of them.

However, we've assured Yukoners and will continue to assure Yukoners that we have the means to manage our way through the cycle. I think it's fundamental that any government in office, any elected member in office, has a responsibility to be a messenger of positive, constructive initiatives and planning versus a messenger of doom and gloom.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Today's motion was actually tabled by the Member for Klondike, the Yukon Party's sole backbencher. I don't wish to be critical, Mr. Speaker, but this motion lacks the cutting edge of hard steel. In more than one case, we are in effect being asked to initiate to continue. Of course, I refer to 2(a) and 2(i). This motion was so poorly written that it can only suggest it was almost an afterthought. That, combined with what the Premier was saying yesterday about steering the course leaves us wondering if this government actually understands the complexities and the possible depth of this current recession.

Will the Premier save the political rhetoric for another day and lay out for Yukoners precisely what his government plans to do to address the worldwide recession's potential impacts on Yukon?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Speaker, I have a hard time accepting the fact that a \$54.7-million supplementary budget, just post-period 5 variances, tabled here in this Assembly, is political rhetoric. This is the Leader of the Official Opposition who stated for all to hear that we throw this budget away, that it's no good. We should throw away the millions of dollars of investment in infrastructure that is putting economic infrastructure on the ground here in Yukon. We should throw away the investment in more teaching assistants to educate our young people. We should throw away investment in public health and safety, Mr. Speaker. Millions more dollars in a new mobile radio system for better connectivity in the Yukon Territory — we should throw all that away. Mr. Speaker, an investment in public health — we should throw that away? These are all investments in Yukon, its future, its citizens and its economy.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

### MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

#### Motion No. 647

**Clerk:** Motion No. 647, standing in the name of Mr. Nordick.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Member for Klondike

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to initiate measures to manage the impacts of the global downturn by working:

(1) at the national level with the provinces and territories through the Council of the Federation to present options to stimulate the economy to the Government of Canada at the First Ministers meeting on the economy scheduled to be held in Ottawa on January 16, 2009; and

(2) at the local level to implement the following measures:

(a) continuing to maintain a prudent financial position so there is money available to invest where necessary;

(b) hosting round-table discussions with key stakeholders within Yukon to collect advice and input to aid and inform decisions;

(c) focusing on key infrastructure investments to create jobs in the short term and to provide an environment for long-term investment and growth;

(d) promoting research and development opportunities in Yukon, such as the Cold Climate Innovation Centre and the climate change research centre of excellence;

(e) striking an internal committee of deputy ministers, chaired by the Premier, to monitor and assess economic trends and identify opportunities;

(f) implementing labour mobility initiatives;

(g) expanding trade opportunities with foreign partners;

(h) encouraging the federal government to continue to make strategic investments in Canada's north, meeting its commitment to unlock the vast potential in Yukon; and

(i) continuing to work with First Nation governments to ensure an appropriate federal mandate is renewed to adequately resource First Nation governments.

**Mr. Nordick:** Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to speak to this motion today. This Yukon Party government is working with other governments and the private sector to address the impact of the global economic downturn on the Yukon economy. Not only are we working at the local level, which I will speak to shortly, to address the global economic situation, it should be recognized that we have been working, and continue to work, at a national level, with provinces and territories through the Council of the Federation and the Government of Canada to implement collaborative actions and present economic stimulus initiatives to improve the national economy.

Mr. Speaker, as in the first part of this motion we are debating today, our Premier will be meeting with the federal, provincial and territorial ministers, scheduled to be held in Ottawa on January 16, 2009.

I will now focus on the local level. We are implementing nine measures to manage the impacts of the global economic downturn on the Yukon economy. The first measure involves continuing to maintain a prudent financial position so that there is money available to invest where necessary. Mr. Speaker, the Yukon is in a strong position to manage our way through this economic cycle.

Since our government took office in 2002, Yukon has achieved the position of having savings as opposed to debt. Our savings at year-end 2008 are in the excess of \$165 million. This is the sixth consecutive year-end surplus from this government. Prior to our government taking office, this was not possible.

The Yukon government's revenue stream is stable and secure. Our government has secured other long-term, predictable financial arrangements such as the Building Canada fund, contributing in excess of \$25 million per year for the next seven years. We are able to manage changes and downturn in the global economy. We are able to achieve this because of the last six years of prudent financial management.

The second initiative is a measure to address the local economy involving hosting round-table discussions with First Nation governments, municipal governments and key stake-

holders within the Yukon to collect advice and input, to aid in informed decisions. Our government and the Association of Yukon Communities, among other initiatives, agreed to continue to involve municipalities in the development of the infrastructure plan for the Building Canada fund and utilize the sustainability plans for gas tax to inform the Building Canada fund itself.

Consultations have been underway with many key stakeholders: namely, the Yukon Chamber of Commerce, the tourism industry, the Yukon Chamber of Mines, the Yukon Contractors Association, the Yukon Federation of Labour and the Yukon Arts Centre, in order to obtain their input and informed decisions. A teleconference was held on October 30, 2008, involving the Grand Chief and Yukon First Nation chiefs and the Premier, asking their input and advice on how to manage any impacts on the Yukon economy and ensure its continued growth.

As a consequence of these sessions, the following consensus emerged:

(1) existing mine and advance mining projects are relatively well positioned to withstand effects of the downturn, but concern about its impacts on the junior sector and exploration because of the credit crunch;

(2) tourism is relatively well positioned to continue as a mainstay of Yukon's economy, but further actions and investments are needed to counter the decline in the traditional rubber-tire traffic;

(3) the arts and culture sector has grown, and continues to grow, with investments. It also can contribute to maintaining confidence and positive attitudes in an uncertain economic period;

(4) the construction industry has had three good years, but there's concern about the availability of work in the first part of 2009. Mr. Speaker, it would benefit from efforts to smooth out peaks and valleys in construction;

(5) government needs to maintain its stabilizing role in Yukon's economy and strategic investments in the long-term future;

(6) government also needs to support opportunities that may emerge during a volatile period and ensure its programs respond effectively to the needs of low income people and families;

(7) there are opportunities for greater collaboration between and among governments at the First Nation, territorial and municipal levels to advance economic goals and meet social needs. Build Canada provides the opportunity to address community infrastructure needs; and

(8) there are opportunities for additional collaboration between business and labour in such areas as apprenticeship, immigration-related initiatives and trade activities to increase economic benefits to Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, these were eight issues that emerged from the stakeholder meetings.

The third aspect of how we're managing the global economic downturn concerns focusing on the key infrastructure investments to create jobs in the short term and provide an environment for long-term investment and growth. We are plan-



ning to proceed with the estimated \$30-million extension of the Whitehorse-Aishihik-Faro grid by extending the power line from Pelly Crossing to Stewart Crossing, connecting the WAF grid to the Mayo-Dawson transmission line, as well as advancing the Mayo B hydro project.

This grid connection is a critical need, especially for the mining sector. The Minto mine has just recently switched off diesel to hydro power and Alexco at Elsa will potentially be our next operating mine, once again utilizing hydro power — clean energy that will reduce Yukon's greenhouse gas emissions. This mine could employ 120 people and build capacity within Yukon.

We are proceeding with the \$31-million reconstruction and upgrade of the Robert Campbell Highway. This will assist both the mining and tourism industries.

On the social side of the ledger, we'll be proceeding with the estimated \$16 million single-parent family 30-unit housing project in Riverdale. In my riding, we'll be proceeding with paving and improving Front Street in Dawson City. We will also advance the health centre project and are planning to start construction in early spring.

We are also supporting the City of Dawson in the completion of their wastewater treatment facility, which will be in excess of \$10 million. At the request of the City of Dawson, we are in the process of signing an MOU to assist the city in repairs to the Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre. This will be \$1 million a year for four years.

The Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the Yukon government have reached a Yukon asset construction agreement, as defined in the Kwanlin Dun final agreement, which will see the \$16-million expansion of the Whitehorse International Airport terminal building.

These and many more infrastructure initiatives will provide jobs in the short term while providing an environment for long-term investment and growth. A fourth measure involves promoting research and development opportunities in the Yukon, such as the Cold Climate Innovation Centre and the climate change research centre of excellence.

The Yukon cold climate innovation cluster involves developing a research, development and commercialization centre for the export of new innovative products and services.

The innovation centre will focus on cold region technologies, including building construction and maintenance, municipal infrastructure, including water, sewage, heat and power, waste and road geotechnical works, construction and infrastructure specialties that may also be applied to mine reclamation, transportation, permafrost, pipeline and other fields that may present themselves.

The Yukon climate change research centre of excellence will focus on climate change adaptation, attracting research to the Yukon, building on the existing body of knowledge, ensuring that Yukoners benefit from the results of northern research — increased economic and industrial benefits of research and becoming a leader in climate change research and development.

Yukon College is taking the lead in this initiative, and 12,000 square feet of space in the basement of the student resi-

dence at the college will be renovated to become the Yukon climate change research centre of excellence.

A fifth measure to manage the impacts of the global economic downturn includes the striking of an internal committee of deputy ministers, chaired by the Premier, to monitor and assess economic trends and identify opportunities.

Deputy ministers are continuing to engage with the relevant stakeholder groups to identify potential mitigation impacts and opportunities that arise.

Implementing labour mobility initiatives is the sixth measure the Yukon government is advancing. This month, our Minister of Economic Development has become the chair on internal trade. As chair, the Yukon will host the 2009 Committee on Internal Trade, which will afford our government a great opportunity to showcase Yukon and our business successes. The Yukon government is working with its provincial and territorial counterparts to reduce barriers to trade, investment and labour mobility within Canada. Reducing internal trade barriers benefits Canadian businesses, workers and consumers and contributes to a stronger economy for the benefit of all Canadians.

Despite the economic slowdown in the rest of Canada, the Yukon remains fairly resilient according to most recent statistics that show the territory's demand for workers exceeds those looking for work. The demand for skilled workers topped 1,000 last month. Between March 7, 2007 and December 8, 2008, the Department of Education's skilled workers program approved 66 workers. Similarly, between December 2, 2007 and December 4, 2008, our government provided support to bring 186 new workers to the Yukon.

The critical impact worker program assists business owners in addressing labour market shortages, semi-skilled and entry level workers. Our government has placed considerable emphasis on apprenticeship and trade certification. Over the last three years, there has been a 43-percent increase in the number of registered apprentices: from 228 in 2005 to 413 in 2008. These apprentices provide valuable assistance to Yukon's economic growth through the development of skilled labour force.

A seventh measure the Yukon government is employing to manage the impacts of the global economic downturn on the territory is by expanding trade opportunities with foreign partners. Our government has been working hard to develop trade links and the Asian region, because it helps the territory manage global economic risks by diversifying our trading partners. Three significant deals between Yukon-based companies and the Chinese investors have been recently announced: one, the Yukon Zinc's Wolverine project was purchased for approximately \$87 million; two, Tagish Lake Gold has accepted an offer of \$5 million of financing from Yukon-Shaanxi Mining Corporation. Tagish Lake Gold is currently negotiating a merger with this Chinese company. The third agreement: Chinese Mining Group Ltd. has purchased shares in Selwyn Resources Ltd., and now owns 18.5 percent of that company.

The Yukon government invests \$5 million annually through a variety of programs and services to market tourism worldwide, which includes product development, marketing and visitor services. We are committed to increasing awareness

of the Yukon as a year-round destination, promoting unique tourism experiences. On October 24, 2008, our government announced a further \$500,000 in Destination: Yukon, a comprehensive marketing campaign to promote domestic travel to the Yukon. The extension of this Destination: Yukon campaign will further capitalize on the awareness generated by the 2007 national marketing campaign, and will help set the stage for future tourism opportunities around the 2010 Olympic Games in Vancouver.

The Department of Tourism and Culture will also continue to work in partnership with Yukon's neighbouring jurisdictions of the Northwest Territories, Nunavut, British Columbia, Alberta and Alaska to leverage further awareness and increased visitation to the Yukon. This also includes building upon Alaska's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

An eighth measure involves encouraging the federal government to continue to make strategic investments in Canada's north, meeting their commitment to unlock the vast potential in the Yukon. Under the Building Canada fund, Yukon will receive \$182.9 million from Canada over a seven-year period ending in 2013-14 for priority infrastructure projects that are intended to help drive economic growth and productivity, achieve environmental goals and build strong, competitive communities focusing on five key areas: drinking water, waste water, roads, solid waste management and green infrastructure.

We are utilizing our pan-northern approach to encourage the Government of Canada to renew or replace existing strategic funding initiatives, such as the \$40-million northern strategy, the \$50-million northern housing trust, the \$30-million strategic investment in the northern economic development fund and the \$22-million territorial health access fund.

We are also encouraging the Government of Yukon to make strategic northern investments in both transportation and renewable energy.

The recently released pan-territorial transportation strategy, *Northern Connections*, identified a need for investment of \$2.5 million to address the transportation infrastructure deficit in the three territories.

The federal investment in renewable energy and/or energy-efficiency requirements is required. We made this case that northerners need investments in local renewable alternative energy projects to large-scale hydro development. Hydro-generated electricity is Yukon's best clean energy option.

As I spoke to earlier about the extension of our power grid from Carmacks to Pelly, it is now complete. We are focusing on the upgrading of the existing Mayo hydro dam, known as Mayo B. We are proposing a collaborative effort for this estimated \$100-million project involving Canada, the Yukon government, First Nations and the private sector. The Mayo B project would provide an additional 40-gigawatt hours of new green energy, which would offset energy requirements for diesel and its associated 28,000 tonnes per year of CO<sub>2</sub> emissions.

Continuing to work with First Nation governments to ensure an appropriate federal mandate is renewed to adequately resource First Nation governments is a ninth measure being proposed by our government to manage the impact of the global economic downturn on Yukoners.

Mr. Speaker, we need to ensure that the Government of Canada adopts a mandate for the development of a new financial transfer agreement that will enable Yukon First Nations to meet their obligations to their citizens and allow them to participate in the future development of this territory in keeping with the spirit and intent of the treaties. This will enable Yukon First Nations to become a full partner in the economic development of this territory.

Mr. Speaker, I could speak for the rest of the afternoon on all the initiatives that our government is currently working on and the many more we are planning. Seeing that we are getting close to the end of the sitting, I will keep my comments short in order to give the opposition an opportunity to speak to this motion.

I look forward to the support from the members opposite on this motion. If members choose, we can spend some time today speaking on Bill No. 12, *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*. That is why we only called one motion for debate today —

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

**Mr. Nordick:** The member opposite suggested that it was to cooperate with them and actually, yes, that is exactly why we are doing it. It is to cooperate with the opposition.

Thank you.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I will thank the Member for Klondike for his comments on his motion, Motion No. 647.

I have to say that, in the opposition, we have obviously been trying to bring this issue to debate since the sitting began. In fact, we were speaking about it before the sitting began, because it was quite obvious — at least to this side of the House — that world economic events would inevitably impact on Yukon.

I don't know how anybody could think they wouldn't impact on Yukon. You know, Mr. Speaker, yesterday in Question Period I raised some of these issues with the Hon. Premier. The Premier turned around, when we spoke about the events in the United States, and indicated he couldn't imagine what relevance that would have on us in Yukon — which I thought was quite a shocking comment from a Yukon Premier. They do have relevance because the United States is not only the most powerful economy in the world — and it has now gone into not only a recession, but virtually a crisis mode — but they're also our largest trading partner. So it would seem to be self-evident that what occurs in the United States does have an impact on the Yukon.

Why the Premier thought it wasn't relevant, I don't know. Let me quote from the Hon. Premier yesterday, from page 3728 of *Hansard*: "In the first instance, the member should not be comparing the Yukon to the United States and to what's happening in the United States. There's no correlation whatsoever with what the Yukon is experiencing and the situation the United States finds itself in."

Really, considering that outside of government the two largest pillars of the Yukon economy are mining and tourism, an economic downturn with our largest trading partner where,

for example, 90 percent of the vehicles manufactured in Canada are shipped across the border to the United States — we've seen what has happened in the auto industry, we've seen the layoffs, we've seen the plant closures and the reduction of shifts. Clearly if you're not exporting vehicles and they're not buying vehicles in the United States — or for that matter across Canada, where the numbers are vastly reduced — that will impact metal prices, because there will be less demand for base metals. That's exactly what we've seen.

We started talking about that many months ago. The Premier said we were fearmongering and we didn't know what we were talking about.

Before this sitting began, we called for the Government of Yukon and this Premier to table a stimulus budget. What did he do? What did the Yukon Premier do? He tabled a supplementary budget on October 30, I believe — it was the fifth sitting day, the last day in which government bills can be tabled. We immediately said that the Premier should consider tabling another supplementary budget, one that would provide new and real stimulus and that we on this side of the House — and we were quite convinced that the NDP would join us with this — would provide unanimous consent to the Premier to actually provide some action.

Not only did the Premier not do that, but although he was telling us today how we're debating the budget, we only began debating the budget a couple of weeks ago. We've actually only debated the budget on some eight or nine days to date — I think eight — and not for much of several of those days, due to other bills and matters that we were debating.

I know that the Member for Klondike is well-intentioned in bringing this motion forward today, but frankly, when I heard him provide notice of this motion a couple of days earlier — Monday of this week — it had a familiar ring to it.

So I thought, why does this seem so familiar? Has the member previously tabled a similar notice of motion? Of course, that would be out of order, Mr. Speaker, if it was the same motion. Then I recalled the news release that the Premier issued on October 23. You know, Mr. Speaker, I would never accuse another member of plagiarism, and I know that that's not the intent, but I have to say that when looking at this motion, there is the first clause, stating:

“THAT this House urges the Government initiate measures to manage the impacts of the global downturn by working.”

Well, first of all, it's hard for me to believe that the government side has asked us to debate a motion on the third-from-last day of this sitting to initiate measures. My God, Mr. Speaker, governments around the world initiated measures months ago. They're initiating additional measures. And we're going to debate, today, initiating measures for the first time. Well — “...the impacts of the global downturn by working.”

Then I looked at the Premier's news release from October 23, and the preamble of that said that the member, the Premier — excuse me, I'm trying not to name a member, Mr. Speaker, when I look at this — released the measures the Yukon government will take to manage local impacts of the global economic downturn.

I will say that clause 1: “... at the national level with the provinces and territories through the Council of the Federation to present options to stimulate the economy to the Government of Canada at the First Ministers meeting on the economy scheduled to be held in Ottawa on January 16, 2009 ...” is new, because there was no such conference scheduled two months ago. Of course, we would want our Finance minister and Premier to attend those meetings on January 16 and work with all the other governments. So that's *prima facie*. We don't need to debate it. Of course the Premier should go to that.

From that point forward it said: “... at the local level to implement the following measures ...”. As I look at the news release dated October 23, I think it's verbatim. I think what we have here today is that we're debating a motion six weeks after a news release that announced exactly these measures, only today's motion says that we should initiate them.

My goodness, what happened in the six weeks since the Premier announced that we were initiating them? Do we have to initiate them all over again? It's like Groundhog Day. I mean, the difference between these two documents — the Premier's news release of October 23 and Motion No. 647 — is that the Member from Klondike has very helpfully labeled the next nine items — (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), (f), (g), (h) and (i) — whereas the Premier only presented us with bullets.

Item (a): continuing to maintain a prudent financial position so there is money available to invest where necessary. On October 23, the Premier's news release: continuing to maintain a prudent financial position so there is money available to invest where necessary. It has a familiar ring to it.

Item (b): hosting round-table discussions with key stakeholders within Yukon to collect advice and input to aid and inform decisions. Bullet (2): hosting round-table discussions with key stakeholders within Yukon to collect advice and input to aid and inform decisions.

In today's motion, 2(c): focusing on key infrastructure investments to create jobs in the short term and provide an environment for long-term investment and growth. The third bullet on October 23: focusing on key infrastructure investments that will create jobs in the short term and provide an environment for long-term investment and growth.

You know, Mr. Speaker, I was encouraged when the Premier issued the news release on October 23 that he was looking at new infrastructure. Now the Member for Klondike needs to urge the Premier; it says that this House urges the Government of Yukon to initiate measures to do this. Six weeks after the Premier said he would do it, the Member for Klondike is urging the Premier to do it.

Well, we've been urging the Premier to do it for two or three months, so I certainly have to applaud the Member for Klondike for joining with the Official Opposition and urging the Premier to do what he says he is going to do.

I'm not going to bore the House by making the rest of the comparisons, but I can assure you that unless there is a conjunction or an adverb somewhere in here that's different, it's identical. The Member for Klondike has basically taken the Premier's news release of six weeks ago and called it today as a motion. What we would say is that it should have been started,

not six weeks ago, but probably six months ago. Certainly we took it in good faith that when the Premier put out this news release, it was actually happening.

What we have here today — while we don't disagree with all of the items in it necessarily — is not new. It's referring to what the government was already doing. It's the government urging itself or the private member on the government side is urging the government to do what the government said that it was already doing. I guess we agree with the Member for Klondike. If the Member for Klondike is trying to make the point that it has not been noticeable that the government is getting this accomplished, then we agree.

Now, some of the items here, frankly, recycled or not, shock me. You know, listening to some of the recent debate in the House when the Premier stands up and with great glee says: here, the Member for Copperbelt, or the Member for Kluane, or any of the members on this side, on such-and-such a date, stated this and it was inaccurate — apparently the Premier is spending hours searching through *Hansard* to see if, in the hundreds of hours of debate, the opposition might have inadvertently misquoted something. Well, I'm sure we have. I'm sure at some point, when we're on our feet, we've made mistakes. The Premier, however, would be well-advised to do what he was elected to do, which is to protect Yukoners in times of need.

Now the Member for Klondike said during his remarks — and this was from item 2(a), “continuing to maintain a prudent financial position so there is money available to invest where necessary.” Well, first of all, if the Premier, while he's going through *Hansard*, would have a look at my reply to the budget speech on November 24, I urged him to spend some of the money, the \$165 million as of the end of last year and projected to be \$140 million plus in net financial resources. I agreed. I said in times of need, in times of economic concern, that's when you spend the money that has been set aside. We don't disagree with that but we haven't seen the new signs of it.

The Premier speaks of the \$54 million supplementary budget that we have in front of us. You know, Mr. Speaker, I don't have previous year's supplementary budgets in front of me but I'm quite convinced — and I'm sure the Premier will correct me if I'm wrong — that we've seen larger supplementary budgets in previous years. I don't think this is the largest supplementary budget that has come before this House over the last several decades.

The Member for Porter Creek South is reminding me that last year's was considerably larger. So, if this is meant to be a stimulus budget, telling us there's a budget in front of us does not in and of itself create new stimulus. Yes, there are projects that are ongoing; there are departments that obviously require more funds or have expended more funds. There are also departments, such as Community Services under land, that are showing — I believe it is — \$13 million not being spent.

And I'm going to look that up because I don't want to do it from memory. It might have been \$10 million; it might have been \$13 million; but it's a large amount of money not being spent. Here it is, Mr. Speaker. On land development — \$10,638,000. So let me correct it — not \$13 million, but

\$10,638,000 on residential land development and \$400,000 on recreational land development that's not being spent this year. That's probably because, between the Government of Yukon and the City of Whitehorse, the work was not ready to go forward on new subdivision development. However, had it been ready to go forward, then there would be all of that work going on. But it wasn't ready, so that work is not happening.

Now on many occasions we've already talked about the government's fiscal management and there, as you would say, Mr. Speaker, it's a matter of opinion. We disagree. The government talks about continuing to maintain a prudent financial position. We've talked about \$5 million that has been spent on an empty shell in Watson Lake that has never provided one single day's health care to any Watson Laker or anyone else, but the project's on hold right now, with a temporary heating system in it and temporary siding, while the government tries to figure out what to do with it. So we don't think that was an example of prudent financial management.

We've talked about the \$36.5 million in frozen asset-backed commercial paper. Now the Premier and the Deputy Premier have been assuring us since the fall of last year, of 2007, that that was a momentary hiccup that would soon be resolved. It was going to be resolved by the end of November of 2007, and they were quite frequently quoting Mr. Purdy Crawford in saying that it was going to be resolved by the end of December. Then we heard January, February, March, June. Then we heard the famous statement by Mr. Crawford that he would run and hide in Africa if he didn't have it done by the end of October. Well, you know, Mr. Speaker, I've just received an article from today's *The Globe and Mail*, and it's not very long so I'll just read some excerpts.

It says: “The committee overseeing the \$32 billion asset-backed commercial paper restructuring is meeting with the Finance department Wednesday to plead for government assistance amid signs that the proposal to fix the frozen notes is in jeopardy.

“A resolution to the 16-month-old problem now appears unlikely before 2009 because some players in the restructuring are dragging their feet, and participants are growing increasingly concerned that the endless delays may lead to failure without government support.”

Apparently not our Premier, the Minister of Finance, but the other participants are growing increasingly concerned. It goes on to say, “The restructuring committee, led by lawyer Purdy Crawford, is meeting Wednesday with federal officials in Toronto, sources said. The hope is that the federal government, and potentially provincial governments that also have a stake in the success of the restructuring, will somehow provide backstops that will get the process moving again.”

You know, Mr. Speaker, I made this suggestion in an interview with the CBC a couple of days before the sitting began. I'm pretty certain that I tabled a notice of motion to that effect in this House and I know that in October and November I asked questions in this House: would the Premier urge the Government of Canada to backstop the asset-backed commercial paper on behalf of all of the players involved — Yukon among them as a relatively small player, although the amount is not small to

us — the case in Quebec with billions of dollars at stake, pension plans across the country — and the Premier mocked that suggestion. He said that was a terrible suggestion. He said there was no reason why the government should do that.

We find that he kept referring to Purdy Crawford, and now what do we find? Purdy Crawford is actually requesting the Government of Canada to do exactly that.

I hope that our Premier will have a different view of some of our suggestions from this side of the House when he takes a look at this because apparently the only way this thing is going to hold together is if the Government of Canada agrees to backstop these investments. Otherwise, there is no telling what is going to happen, not to the \$6.2 million writedown that we've already seen in the books but to the \$36.5 million in total that we have locked up. It is all at risk. This Premier has said that wouldn't happen — it is happening.

I know there is frustration in my voice, Mr. Speaker, and I will try and be a little calmer — passion, as we have said, is allowed in this House as long as we are polite with our passion and I am trying. I feel passionately that we should not have been in that position and it is not an example to look at 2(a) “continuing to maintain a prudent financial position ...” — \$36.5 million that can't be used for any of the good projects that the Member for Klondike was referring to.

The Member for Klondike went on in addressing part 2(b) “hosting round-table discussions with key stakeholders within Yukon to collect advice and input to aid and inform decisions, ...”

As we said in our news release of October 23, when we responded to the Premier's news release, we would expect that this is something that government would always be doing. We don't really feel we need to debate a motion to say that the government should meet with key stakeholders.

The Premier chastised me recently, saying that I should get out and meet more with stakeholders. I meet with a lot of stakeholders, Mr. Speaker. It may not be with the presidents or chairs of organizations, but I certainly talk to dozens of retailers; I talk to people who work within the arts community; I talk to people who are depending on the tourism industry; I talk to people in the mining industry, and they are telling me and our caucus that they are worried.

So as far as meeting with them, we certainly think the Premier should, but we would think that, in good times and bad, any Yukon Premier would be doing that, and we don't need to debate whether or not that should happen.

Now, 2(c) is more to the heart of the matter: “focusing on key infrastructure investments to create jobs in the short term and provide an environment for long-term investment and growth”. The Member for Klondike listed a number of them: the investments that have been announced for the Robert Campbell Highway. We've heard from Yukoners that there are other highways that are certainly in need of attention: the Dempster, the north Alaska Highway and the Klondike Highway — which the Member for Klondike must drive fairly frequently. We've been told by Yukoners that they all need attention and, when we've driven on them, we've recognized that.

The Minister of Highways and Public Works told us it's Mother Nature, that it rained a lot this summer. Well, yes, it rains; we get frost heaves in winter; we get rain in summer, and we have to actually spend the money to repair those. We certainly never meant to suggest that it was the government or the Member for Porter Creek Centre who caused there to be potholes. We are suggesting they need to fix the highways.

Paving Front Street in Dawson: well, I know there are some pros and cons to that. I understand some people in Dawson feel it may impact on the historic nature of Dawson. Having lived in a community that had dirt and gravel streets for many years — Atlin — that debate occurred there, but I also know it was a boon to the community when they were paved. I'm sure that people in Dawson will appreciate that even if some are concerned that it will affect their historic landscape.

The seniors housing project in Riverdale is not a new announcement. That's the problem. It's neither a new announcement nor is it work that's being done this winter. There is not a single carpenter swinging a hammer. There's not a single plumber who is soldering a joint. There is not a single contractor pouring yards of concrete this winter, because the project is still on the drawing boards. They're still consulting. Yes, it is important to consult, but it's not creating a whole lot of jobs; it's not stimulating the economy to talk about it. It's much like the Minister of Education. We talk and we hear report after report that says something has to be done about F.H. Collins Secondary School. Well, whether the final decision is to build a new school or to build new portions on to the old school and renovate other portions — either one will create jobs and serve the needs of students for years to come, but it's not going to create any jobs in the current economy, because it's not happening. We don't even have planning dollars in the budget from what we've heard toward doing it; we have to wait for next year's main estimates to see what's being done and whether a new school is really going to come forward or if there is going to be a major renovation.

The sewer project in the Art and Margaret Fry Recreation Centre — providing the money for that is a good thing. We've said so in the past. I don't believe it's happening this winter, so it's not creating employment or acting as a stimulus right now.

Then the Member for Klondike went on to talk about the Yukon asset construction agreement that has now been resolved between Kwanlin Dun First Nation and the Government of Yukon for the new building to accommodate the new Customs facilities for the larger flights, such as Condor, at Whitehorse International Airport.

Well, I'm somewhat flabbergasted, considering how many contractors I've talked to — and I've talked to them at the door this past October. I heard, from contractor after contractor, extreme frustration that that project was on hold and that they wouldn't be working on it this winter. I had major Yukon contractors say to me that they were going to lose skilled tradespeople who worked for them, because this isn't the same group of people necessarily that are building residential housing. This is highly skilled work that is specific to commercial construction, and they were losing some of their employees who were

heading over to Alberta and elsewhere to find work because they counted on this project and it wasn't happening.

Now to hear that this is one of the items that's being held up as a positive for economic stimulus — had the government done their homework and come to an agreement based on the Yukon asset construction agreement with the Kwanlin Dun First Nation — before Kwanlin Dun felt obliged to take them to court to enforce their agreements — then we wouldn't be talking about a project for next summer; we would be talking about people who would be swinging hammers, people who would be soldering and welding and working on that project today, tomorrow, next week, next month and the month after, because that's what Yukon contractors thought was going to happen.

Not only is this not new stimulus, the Member for Klondike is talking about old stimulus delayed, something that could have and should have happened properly this spring and summer so that the project would have started before we got into the cold season where only interior work could be done.

I don't know how one can be proud about how that one has progressed. I have to tell you, Mr. Speaker, not only the contractors are frustrated that it was delayed for so long, but so is the First Nation. On both sides, we heard the Kwanlin Dun First Nation and Yukon contractors saying, "We don't know how this has happened, but it never should have happened, because we should all be working today."

Now, in terms of taking part in the Agreement on Internal Trade process for labour mobility, in reference to item (f), implementing labour mobility initiatives — well, we do support that, Mr. Speaker. We may differ from the NDP on that. I know they are on record as opposed to TILMA, and they have raised issues about AIT, but I can tell you that in the Liberal Party we support labour mobility initiatives. We think it's a positive for workers to be able to come and go and work in different jurisdictions without going through a horrendous many-month process of reapplication and recertification. We recognize that there are issues of standards and safety, but obviously the provinces and territories will have to find that threshold among them so that safety is not put at risk — safety of workers or of people who may make use of buildings built by workers and other tradespeople. I know, from having worked in the real estate industry, that the current regulations are absolutely absurd. I mentioned the Town of Atlin — it's a two-hour drive away, and Yukon realtors really cannot work within Atlin, and for most of the last three decades, there were no resident realtors. For the last decade or so, there has been, so it's a real problem in that industry, and I know it is in health care and many others, and people will welcome this.

The member also talked about promoting research and development opportunities in the Yukon, such as the Cold Climate Innovation Centre and the climate change research centre of excellence. Well, we too agree that there should be more research done in the Yukon, and that by using new and innovative technology, there are probably more industries as well as research that can occur in the Yukon. But when the member rises to make his closing remarks, there's one question I would like him to answer: how many private partners and how many

private sector dollars have been expended on this particular pair of projects? Or are we only looking at government dollars to date? Because I would hope that, in both the Cold Climate Innovation Centre and the climate change research centre of excellence, we could be attracting the private sector to take part.

The member also made reference to the Northern Connections announcement on highways infrastructure. He did say \$2.5 million, but I expect it was \$2.5 billion, because at today's prices \$2.5 million would not build or repair a lot of road. Yes, there is a need across the north for more infrastructure.

2(e) "striking an internal committee of deputy ministers, chaired by the Premier, to monitor and assess economic trends and identify opportunities, ..." I can only say that anybody I spoke to in the public following the issuance of the Premier's news release on October 23, which had those same words, asked, "Do you mean to tell me government's not already doing this? Doesn't government actually do that? Doesn't the Premier and Finance minister meet with the key deputy ministers and monitor and assess economic trends?"

I guess what I would say to the Member for Klondike is, if the government's not doing it, I thank the Member for Klondike for urging the government to do so.

As far as expanding trade opportunities with foreign partners, I guess the Member for Klondike probably doesn't mean the United States because the Premier told us only yesterday that what we did here didn't bear much relation to what was going on in the United States.

We have heard a lot about China. The Economic Development minister has reported to us on a number of occasions that he has had good meetings with Chinese investors, and we look forward to seeing the actual investment creating jobs in Yukon. I would point out that the numbers that were quoted — and I recognize that department officials no doubt helped to facilitate some of these developments — refer to the \$87-million Wolverine Project, or the \$5-million Tagish Lake Gold investment, or the 18.5 percent of Selwyn Resources — those are private companies. I use that word a little loosely, because we're never sure what a "private company" means in China. I'm sure the Economic Development minister can educate us on that, but we know they have relationships with the state. But this is an investment in the private sector. So it's companies buying companies, and that does happen all the time. That's fine, but what about the dozens of junior mining companies that have been reporting publicly that they're unable to get financing for exploration in 2009? What about all the reports we've seen, including from the Chamber of Mines? We've seen reports and heard interviews from the Chamber of Mines that they expect, with the tight credit markets, to see significantly less investment of junior companies in exploration in Yukon next year because they just can't get the money.

What about Adanac Mining and Exploration, which was trying to raise \$600 million just across our borders in B.C. and were planning to hire many Yukoners? Now they've shut down and mothballed the project, because they can't get the financing. It's not going to create the employment there.

You know, Mr. Speaker, economists will tell you that there are two ways to address an economic downturn — a recession — to try to stimulate the economy. Those two ways are monetary policy and fiscal policy. Just yesterday we saw the governor of the Bank of Canada announce they were dropping the overnight rate they charge to banks for lending money — the overnight fund rate — by 75 basis points, three-quarters of a percentage point, which is a very large drop to take in one occasion — as all members will recognize — to a rate now of 1.5 percent. That 1.5 percent is about the lowest rate in some 50 years. In 1958, the rate was at 1.12 percent, so it's nearing that 50-year low.

In the United States, I think they've already lowered the rate to either 1.5 percent or one percent. The Premier suggested earlier in this sitting on a number of occasions that lowering those rates to such a low level of monetary stimulus by the former chairman of the Federal Reserve was the cause of all the problems. It caused the worldwide recession. He said so. He said the former chair of the Federal Reserve was acknowledged to be the cause of the whole thing. That is an amazing amount of power for one person.

I note that the Federal Reserve in the United States, under a different chair, has again lowered the rates to those kinds of levels — to historic lows — and has gone on to say they're prepared to lower the rate to zero. What does zero mean? It means basically that the Government of the United States is prepared to loan money to its member banks for free, with no interest. We don't know what rates those banks will charge the public, because, as we noted yesterday, the Bank of Canada lowered the rate they're charging the banks by three-quarters of a point — 75 basis points.

The banks announced they were lowering their rates by 50 basis points so they didn't quite pass it all on. But apparently monetary policy is again going to historic levels of stimulus. They did this in Japan and they went for 10 years with rates that were as low as zero. They were in that stagflation for 10 years.

The other tool besides monetary policy is fiscal policy, fiscal stimulus. To his credit, Prime Minister Harper indicated just yesterday, I believe, that he was going to bring back a budget on January 27 that would have real new fiscal stimulus in it. A couple of months ago he was saying, "stay the course" — as our Premier was saying — "no need to do anything." In fact, he had no new economic stimulus announced in the economic update that he provided a couple of weeks ago and that was one of the key triggers of the threatened non-confidence vote that caused him to prorogue Parliament. But now he says he wants to work with the new Liberal leader, the new interim Liberal leader, Michael Ignatieff, and he hopes to work cooperatively with him to look for good ideas for new fiscal stimulus on a go-forward basis.

That is a positive sign from the Prime Minister. I am thinking that when the Premier comes back from the Council of the Federation meetings in mid-January that perhaps he will want to make new announcements too. You know what, Mr. Speaker? If the Premier wants to come back later in January and call us back to sit to consider a new budget with new and

real stimulus in it, I can say speaking for the Official Opposition that we will welcome that opportunity and we will look forward to debating the budget with new and real fiscal stimulus if the Premier chooses to take some of the \$165 million in net financial resources and put it to work on behalf of Yukoners, sooner rather than later. Another well-known fact is, the longer you wait going into difficult economic times, the more and bigger the stimulus has to be to have an impact. It takes less earlier to prime the pumps of an economy than it does once things fall into difficulty.

The Member for Klondike is right. The statistics to date do not show a negative trend in Yukon. I would remind the Member for Klondike, and if he would like I have statistics going back a number of years and I can show him that the statistics on employment, like the statistics on housing, are lagging indicators.

It takes quite awhile before the belt-tightening that Yukoners or any citizen will do when they're hearing daily on the television and radio about the difficulties occurring worldwide — it takes quite awhile. If people start eating out in restaurants a little less frequently, or going to the stores and buying fewer items, or scaling back on presents or what have you, or deciding to wait one more year before replacing a vehicle, you don't see that right away — in one or two or three or maybe even six months in employment statistics — because they're a rear-view mirror. They tell you what has already happened.

But, eventually, no matter how much funding transfers here from the Government of Canada — even though we are getting \$25.2 million a year in Building Canada funds, even though we have the northern housing trust money, and even though we have the gas tax money — it's obvious that if the private sector of mining and tourism continues to slow down, it does impact.

You can't make it all up with government spending, but the sooner that you carefully use that government spending to create employment for the private sector, the greater the effect it has.

I would just say — and I know there are others who want to speak — that I'm hoping that the Premier will listen to this side. He didn't listen when we talked about what he could do about the asset-backed commercial paper, because he didn't want to admit there was a problem, but there is.

As we know in all walks of life, Mr. Speaker, the first part of addressing the problem is admitting that there is one. There is a problem with those asset-backed commercial paper investments. If the Premier wasn't so busy in denial and saying everything was fine, then he might have been more willing to put forward suggestions on how to address it.

When I see figures in the *Financial Post* from today that say: "More than four in 10 Canadian employers have or are planning to lay off staff in the coming months as the onset of recession and the global financial crisis pushes business profitability to the brink ... it showed that 44 percent of companies surveyed had either made or were planning layoffs or staff reductions over the next year as the recession takes hold."

When I see these kinds of comments and when Yukon businesses see them, they do know that something needs to

occur to protect us. That is the Finance minister's job. He accuses us of fearmongering; well, it is not fearmongering, Mr. Speaker, it is pointing out what we believe the Premier needs to do. We can't sit over here and have a see-no-evil, speak-no-evil, hear-no-evil attitude — that is not our job. Our job is to point out what needs to be done and what the Premier was elected to do.

This government so far has a track record of not being able to even look after the dollars very well during the good times, as we look at the Watson Lake multi-level health care facility or whatever it is being re-branded as this week. It has a record of not being able to look after the surplus very well as we look at the \$36.5 million — and that money is part of the \$165 million of net financial resources but we can't spend it. Now it is still continuing to be put in jeopardy and I would hope that when the Member for Klondike rises that he is going to, along with us, urge the Premier to take real and new action and not to recycle news releases but to actually do what he said he would do six weeks ago and what the government side now feels we should be talking about three days from the end of the sitting.

We felt we should be talking about it on day one, day two, day three, day four, every day of the sitting, and we will continue to talk about it until this Premier and this government prove that they can take effective action.

I know other members want to speak so I will not use my unlimited time any further so that other members can speak. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** It gives me pleasure to make a few comments on this. The member opposite, the Leader of the Liberal Party, has made the comment that he was advised by the Premier that he should get out more. I would certainly like to second that, but I would also like to point out that there's more to simply getting out there and listening. The real trick is to get out there and listen and not simply to go out there and talk. I appreciate that he's out there talking to so many people but if he would only listen, he would get quite a different story.

I have one item just before I start. The member opposite is under a misconception with the Agreement in Internal Trade that there are things like safety and security issues.

Yukon still has the power to set policies and protect its people, businesses and environment. Specific exemptions include measures related to public safety and security, protection of health, safety and well-being of workers, labour standards, affirmative action hiring programs, First Nations, individuals, and governments, business incentive programs and regional economic development initiatives, and activities in support of film and sound industry.

So we have negotiated specific exemptions in all those areas and it might behoove the member opposite — always the harbinger of good news — to actually read the agreement and begin to understand it. We would be happy to provide technical briefings on that for his assistants if he doesn't have the time to actually read it.

But I think, Mr. Deputy Speaker, we do have to look at this whole issue. I think everyone is aware that globally we are experiencing an historic fluctuation. However, Yukon's economic

activity in 2008 is remaining strong and with indicators showing that there is considerable support there and that it will remain strong for some time.

To listen to the member opposite, you would believe that, once again, people were leaving the territory and escaping the economy — and while I'll admit that certainly happened during the previous Liberal government, I would bring to his attention that we actually have historic lows of unemployment rates and wholesale sales have actually grown over the previous year. The population of the territory has continued to increase. We have lower unemployment with an increasing population. Again, he has got to get out a little bit more and realize things like this.

The preliminary gross domestic product growth in 2007 is another indicator. It was reported at 3.8 percent, well above the national average of 2.9 percent. Our economy remains strong. We require now, perhaps more than ever — and we're aware of that — a considered and thoughtful approach to managing the growth of that Yukon economy. We need to continue to promote and facilitate business and industry.

Economic activity in 2007 remained very strong with the impacts of hosting the 2007 Canada Winter Games, strong mineral exploration and mine development expenditures and continued activity in tourism. Now, there will be an impact on prices of minerals and this sort of thing; however, we are still expecting that the territory will reach \$100 million in 2008, following an extraordinary year in 2007-08 of \$132 million. It will go down a little bit but it will remain strong.

We're very fortunate in that many of our junior companies have funding in place, have pre-sales of their product, and we're very much aware of the fact that much of that is in place and ready to go. So, will there be an effect? Yeah, there will be an effect, to a degree, but it certainly is not the news the Leader of the Liberal Party would like us to believe.

The year-to-date value of permitted building construction activity, Mr. Deputy Speaker: to date it's \$45 million, while the value of residential construction in 2008 is projected to \$28 million. So we have continued strong economic activity in the territory, which contributed to that unemployment rate remaining low in 2008. Many economists I speak to consider virtually 100-percent employment as an unemployment rate of around six to six and a half percent. There are certain people within the economy who aren't able to work for a wide variety of reasons, but when we get down to some of these incredibly low levels that we've experienced, we're actually above what we would expect as a healthy employment rate. I think that was reported recently in the media, that we could utilize another 1,000 workers very quickly, and I would second that. Labour shortage is our problem so I really don't think the Liberal leader is quite getting that understanding. Again, is there an effect? Yes. Is it the news that he wants to give to us? No, it certainly is not.

One of the things that the Department of Economic Development continues to invest in, for instance, is the strategic industries development fund. This is a fund that supports the government's commitment to foster the development of Yukon's sustainable competitive advantage by funding strate-



gic projects and initiatives that create secondary spinoffs to the economy.

Since its inception in 2004, the fund has contributed more than \$3.8 million to 65 projects across the territory. Private sector applications have increasingly replaced projects advanced by industry associations or initiatives led by the government. This reflects the increasing role of the private sector as an engine of growth and diversification in Yukon's economy.

The enterprise trade fund is another fund. This is one that stimulates and supports the growth of Yukon business activity by focusing on the development and the expansion of external markets. It's attracting investment capital for businesses. For fiscal 2008-09 to date, a total of \$366,800 has been approved in support of 66 applications.

Since its inception in August 2004, \$1,678,000 has been approved for 249 applicants. The department maintains an ongoing consultation with key industry stakeholders to ensure that Yukon businesses achieve a competent advantage in external markets. Again, I remind the Leader of the Liberal Party that getting out there is much more than simply talking — it's listening. And that's something we do a great deal of.

The regional economic development fund is another fund that fosters regional and community economic development. The regional economic development branch continues to develop a strong network of contacts in all Yukon communities, First Nations and their development corporations. The total approved funding to August 31, 2008 is \$133,887, allocated among six projects. Since fiscal year 2004-05, to date, the fund has invested approximately \$1.4 million on 64 Yukon projects.

If we look at film and sound as another way to diversify the economy and to approach our effort to keep the economy as broad as possible, the Yukon film and sound incentive program supports the Yukon film and sound industries with available funding of \$760,000.

The government continues to work cooperatively with the Yukon film industry in order to provide Yukoners with employment and training opportunities. Some successes we've seen through our funding programs are the film training projects which, with financial support from the Yukon Film and Sound Commission, the Yukon Film Society and the Northern Film and Video Industry Association, are collaborating to offer a comprehensive film training program over the 2008-09 fiscal year. The film society is offering an industry training initiative for Yukon film and video makers, and the project is entitled "A Yukon Mise-en-Scène," and its objective is to develop local directors, writers and producers of fiction and increase the Yukon moving-picture industry's capacity to effectively conceive, plan and execute short dramas with high production value.

The Northern Film and Video Industry Association is offering film crew training in collaboration with that program, and Outside and local instructors are teaching a series of workshops to Yukoners that will assist them in the development of their individual careers. The program will also increase the local industry's ability to service large film productions looking to use Yukon as a film location. This is all in the effort of when

a company comes in from Outside, that we have the crew, the staff and people who are trained in the equipment and trained in the industry.

The second season of *Anash and the Legacy of the Sun-Rock* — and if anyone has not seen episodes of season one, it's an excellent, excellent production that is cutting-edge technology. This is a combination of live action and animation and it's really very, very well done. Yukon screenwriter and film producer, Carole Geddes, was very successful in this live action animation series and it has been approved for funding for a second season through the Yukon film production fund.

The series tells the compelling tale of young Anash's mission as he tries to reunite all the parts of the sun-rock in order to fulfill a prophecy to attain peace and protect a fragile land. *Anash* is a co-production with Josh Miller of Panacea Entertainment and it airs on APTN, SCN, ACCESS and Northern Knowledge Network.

The *Anash* interactive Web site was a finalist in the 2008 Gemini Awards and the winner for the best digital cross-platform project at the 2008 Alberta Film and Television Awards.

On the audio side, Yukon singer/songwriter Gordon Tentrees — or Gordie Tentrees — is currently undertaking a European tour, opening for the Canadian music legend, Fred Eaglesmith, fresh from a tour of Tennessee, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas and Alberta. Gordie recently performed in an official showcase at the Western Canadian Music Awards, promoting his latest album, "Bottleneck to Wire".

The community development fund is another fund that gives us great potential and use in stimulating the well-being of Yukoners and quality of life. It's a fund that looks after projects and events that provide long-term sustainable economic or social benefit to Yukon communities. To August 31, 2008, the program has approved 44 projects for a total of \$2.184 million in funding. Since the reinstatement of the fund in June 2003 — revived after its untimely demise by previous governments — a total of \$16 million in funding has been approved. Every Yukon community has received benefits from the Yukon community development fund.

We do have to continue to develop capacity and growth. This is a challenge in a small jurisdiction. New investment capital is critical for growth. It enables Yukon businesses to expand operations, pursue new opportunities and explore potential.

Even just taking a look at that for a moment, the investment of the Chinese into what we formerly knew as the Yukon Zinc project is the largest Chinese investment in mining in Canadian history. I think we've done fairly well with that. That is the kind of investment that will generate a huge number of jobs as that goes into production in the next year to year and half.

The government began implementing an investment attraction strategy in 2006 to help guide the development of a diversified private sector economy while focusing on key areas of opportunity. It is a strategy that provides a model for government and for the private sector to work in partnership. The objectives of that strategy are to raise the overall profile of Yukon as an attractive place to invest and do business and to facilitate

investment discussions between targeted industries and qualified investors.

There are recent successes of this investment strategy. In October 2007, Yukon Nevada Gold and Northwest Non-Ferrous International Investment Co. Ltd. signed a \$3-million agreement to form a new Canadian company that will explore and develop mineral resources in Yukon. In July 2008, Yukon Zinc's Wolverine project, as I mentioned, was purchased by the Jinduicheng Molybdenum Group and the Northwest Non-Ferrous International Investment Company, for approximately \$87 million. Investment other than initial purchase price, actually, brings the total cost to the companies to close to \$100 million and we are told that could bring in another \$200 million to \$250 million into the Yukon economy as that mine develops.

Mr. Speaker, the Leader of the Liberal Party has got to get out more and actually listen to them and hear some of these great stories.

In August 2008, Tagish Lake Gold accepted an offer of \$5 million in financing from Yukon-Shaanxi Mining Company. Recently, China Mining Resources Group Ltd. — a Chinese company — purchased 18,770,500 shares in Selwyn Resources. China Mining Resources Group Ltd. now owns 18.56 percent of the issued and outstanding shares of Selwyn Resources.

In order to ensure that wealth generated from large industrial developments remains in Yukon, the Economic Development department has developed a large project preparative initiative. The large project preparative initiative seeks to optimize industrial benefits to Yukoners through the development of initiatives designed to increase the number and capacity of local suppliers. For example, procurement initiatives to increase success in bidding work, education and training initiatives to increase the number of skilled local employees, and identifying and facilitating infrastructure and industrial synergies.

The Department of Education has led the development of a labour market framework that will guide the Yukon government's activities over the next 10 years. We always have to keep in mind that training programs work best when we actually have people to train. These two departments have to work together on this project and this framework, which requires the generation of several substrategies that will further identify and attempt to address the labour market needs, as I mentioned. The comprehensive skills and trades training strategy — there has to be a very succinct and very well-defined immigration strategy, including a national recruitment strategy, employee retention, and labour market information strategy.

The Yukon government will continue to work with all levels of government and other stakeholders to explore and address labour shortage issues, as well as a Yukon-wide coordinated strategy. We must continue to develop our research and innovation potential. One thing that came out of a meeting a couple months ago of the ministers responsible for innovation and trade is that it makes little sense to invest in developing and doing the research toward a technology and then exporting that technology to be utilized down south. We have to find ways to keep those technologies used within the Yukon.

We recognize that the commercialization of the cold climate technologies, for instance, will provide important economic opportunities for Yukoners and contribute to the diversification of the Yukon economy. The Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre is being developed around the commercialization of such cold climate research and is currently located on the grounds of Yukon College. It has already begun to attract a number of early-start projects, which the member opposite, the Leader of the Liberal Party, asked about, that will raise the centre's profile and value to the Yukon. Many of these have already been announced and discussed in this House, but that member has to get out more and actually listen to some of these announcements and take them well under advisement.

The centre will be working closely with the climate change research centre of excellence, and we must continue to develop our economic infrastructure, such as fibre optics and transportation. The economic infrastructure strategy is being undertaken jointly by several Yukon departments. That economic infrastructure includes roads, rails, airport, telecommunications lines, equipment, water systems, hydroelectric generators and grids that enable industry and sets the foundation for economic growth.

We have to improve the national and international transportation and trade links that will lead to wider business opportunities and jobs for Yukoners and all Canadians.

With those comments, Mr. Speaker, I do hope that members opposite take note of all of the things this government is doing to move the economy along. Are we immune from the global effects? Probably not. Are we fortunate to be well-insulated from them? Absolutely. With around \$150 million in the bank, I think we can do a very nice job of that.

Thank you.

**Mr. Edzerza:** I view this motion as yet another back-patting government motion. This government likes to present itself as a sound economic manager. What have they done on the economic front? When mineral prices were high, and there was lots of exploration work taking place, they grabbed all the credit, though there was very little they did to deserve it. Then prices go down and exploration dries up. Will government take the blame? No way.

This motion is split between what the government is doing nationally and locally to manage the impact of the global downturn or as the Premier likes to call it, the "global cycle." The motion is long on statements — focusing, hosting, continuing — and short on action.

With regard to the local part of this motion, I would like to just put on record that my only comment is if the Harper government is going to survive, it will need to work with the coalition and table a budget with an economic stimulus package that reflects its minority status in the House and its commitment to work with the coalition. Good ideas will have to come from the coalition. We hope the Premier advocates on the good ideas, regardless of who came up with them.

Good ideas we hope will come out in the Premier's talk with other premiers and then with the Prime Minister. Many of these ideas came from the platforms of the federal parties.

On the local side of the motion, 2 says: “at the local level to implement the following measures: (a) continuing to maintain a prudent financial position so there is money available to invest where necessary”. There is little rhyme or reason where this government decides to invest the people’s money. They have proven to be pretty laissez-faire with the people’s money — for example, subsidizing corporations through rushing in P3 financing of public works, financing wasteful and since-discarded proposals for a railroad and a bridge at Dawson and putting millions of dollars into a back road in the Premier’s riding. They have come under serious criticism from the Auditor General and from their own internal audits on how contracts are awarded and how infrastructure projects are prioritized.

Where is the innovation here? We brought up the idea of making Faro a centre for excellence in mine training. Nothing came of it. When we talk about hosting round-table discussions with key stakeholders within the Yukon to collect advice and input to aid in informed decisions, we asked for an economic summit, an open and transparent forum that the people could be involved in, and know what exactly is being proposed. It was rejected.

Our greatest asset is our people. Instead, the Premier wants to meet privately with stakeholders he selects, and the discussion is framed by him. Again, total control appears to be paramount.

We pointed out that we already have a Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment. This government has mothballed the council.

In (c) we talk about focusing on key infrastructure investments to create jobs in the short term, and provide an environment for long-term investment and growth — of course, but the question is: how?

This government has come under fire for the lack of controls on the contracts it awards, and from the Auditor General for not having a process to prioritize how it builds, what it builds, and where it builds. What we need to see with investments are such things as including and expanding public transit, affordable housing, expanded child care, building retrofit and environmentally friendly renovations, immigrant settlement, roads, highways and border crossings, public libraries and community centres and sewer and water treatment facilities. Those are things that the territory really needs to invest in.

When we talk about promoting research and development opportunities in the Yukon, such as the Cold Climate Innovation Centre and the climate change research centre of excellence, this government has got a lot mileage out of these two initiatives. What is the anticipated spinoff in terms of jobs and economic development from these two initiatives? How many businesses have bought into the Cold Climate Innovation Centre? Those are important questions.

Striking an internal committee of deputy ministers, chaired by the Premier, to monitor and assess economic trends and identify opportunities: again, where’s the public process? The Premier should have convened an economic summit.

Where is organized labour in these targeted discussions? What happened at these discussions? We don’t know. What is the process to generate ideas? Again, we don’t know. The B.C.

government recently announced the creation of a provincial economic advisory council aimed at stimulating B.C.’s economy. It would be made up of private sector economists and financial leaders and report directly to Cabinet with recommendations. Could the Yukon not do something similar? Talk about implementing labour mobility initiatives. This government trots this one out a lot. It is part of their Agreement on Internal Trade or AIT. They seldom talk about the other parts of this agreement like the dispute resolution process and the fines that could be levied against public government who discriminate against co-operatives.

Critics of free-trade like NAFTA, TILMA and the AIT have long argued that they gave too much power to investors and corporations, allowed dispute resolution panels to overrule public policies and are very serious threats to democratic decision-making. AIT is about more than labour mobility. We still don’t have answers to several questions that AIT raises. For example, what if a community doesn’t want to allow pesticides? Could it face a complaint from a chemical company? What if a community plan limits the location of big-box stores? Could it be sued for implementing the ability of big chain retailers to make a profit? What a school board that wants to feed kids locally grown food? Could it be sued by a grocery corporation? What about if we wanted to make the Yukon free of genetically modified seeds? Just the other day the City of Whitehorse gave away its right to give preference to a Whitehorse or Yukon businesses in order to comply with the Agreement on Internal Trade. Again, there are a lot of unanswered questions when we talk about labour mobility. This government will make a deal with anyone it seems. We have consistently raised the bar on trade. Trade must involve discussions on human rights or environmental protection, et cetera.

When we talk about encouraging the federal government to continue to make strategic investments in Canada’s north, meeting its commitment to unlock the vast potentials in Yukon and unlock the vast potentials in the Yukon is a bit scary.

We don’t want development in every corner of the Yukon. Some areas, because of wildlife and the need to preserve watersheds, should be off limits. Actually, parks are economic development too. We don’t want to see uranium mines and coal-bed methane operations in the territory and mining roads criss-crossing every section of the territory.

When we talk about continuing to work with First Nation governments to ensure an appropriate federal mandate is renewed to adequately resource First Nation governments, well, I believe First Nations are undervalued economically. First Nations have always been the best sustainable development that the territory has ever had. I would like to elaborate just a little bit on this area because, in my humble opinion, the relationships with First Nations in this territory are at an all-time low.

We have court disputes every time we turn around here: Little Salmon-Carmacks — land disputes; Ta’an Kwach’an — land disputes. We talk about Kwanlin Dun First Nation — I heard the Member for Klondike talking about an asset construction agreement with Kwanlin Dun. What he failed to mention was that that only came about after court rulings that they have to look at this asset construction agreement. There was a

freeze put on the construction work at the airport. Again, there are very serious ramifications as a result of going that route.

Number one, the First Nations are seen as ones who are hindering progress in the Yukon. All the negativity will be focused on the First Nation people. I've already heard comments to that effect — that they're stopping contracts in the Yukon. Well, I think that's the importance of putting this on record today — the simple fact that, had the government honoured the agreements to begin with, there would never have been a court case. There could have been a court case on the Hamilton Boulevard extension. Was there? No. The First Nation chose not to take that first one on in court. Maybe they should have — it would have set things in motion for other big projects being built in the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation.

Having to always go to court with the government is not a good thing for relationship building. In fact, it is quite the contrary. It diminishes the ability to really have good government-to-government working relationships.

We talk about relationship with First Nations. I think this has been taken quite literally, and it is something that has to be earned. It is not a given. There is a not a ruling in the world that says First Nation governments have to work with other governments. One of the main things that will set the stage for good working relationships is trust. So let's talk about trust for a few minutes here, because the Premier made a verbal agreement with Kwanlin Dun and Ta'an Kwach'an' on waterfront property. If, in the event that government was not going to develop that property, Kwanlin Dun and Ta'an Kwach'an' would get the first right of refusal to that land. That was a verbal promise by the Premier. Was it honoured? No. It was not honoured and that created a real rift, again, between Kwanlin Dun and the Yukon Party government.

Now something that this government and other governments need to be aware of is that First Nation people still hold one's word in a very highly honoured position. If a person's word is good, you'll have an excellent working relationship with the First Nation people. If you make a promise and you don't keep your word, you don't honour it, you will have one difficult time to ever gain the trust of the First Nation people. I mean this right across the whole territory. Verbal promises to one First Nation being broken repeatedly will destroy working relationships right across the territory.

So these promises that are made to First Nations must not be made out of formality; they must be made with sincerity. If that's not the case, I would have to say that would be one thing that would be the straw that would break the camel's back in ever developing a sincere government-to-government working relationship with any First Nation.

The Yukon government definitely has its work cut out for it to try to fulfill this motion. I think the biggest one is going to be to try to get a sincere working relationship going with First Nations. I say that because, at this point in time, a lot of the First Nations in the Yukon feel they are just being used, used out of formality — and that's not a good thing. It has been a long time coming that every citizen in the Yukon needs to recognize and realize that First Nations have been one of the ma-

JOR economic contributors to this territory and to the upholding of this city in itself. Without a doubt, the First Nations could have gotten together in the territory — as one example — and trucked all of their building materials right from a sawmill in Smithers. They could have done that very easily and not bought one piece of lumber from any distributor in the Yukon or in Whitehorse.

When we talk about building 200 homes in McIntyre subdivision alone — let alone Crow Street area, where there are another 80 or maybe 60 houses — when we start looking at 250 or 260 homes and all of the materials and supplies, we're not talking about peanuts here. This is only one First Nation in the territory; there are 14 others.

I know many years ago Kwanlin Dun alone was bringing over \$10 million into the city. So for many, many years First Nations have been very good contributors to sustainable development in this territory. I can understand why the government really wants to keep them on the string here when it comes to lobbying the federal government for money, because First Nations can and always have been able to generate an awful lot of funds from the federal government into the Yukon.

Thank you.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** I would like to talk for a few minutes about this motion, and boy, I'm sure glad I'm on this side of the House and I don't see the doom and gloom that the opposition sees for the Yukon.

I want to talk about what we are doing in my riding and the contribution each of the two portfolios for which I am responsible contribute to Yukon's economy. In some cases, our contributions take the form of putting money into the marketplace. Some examples include removing hindrances to productivity, and in some cases it's through increasing the number of skilled workers available to the marketplace. However, before talking about my portfolios' specific contributions, I would like to speak for a few minutes about the role of the government in building Yukon's economy.

Mr. Speaker, you and I have spoken often that government can either be a great help or a great hindrance to the economy. This motion calls on the government to initiate measures to manage the impacts of the global downturn in the economy. As an MLA, I am especially proud of the contribution my riding makes to Yukon. In years past, it was a mine at Faro, which is in my riding, that drove Yukon's economy.

The motion calls for Yukon to encourage the federal government to continue to make strategic investments in Canada's north, meeting its commitment to unlock the vast potential in Yukon. Earlier, the Leader of the Official Opposition made reference to rearview mirrors. It again reminded me of the flow of vehicles leaving Yukon under the last government, getting their last view of the Yukon in their rearview mirror. They couldn't get out of the Yukon fast enough. They used the rearview mirror to make sure they weren't being followed.

I think that many people look at Yukon's potential as being minerals in the ground, and while that is most certainly true, especially in my riding where we have mineral resources, I would also point out that our potential is also found in our

people. Contrary to the member opposite saying exploration is drying up in Yukon, mineral exploration in the territory is expected to reach \$100 million, following an extraordinary year in 2000 of \$132 million.

I have spoken previously about what an economy needs to be successful. We need a transportation network to move people, supplies and products. We need a communications network to share information, and it is said that Yukon is recognized as one of the most connected regions in Canada, with all municipalities and over 99 percent of our homes having access to affordable high-speed Internet.

With respect to long-term economic growth, we are working to ensure that the cost of Internet service is comparable to that of the south, that the capacity of the link to the south does not limit our use, and that there is competition and innovation in the market for value-added services. The Yukon government continues to work with the regulatory system to push for more investment and more competitive choices, work with Northwestel and others to develop solutions to infrastructure challenges, work with other governments and third parties to enable investment and choice.

We are investing heavily in the Robert Campbell Highway — some \$30 million over three years. This year, we stockpiled the crush we will need to BST the 36-kilometre gap between Faro and Carmacks next year.

I thank my colleagues, especially the Minister of Highways and Public works for supporting this project. The Robert Campbell Highway is extremely important to Faro and Ross River's tourism industry. We have many dynamic entrepreneurs with unique artistic talents and home-based business ventures. I applaud the upgrade of the Robert Campbell Highway.

We are improving our access to energy at affordable rates. As my colleagues, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources and the minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation and the Yukon Energy Corporation, have noted on previous occasions, we are improving our electrical system by extending the grid. Unlike previous governments, our government has emphasized to the corporations the importance of fully funded maintenance plans.

I applaud my colleague, the Minister of Education, for his work in many areas of providing the educational opportunities necessary to address our need for a pool of skilled and available workers. I would also like to note that a great deal of work has gone on to help improve access to investment capital through the work of Yukon's Minister of Economic Development.

I believe that his diligence in marketing Yukon to foreign investors has been a great credit to Yukon. I appreciate his willingness and that of Minister Taylor to travel great distances to promote Yukon on the international stage. I thank them both for the sacrifices they make to maintain Yukon's presence on the world stage.

In the Women's Directorate we are working on a major capital project that will have significant impact on the housing construction industry. This speaks to the point in the motion about focusing on key infrastructure investments to create jobs in the short term and provide an environment for long-term

investment and growth. The Whitehorse affordable housing project in Riverdale will provide additional affordable housing that may help more single parents to enter or stay engaged in the workforce and to eventually move into more independent stable housing situations. This project also supports women who have been dependent on Kaushee's second-stage housing units to move into more independent living.

This motion calls on the government to initiate measures to manage the impacts of the global downturn. I think one of the best ways to do that is to offer more educational options to Yukoners.

One of the areas we have been very successful in is creating an economic climate where jobs were available. As a government, we have been working on ways to expand our labour market, including ways to engage those who had previously not been part of the workforce. I would like to point out that Yukon women have much to offer. The Women's Directorate contributes to a 16-week trades exploration course for women. This will increase the number of skilled tradespeople in Yukon.

We have the Young Women Exploring Trades, which encourages girls to consider trades as a career choice. I recently attended this and was so impressed by the young ladies I met. Having taken a welding course myself, I understand the excitement and joy that comes from creating with your hands.

The trades are a good choice for many young people and I encourage all young women to explore them. In addition to the self-confidence they instill, the trades also offer a very good-paying choice of career.

We have the women's leadership forum, which empowers Yukon women to explore and pursue their leadership skills in the areas of business and community and political involvement. I have read several articles over the years that point out the great contribution women make to our society. We as women have always been leaders in the community. There are too many examples to list, but I think each one of us can think of a volunteer organization, society, or advocacy group where women are the leaders.

We see more and more women demonstrating their leadership in the areas of business. We have also demonstrated our leadership in the political realm. Yukon has always been very progressive when it comes to recognizing women leaders. Yukon has a long, rich history of women in positions of leadership, both locally and nationally. This is true for both our public and First Nation governments.

Yukon women are leaders. Martha Black became only the second woman Member of Parliament when she was elected in 1935. Hilda Watson was the first woman elected leader of a Canadian political party, when she was elected to lead the Yukon Territorial Progressive Conservative Party in 1978.

The next year, in 1979, Ione Christensen was appointed the first woman Commissioner of the Yukon. She also became the Yukon's first female Senator when she was appointed in 1999. In 1989, Audrey McLaughlin was elected Leader of the NDP for all of Canada. This made her the first female leader of a federal political party. More recently, Pat Duncan became Yukon's first female Premier when she was elected in 2000.

What I find encouraging is that Yukoners have consistently recognized women in leadership roles. When I look over this list of historic firsts, I am reminded of how unique is each of their leadership styles. Of course, earlier this year, we witnessed the U.S. federal election in which two women featured prominently in the contest to hold public office.

By encouraging more Yukon women to get involved in the business community, we are contributing to the economic success of Yukon. In naming off the list of prominent Yukon women leaders, I would again like to point out that each one had her own leadership style.

In terms of our funding programs and contribution agreements, most of our funding programs — be it the women's equality fund, the prevention of violence against aboriginal women, or our annual contribution agreements with Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre and the Yukon Status of Women Council — help to provide employment to women. These women in turn help other women. I would also point out that people with economic resources have more options and more avenues to control what happens to them.

In my opening comments, Mr. Speaker, I spoke about removing impediments to productivity. Sadly there are still people out there who think the best way to resolve domestic difficulty is through violence. One of the areas that we make a difference is by providing options to improve the quality of life for women who have or are experiencing violence. By preventing violence and by promoting appropriate conflict resolution methods, we are improving Yukoners' lives. One of the ways we are doing this is through the domestic violence treatment option. The DVTO was created in 2000 as a response to the high rates of domestic violence. There was a developing consensus that the formal justice system, being adversarial, punitive and offender-focused, was not reducing the incidence of violence, in part because the formal justice system was not meeting the needs of victims. The DVTO Court, on the other hand, is a therapeutic alternative that helps motivate offenders to take responsibility for violent behaviour and stop it. This is one example of a court that helps keep families together.

Several researchers and commentators have noted that divorce is a direct cause of poverty for a large portion of women and their children.

I spoke earlier about the need for a balanced, consistent, modern regulatory regime. Mr. Speaker, imagine for a moment what our economy would look like if we did not have the rule of law. Think about how difficult it would be to transact business in a place where there was no criminal or civil law. One of the biggest contributions that any government makes to an economy is providing a clear set of laws that are consistently enforced. This stability provides the comfort that investors need.

Our court system provides the framework in which stable business relationships can occur. The Department of Justice supports the court system as a fair, impartial and balanced dispute resolution mechanism.

Two bills tabled in the fall of 2005 legislative session were designed to update and modernize our Yukon court system and increase access to justice for Yukoners. The *Small Claims*

*Court Act* amendments allowed for a higher limit — raised from \$5,000 to \$25,000 — that can be heard in this court. We are currently reviewing and consulting on the regulations to reflect the change in legislation. Changes to the *Jury Act* were designed to update the jury selection process. We are intimately involved in maintaining and promoting peace, order and good government, which Canadians and Yukoners hold so dear.

I would also note that we are creating safer Yukon communities. The Yukon government has committed \$486,000 to the street crime reduction team this year. The funding is providing the RCMP with the personnel and resources necessary to help reduce street crime.

Yesterday the members opposite were questioning our enforcement efforts. I'm delighted with the success of our enforcement efforts. This is one piece of the larger substance abuse action plan. The reality is that crime is a drain on the economy, Mr. Speaker.

I'm sure you would agree with the adage "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." Toward that end, we are supporting communities and community groups in their crime-prevention efforts. The crime prevention and policing branch works with other Yukon agencies in support of crime prevention.

I'd like to thank the local businesses who supported and provided donations to the project. The graffiti taskforce made up of youths from the Whitehorse Boys and Girls Club, Challenge and Bringing Youth Towards Equality cleaned up over 500 graffiti tags at various locations in the downtown area. I thank them for their hard work.

The government is pleased to have sponsored a one-day crime prevention through an environmental design training workshop in spring 2008. Our goal is to sustain a healthy, safe, prosperous, inviting downtown business community for all who work, live and visit there.

The Community Wellness Court is designed to provide treatment and support to offenders. This will deliver very important priorities for our government — first by reducing the number of repeat offenders in our correctional system, therefore reducing our costs. Second, by taking a therapeutic approach, especially for those suffering from FASD. We are helping them integrate into the workforce and into society. These, Mr. Speaker, are some of the ways we are making a positive contribution to Yukon's economy.

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today in the House to debate this motion. It gives me great pleasure to do so, as I am proud of serving my constituents as an elected member of this Assembly. I will say that as the MLA for Riverdale South, I am very committed to my constituency and honoured to represent them in the House here today.

Monsieur le Président, membres honorables, je suis très heureux d'être de retour à l'Assemblée législative pour représenter mes électeurs de Riverdale Sud.

I will try to respond to the issue the Member for Klondike raises in this motion, and I support the member's motion on what we can do in the area of managing our way through the global economic cycle.

Monsieur le Président, j'ai le grand plaisir de discuter cette motion au programme de l'Assemblée aujourd'hui.

Mr. Speaker, we are committed to working cooperatively with the business community, labour groups, industry, educational institutions, non-governmental organizations, First Nation governments and others to ensure we manage issues well through this economic cycle for the mutual benefit of Yukoners to create a positive, united-front investment climate that will encourage responsible economic development in the territory.

Promoting economic development and opportunity — I will focus on issues as they relate to Health and Social Services. A strong health care system is needed to support a healthy, active society where residents are contributing members to the economic opportunities in the Yukon for as long as possible. This begins with supporting families and children, continues with support for youth and young people as they prepare themselves for the workforce, assists in keeping individuals and families healthy throughout their adult working years and as they raise the next generation.

As they reach their golden age, it supports them as they reduce their participation in the labour force but continue to be contributing members to our society through other activities and in many other ways, such as volunteering for various organizations, participating in community activities and providing their wisdom to our younger generation.

All of the programs of the department, as well as all of the services related to the department, deliver and are aimed at making a significant contribution in keeping Yukon individuals independent, active, safe and healthy throughout their lives. There are other concrete examples of the contribution of the department and our health and social support system. A strong health care system is needed to recruit and retain the skilled workforce needed to support an expanding economy. That includes preventing illness and injury and responding to and recovering from illness and injury quickly and completely when it occurs. That also includes infrastructure to support the workforce.

The health and social services system and network contributes well over \$200 million annually to the economic activity through this department alone. This includes employment transfers to individuals, financial support to NGOs, purchases in the private sector, capital construction, the purchase of goods and services and support of local businesses.

We also provide employment, Mr. Speaker. YTG and specifically Health and Social Services is the primary health care and social services employer in the Yukon, which is a significant part of the overall workforce. We have hired a number of health care professionals over the last few months, which will help stimulate the economy both within Whitehorse and in our communities.

Recruitment of health and social services professionals is an ongoing activity that continually is a part of the economic activity of this territory. Quality, full-time employment of health care professionals and support service personnel are always in demand, such as registered nurses, licensed practical nurses, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, speech and language pathologists, et cetera. There are also support ser-

vices, such as food and cleaning staff, in all of our 24-hour facilities. The department has recruitment and retention initiatives in place to attract and support new workers in professions that are in high demand.

We are working with other jurisdictions and the federal government on labour mobility issues related to health professionals to remove barriers and make it more efficient for regulated health professionals to move easily between jurisdictions.

The Department of Health and Social Services, along with the Department of Community Services, is currently supporting the regulation of health professionals such as psychiatric nurses, laboratory technologists and nurse practitioners. This assists in supporting, attracting and retaining new staff and professionals.

Many others have expressed an interest in being regulated such as psychologists, midwives, naturopaths, massage therapists and social workers, just to name a few. We have provisions in place to support internationally educated health professionals. I am happy to say that this government is taking action in the area of recruiting health professionals from across the country. That is a national effort to recruit.

I won't cover all the programs that we are doing but I will mention a few here. We have a family physician incentive program that offers repayment of student loans for recently graduated physicians in order to attract and retain them in the practise of family medicine in Yukon. We have the health profession education bursary. The purpose of the bursary is to support Yukon students in attaining professional health education. The Yukon health profession education bursary is available to a minimum of four students per year. Additional students will be supported if funds are available. The maximum amount available will be \$5000 per year, to a maximum of four years of health profession education.

We have the nursing bursary program. The nursing education bursary is intended to support people who live or who have lived in the Yukon to attend a nursing school. The bursary will be made available for up to four new students per year, and the maximum amount available will be \$5,000 per year for up to four years of nursing school. We also have the licensed practical nursing program at the college. The Yukon government provides Yukon College with the funding necessary to support two intakes to train a total of 24 students in licensed practical nursing.

Under infrastructure, we have planned capital projects for the department to help build, support and maintain health infrastructure needed to support our services. The new health care centres will be needed to replace an aging infrastructure over the next few years. These construction projects will contribute to the economy.

The growing field of medical technology and highly specialized equipment is an area where the Yukon is still building its infrastructure. Capital purchases and the development of information systems such as telehealth, panorama, and nurses line, et cetera, all stimulate economic activity by building capacity in the territory to install and operate these technologies. Staff are able to learn new ways of doing their good work.

Other activity through the private sector is achieved by having employment and training with the social assistance clients and getting people back into the work force and independent of the government's financial support. Major contributions to childcare support increases the wages for workers and supports operators in running their businesses. This, along with the subsidy program, assists in making childcare affordable for families and thereby promotes and supports their participation in the labour force.

The department provides significant contributions to the hospital and to NGOs that have spin-off impacts on employment and the purchase of goods and services and to the economic goodwill of the Yukon in general.

This motion raises an issue that highlights the importance of the global economic situation for the Yukon and how this government is taking action to address the issue. Fortunately, we in the Yukon are in a strong fiscal position and another surplus is forecast for this year. This issue is reflective of a very positive situation for Yukoners; however, we must still be prudent as we weather the economic storm.

Mr. Speaker, I have attempted to discuss some of what this government is doing to address the current situation in this global economic cycle. Clearly, there are many facets to this issue that are of interest to Yukoners, including individuals who are looking for work, as well as employers looking for workers and the governments that want to ensure that a healthy and vibrant economy is in place for all of our citizens.

I am pleased to have provided this information to this debate on this issue this afternoon.

Merci, Monsieur le Président. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

**Mr. Cardiff:** I would like to just say a few words about Motion No. 647, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike. The motion is divided in two. There are some national issues and some local issues. I would like to talk a little bit about the national issues in the hope that the Premier will take some of these ideas to heart.

The Premier likes to say that they're willing to listen to good ideas, and I hope that when he gets to Ottawa, the Prime Minister will entertain good ideas from the premiers of all the provinces and territories. I'd just like to put some of those ideas on record briefly. Some of the ideas would be to do things like create an economic development agency for the north. That would go a long way to increasing investment, and it could provide a more coordinated approach to economic development in the north that was more culturally relevant and more sustainable and would take into consideration the social, cultural and environmental needs for the sustainability of our society here.

He could advocate for the increase in funding to Canada's arts and cultural organizations that recently came under attack by the federal government. He could advocate for a first-time homebuyer's tax credit, which would assist in the construction industry and promote more investment in the housing market.

He could advocate for increased funding for our cities and municipalities and communities to address the massive infrastructure deficit that is in the country, which includes expanding public transit. We have heard some of this talked about on

the floor of the Legislature. It affects my riding which had some public transit, albeit it was there and then it wasn't there and the schedules were uncertain. We've recently even heard of the need for an increase in transit just for the seniors facility at Yukon College. They could put more money into affordable housing, and the Minister of Justice talked about the project that the Women's Directorate is involved with and that is a step in the right direction but we need to have more of that.

We need a commitment from the federal government to do more to expand childcare and to create more childcare spaces and to make childcare more accessible, which would allow people to participate in the economy and become actively employed; to give more money toward green building retrofits and more investment in green technology and green jobs; more investment, nationally, on transportation infrastructure and telecommunications infrastructure. There's a gap in the connectivity. We may be one of the most connected jurisdictions in the country, or maybe even in North America, but there are still improvements that could be made, definitely with our highways and our roads.

We've heard about the millions of dollars that this government is prepared to spend on upgrading the Robert Campbell Highway, but we also hear about the deficit and the problems that we're having with highways and infrastructure, like the Alaska Highway between Burwash Landing and Beaver Creek. There are other stretches of the Alaska Highway that need attention as well: between Whitehorse and Haines Junction; we also heard many times this summer about the need — and it's a safety issue as well for the people who work in the transportation industry and the tourists who drive on our highways here in the Yukon — on the Dempster Highway. It's a major artery. It connects all of Canada to Canada's Arctic and the Beaufort Sea. There is a need to encourage the Prime Minister to make investments in areas like that.

We have heard also about the need in this country — I tabled a motion about it today — for potable water and access to sanitary conditions. It should be a basic human right. Canada is standing in the way of that and that is deplorable. We should be making advancements here in our country. We hear about communities across this country and indeed here in the Yukon where potable water is not available. We see where it is organized labour that comes into this territory and assists communities in making improvements to the water system. We shouldn't have to do that. The Premier should take that message to Ottawa.

There are other messages that the Premier could take. He could tell the Prime Minister to stop selling off federal infrastructure to the private sector. I don't think that's in the best interest of the taxpayers — giving bargain basement prices to private corporations to buy government buildings, and then the government turns around and leases them back. It puts more money in the hands of private corporations and the government should stop doing that.

They should also reject the idea of so much — I guess a policy — that moves more toward the investment of public funds in P3 partnerships — public/private partnerships — for building infrastructure. We feel that they are very inefficient.



They leave the public very much at risk. If those businesses and corporations involved in those can't deliver, they are unaccountable for the cost overruns and the ability to not complete projects on time, and it increases the expenses. We've spent an amazing amount of money transferring public wealth — taxpayers' dollars — to the private sector via bank bailouts recently.

Where is the assistance for the average Canadian? I think it's time the Premier went to Ottawa and said, "Enough is enough." Let's make sure that we're assisting the average Canadian, the working person, the people who are living below the poverty line, invest in new housing for people, make sure that they have jobs, make taxation more fair and remove the taxes from the lowest incomes so there are no taxes paid by those below the poverty line. That would go a long way to freeing up money in the economy, and it would help those most in need.

The Premier could advocate, when he talks with the Prime Minister, strengthening consumer protection. That would give consumers a bit more confidence and a bit more disposable income to participate in the economy, to go out and buy goods and services, to purchase homes, as well as make things more fair for Canadians.

They could protect consumers by banning ATM fees, capping interest rates on credit cards, limit interest rates that can be charged on payday loans. They could support the growth of credit unions, and they could ensure that consumer interests are protected and the government can block foreign takeovers that jeopardize the national interest of this country and, indeed, the interests that we have here in the territory.

Those are some areas that the Premier could raise with the Prime Minister when he goes to Ottawa in mid-January. I would also like to make a few comments about some things when it comes to the local side. My colleague, the Member for McIntyre-Takhini, covered a lot of those areas, and I would just like to strengthen a few of the points that he made and to expand on them briefly.

The reality, Mr. Speaker, is that this is a back-patting motion. The government has stood up and told us all the good things that they believe that they're doing, and we think that they need to get a reality check and make sure that they're on the right path, and they need to actually get out and make some improvements as well.

So it's good that the motion urges the Government of Yukon to do things like focus on key infrastructure investments, and create jobs in the short term. Well, it used to be, Mr. Speaker — and it was mentioned by the Leader of the Official Opposition a few times — I heard it this week — that capital budgets were released in the fall. I don't think it matters whether they release the budget in the spring, the fall, Christmastime, Easter, or July 1. Look at the record. Well, let's start with the school in Carmacks that took five years to complete. There was not very good management of that project, and that's evidenced by the audit report on contracts and by the comments of the Auditor General on the way that this government issues contracts and manages contracts and manages projects.

Yesterday afternoon, the Minister of Justice — I remember sitting, a little more than a year ago, up at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre getting a briefing about all the good things that were going to happen there and how soon those things were going to happen. We were going to have all the renovations finished by the end of the last fiscal year. They were just finished this past September. We were going to have cranes swinging and shovels in the ground for the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre this summer. We got a nine-unit women's facility under construction, and there are no cranes swinging. Yesterday, the minister told us in the Justice budget debate that they don't even have a schematic drawing. This is a project that is supposed to be — and could be — an economic stimulus for this community and for the entire Yukon. This is probably a \$30-million to \$40-million project. It would put a lot of people to work. It would put those tradespeople and those women the Minister of Justice was talking about in her comments to work. I have talked to companies in town here, and there are lots of tradespeople being laid off because there is insufficient work.

The minister wants to talk about a rear-view mirror — there are a few tradespeople who are looking in the rear-view mirror at the Yukon this fall because of the current state. The Premier likes to call it the "global cycle", and they like to point the finger and say there was an exodus from the Yukon. Well, that exodus is beginning again, and they need to wake up and see that.

I see I have about five minutes left. I'll try to wrap up.

It used to be that there were projects on the shelf — ready-to-go projects that could be pulled off the shelf, and put out to public tender, if there were projects that didn't go ahead. That's what this government should be doing. Instead, we see things like the Watson Lake multi-level health care facility — four years and no actual product that's usable. We see promises of a multi-level health care facility in Dawson City — not delivered. We see the job at the airport — another job that was mismanaged, another project that this government is behind on.

I can agree with the motion to urge the government to focus on key infrastructure investments to create jobs, but the problem is this government doesn't do a very good job.

A couple of other things: the idea of "striking an internal committee of deputy ministers, chaired by the Premier, to monitor and assess economic trends and identify opportunities," to the best of my knowledge, this was done in the past. The question for the Member for Klondike — or any other member on the other side who would like to get up and contribute to this debate — is: when was that discontinued and why was it discontinued? It doesn't seem to make sense to me. We need to promote that broader public discussion and include local experts and not just the people the Premier chooses to consult.

With regard to labour mobility initiatives, the Member for McIntyre-Takhini covered off a lot of the concerns that we have. The Leader of the Official Opposition spoke in favour of all the changes to the AIT, and he's in favour of labour mobility. The Minister of Justice was talking about trades again, and that's one of the areas where — Minister of Education; I see I have his attention now — we need to really be careful, and it's

about the standards of education and training that are required from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. This is one of the things that causes us in the third party some concern. We're uncomfortable with supporting this motion because of it, but the reality is that this is a race to the bottom when it comes to standards for trade certification. For the certification of employees, this is going to be a race to the bottom, because what it promotes is the lowest standard.

If the lowest standard is acceptable in British Columbia, it has to be acceptable in Nova Scotia, it has to be acceptable in Ontario, and it has to be acceptable in the Yukon, because that's what it says: that whatever trade certification, whatever qualification in whatever profession you have, if it is accepted in your province, it has to be accepted. I don't think that's right, because that's a race to the bottom.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I see that my time is up. We will vote in favour of the motion. I think we need to urge the government to do something. Doing something is better than nothing. It reminds me of the wise words of a young man from Winnipeg, who said that it's better to commit errors of commission than omission. In other words, it is better to try and do something and make mistakes than to do nothing, which is a big mistake.

We will be voting for the motion, but I would like to qualify our support.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I have been listening this afternoon to the comments from both sides of the House on this motion. This motion was brought forward by the Member for Klondike and, of course, we have been discussing it this afternoon.

The importance of the motion is obviously there in the many points that were covered by the member when he brought this motion forward. Listening to the opposition and the Leader of the Official Opposition, the comments made from that side of the floor are always interesting because it certainly gives us the incentive to work harder here to actually look at the individuals and say, "The job is being done on this side of the House — the government side of the House."

In the motion, there are many parts to it. But the first point was: "That this House urges the Government of Yukon to initiate measures to manage the impacts of the global downturn by working: (1) at the national level ...". It's very important that our Premier and Minister of Finance is working on the national level, not only for the benefits that this jurisdiction could see out of those kinds of negotiations, but also that the Premier and Finance minister is working with our national partners, being the Prime Minister and, of course, the other premiers, to put on a unified front to address the downturn in the world economy.

Of course we see that every day in the news media. Whether it's in print, on television or in conversations, there is a very large concern out there on the world stage that the economy is in very deep, deep trouble. We're reminded about that on every front page or news media outlet that you choose to listen to on a daily basis.

The local issues are very important to the government and for all Yukoners it's very important. By working in partnership

with our federal partners and looking at options here for our jurisdiction, it bodes well for us.

So, (2)(a): "continuing to maintain a prudent financial position so there is money available to invest where necessary" — certainly the finances of the territory are in a very sound position as we speak today. We've had six years of solid management on the financial end and that certainly reflects well on our Finance minister and our Premier.

We only have to remember the situation that we were in six years ago to understand that we had to have that kind of prudent management if we were going to see ourselves through any situation that could arise here in the territory. The resources we have at hand today in our government will do us justice when we go out to do the things we're going to do to weather the storm that's ahead of us.

Certainly, Mr. Speaker, we've got to be very careful and prudent, not only in managing the tax dollars of Yukoners, but also so we don't — the member opposite, the Leader of the Official Opposition, is insinuating that there is a crisis at hand. I don't believe in the Yukon today there is a crisis at hand. I think that what we've done in the past and where we're at today, certainly there are things we can do from a government level — I'm not denying that — but to escalate this situation to a crisis, I don't think that's factual, Mr. Speaker.

The construction trade, which I spent many years in — November and December are always months — I've been in the Yukon for 50-some years. I was in the construction business for a big part of that. The fall and winter is a very slow period of time for the building trades. I was never in the trades where I was not laid off in November and December because of weather conditions and just because of the nature of the business. Whether road construction or the stick-build construction part of our industry, the winter is a slow time for those trades.

Can we do more? Will we do more? This government will do what it takes to get the job done. We certainly don't want to see our trades leaving the territory. We don't want to see that kind of expertise leave the territory. We have worked very hard over the last six years to encourage people to come back to the territory — whether to the Department of Education, Health, Justice, Economic Development and all these others departments — to try to encourage not only new individuals, but also bring back our youth and the kind of expertise they bring with them. As a government, we have been fairly successful on that.

Mr. Speaker, when the member opposite minimizes what the Premier and the Finance minister is doing in round-table discussions with the different departments to keep a finger on the economy so that we as a government, especially the Minister of Finance, the Premier, can manage through this so that we're aware of things as they unfold in the department and so the departments have ideas to bring the table on how we can bridge into projects and situations that arise very quickly. When the member opposite says it is something that isn't needed, I beg to differ.

The round tables that have been going on with industry professions, the arts community and the medical community are all very important for the Minister of Finance, the Premier

— to get together with these different groups and economic identities in the community or territory so that he can get first-hand information from the industries and the arts community and other stakeholders in the territory to better understand what their situation is.

Again, ideas come out of those kinds of meetings. So it's not a knee-jerk reaction to something that might happen. It's something that says, look, we have a worldwide issue out there. Canada seems to be in a bit better shape than other countries. I guess, in saying that, over time it will either prove right or wrong. We certainly understand the dilemma that's in America, which is a large partner of Canada, and is also the financial engine of the world. So that has a big bearing on the economic future of the world. Also, they are our biggest trading partner. So that will have ramifications in Canada. Certainly, I agree with the Leader of the Official Opposition — they are a concern to us as a country.

Now, our situation here in the territory is that the prudent management of finances in this downturn is very important. We come to this situation in a position of financial strength and are certainly aware of our obligations to minimize this downturn for the citizens of the Yukon.

Certainly, the members opposite went on and on about the Campbell Highway and the investment on the ground there and the commitment over the next three years of \$31 million, and how they would spend the money differently. The government has decided that the Campbell Highway needs some upgrading and some prioritization in the budget, and we've committed the resources to do just that. That is a very hands-on, work-intensive, labour-intensive contract, and we have one year behind us. We are certainly looking forward to the two years ahead of us on that road construction. The north highway is another issue and we work with the Shakwak project. Now it's into the phase of more bridges and less roadwork, but there's still money being spent there.

As we move forward in the next period of time, whether it's after the new year or into the next season, there are a lot of things that the members opposite talk about that are not practical to do in the wintertime.

We all understand that. We understand the Yukon winter. We understand what limits we have from a construction point of view that could in fact benefit the territory. With the Whitehorse Correctional Centre — not “renovations” so much as “renewal” — we have committed to do just that.

We have work on the ground for the women's transition home there. That's quite a large project and we are looking forward to that getting started and moving forward. Again, that is another commitment our government has made, which is that we would build that kind of infrastructure in place and that it would be part and parcel of the new and improved correctional institute on Two Mile Hill.

As we go through our budget — and hopefully we will have time to do this over the next two days — the opposition will see there have been many commitments by this government in this supplementary to generate expectations and also work throughout the Yukon, Mr. Speaker.

As Minister of Highways and Public Works, I am very impressed with the work the Department of Highways and Public Works has put forward for us to present here in the House, looking at what we can do as a department to maximize some dollars out into the communities and, in doing that, what we get in return as Yukoners. There are some large commitments by the Department of Highways and Public Works, whether on bridges or the highway itself, and whether it is working with the individual trades that are out there.

The Department of Highways and Public Works works with all Yukoners. We have a staff, again, of 850 individuals who work, whether they are carpenters, plumbers, or electricians. Of course, we have road foremen, heavy equipment operators, mechanics systems and office support staff, custodians, engineers, architects, analysts, financial clerks, and procurement managers. So, Mr. Speaker, we have a very large department, personnel-wise, but we cover a lot of ground in the territory.

In saying that, I think from a minister's point of view they are a very solid group of individuals who really are focused on the issues that impact Yukoners because they live in our communities. They not only live in our communities, but they raise their families in the communities and take pride in the job that they do, in essence, for all Yukoners.

As we move through this motion, there are the expanding trade opportunities with foreign partners. Those kinds of issues are very important when we go down to our local retailers and see the number of individuals they have on staff who were not raised in the Yukon and some of them not raised in Canada. But they have chosen to come to Canada and become Yukoners. I really respect individuals who will uproot from their homes and countries and make a move into a whole different country or area. I have never experienced that myself, Mr. Speaker, but it is quite a commitment that those individuals take.

Again, if we look at the statistics, the Leader of the Official Opposition always says if the statistics are good coming out of the thing, then there is a reason why they're bad. I understand the dilemma he finds himself in, but the statistics on the employment — the Government of Yukon — these statistics point to an upturn in population. If you look at our trades now — six short years ago, we had fewer than 100 apprentices. Now we're looking at 400 or 500 apprentices out there working in our communities.

I walk around town and I see the amount of construction that's going on. Condos are being built and there are other investments. We've got the resources now and we're looking forward to expanding our airport facility. The parking lot has been expanded. As I look at the number of vehicles parked at our airport, it was certainly well-received by the travelling public.

So I think in the motion, as we vote on this — and I know that the third party has said they will step up and support this. Somehow by putting the motion out, I guess the third party has judged that it is this government's way of patting itself on the back. Well, again, Mr. Speaker, they are wrong. This is all about moving forward. This is a commitment by this govern-

ment to do exactly what we laid out here, Mr. Speaker. This is for the last sitting, the last month, when we have been getting daily advice from the members opposite on this crisis that they see here in Yukon.

When you think about the Leader of the Official Opposition, he was out but, as the Minister of Economic Development said, you've got to do more than talk when you go out there — you've got to listen. That is what is missing in this scenario, Mr. Speaker. The Leader of the Official Opposition doesn't listen, he speaks, so I find that the debate with the member opposite is limited to his own discussion.

This is a good motion. This answers all the questions we've been listening to for the last month here in the House. This is a commitment by this government to do exactly this. It goes from (a) to (i), quite an extensive list of endeavours for any government. Some of these are already being done. I mean, this is great. We're acting on the ground here, Mr. Speaker, and addressing the issues that Yukoners find themselves in today.

I look forward to the vote here this afternoon. It's a very important motion. I'd like to thank the Member for Klondike for a well-thought-out motion, and look forward to working with this team here to implement and work on these points as we move forward in the coming year. Thank you.

**Mr. Fairclough:** I will be brief in my comments to this motion.

I'd like to say a few words about the motion. First of all, as was said earlier, the Member for Klondike brought this motion forward — I just feel there's a little bit of conference that's going to take place with the Yukon Party on this.

This was already mentioned by the members opposite in a news release and now they're bringing this forward again. I do thank him, because I think the Member for Klondike is perhaps on the same wavelength because he's asking and urging his own government to take these initiatives.

The Member for Klondike probably heard from his constituents — people from Dawson City — about measures that need to be taken because of the global downturn. He's asking his government to do this by working, and working hard. I didn't hear him elaborate too much on that but that's what he's urging people to do and we agree with that.

There is a lot that we do agree with in this motion. For example, the very first one — we've been asking the government to do something more than what they've been doing to address the downturn in our economy. Even though Yukon has not been affected yet, we have to look ahead and that's what we wanted the government to do — talk to people and have round-table discussions with the business community — do that.

We've brought it up and given direction from this side of the House quite a number of times on this matter. We asked government to be careful in how they do their investments, ensure that they have monies at their disposal and not have them tied up. It takes a long time, I suppose, for the government to react to this.

Part of the problem here is that we're debating this motion, and we're at the tail end of the sitting. Here again we have the Government House Leader moving this motion, saying, "We'd

like to have a debate on this." They were only going to put up a few speakers on this because, in light of the time left in this sitting, we should be debating the budget — which we should be doing. The government side says there are areas in the budget that will actually stimulate the economy, so we want to get to that, but we can't get to that.

The Member for Klondike wants me to sit down and do this. But every one of the members on the opposite side spoke — actually chewing up time in the afternoon. We're at 4:45 in the day, with 45 minutes left. Could they have done this without bringing a motion forward? Absolutely — because it was already announced through a press release by the Premier.

I understand the Member for Klondike may not have seen action in his own government and he's asking them to do something by working and working hard — initiate measures right now. Then, when we go on to (2), it says: let's continue to maintain a prudent fiscal position.

I haven't heard a whole lot discussed about that from the government side. I listened to the debate and not much was said on that at all. Why? Because, well, we lost and we have \$36 million tied up. We could have done things smarter, differently. If only the members on that side of the House listened a little more to the opposition, perhaps we could be more advanced from where we are today. We understand the Yukon Territory is not in a bad position at all. We understand that. The unemployment rate is down, a lot of people are working and there are lots of jobs in the territory, but we know that we could be impacted a fair amount. It is already happening. We see things like — even the Raven Recycling. There was an impact on them and others too. We'll see that with the rubber-tire traffic in the coming summer, perhaps. If our gasoline falls more and our dollar falls, we'll probably see an increase in traffic and hopefully we get that from the United States. As it is at this time, it is not happening.

We want the government to do something too. We urge them to take the initiative and go forward to address the downturn in the global economy. It took a long time for the government side to even recognize that. Now we're starting to hear the words "downturn in the economy" coming out from the mouths on that side, and I'm glad they're recognizing it because we cannot ignore it. Many people say to take the steps ahead of time, and ensure that things continue well here in the territory, and this is what we in the opposition are trying to do. We're out there listening to people, despite what members on that side of the House are saying. They phone us, we have meetings, we go and hear them, and this is what they have to say, and it's reflected a lot in our questions during Question Period. I know it's so hard for the government side to even take that because it's difficult for them to deal with the issues that are being brought forward.

When it comes to the motion, under 2(a), we think the government could use a lot of improvements in that area. They need to sharpen up. We've been asking them to talk to key stakeholders for quite some time.

Well, we heard a lot of talk, time has gone by and nothing happens. This is part of the problem. I think the Yukon Party needs to gear up and do things a lot more quickly. Look at what

happened with the *Education Act* review — six-plus years and nothing.

“Focusing on key infrastructure investments to create jobs in the short term and provide an environment for long-term investment and growth,” I believe that this has been raised for quite some time by the Leader of the Official Opposition. He has been out there listening to people — a lot of people — and this has been brought forward. I’m glad that people are coming forward. It shows how effective the opposition is, as well, when government has to come back with a motion like this, because they’ve probably been hearing it all over. They’ve heard it in this House, they’re hearing it out there and they’re hearing it on the street. A lot more needs to be done.

There are things in here that of course we don’t agree with and we don’t like. We think government could use a lot of improvement. We support section (1) in this motion and section (2)(c).

We do support that. We’re going to give our support to this motion on those two sections. The rest is qualified support and I want the members opposite to realize that is exactly what it is — a qualified support. We too want the government to gear up, think about the seriousness of what is taking place in the rest of Canada and the United States, and the fact that it could hit here too, very hard. A lot of it could be in our mining industry and our tourism section. We in the Official Opposition do not want to see that happen.

We are asking government to take steps, take the initiative and move forward. We should have talked about this at the beginning of the sitting. We didn’t and it is too bad, because the government side says that it is in the budget. But we didn’t get around to talking about the budget until day 16 of the sitting in a 28-day sitting. There are a lot of things the government side can do to sharpen up here. We are asking them to do that. Take some initiative. Listen to the opposition parties, because we have a lot to offer.

I believe that once that happens, we in the Official Opposition will see a lot clearer and give more direction, and the public can see a lot clearer where Yukon is heading — the Yukon government — because it’s the Yukon government that’s spending a lot of money to keep the economy up too. It is government spending that we recognize is really pushing things here in the territory.

I thank the Member for Klondike for bringing this forward. He obviously listened to the opposition. Thank goodness there’s a backbencher there, Mr. Speaker, because he says government should take and initiate measures to manage the impacts of the global downturn. Isn’t that what he has been hearing time and time again here? I’m glad he’s listening to us. Maybe the notes that went across the floor were effective. It became part of this motion. I thank the Member for Klondike. This is qualified support on our part.

**Speaker:** If the member speaks, he’ll close debate. Does any other member wish to be heard?

**Mr. Nordick:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

You know, Mr. Speaker, the one thing that never ceases to amaze me is some of the comments from the Official Opposition. The Leader of the Official Opposition spends 45 minutes talking about the motion, but doesn’t amend it and has no real constructive input to it. Then the last member of the Liberal Party who spoke on the motion said they can only agree to part of it. Maybe they should have proposed a friendly amendment, but no, they can’t be bothered. Anyway, I will thank the members for the support on this. Our economy is very important to this government. That is why we spoke on this motion today. Once again, thanks.

**Speaker:** Are you prepared for the question?

**Some Hon. Members:** Divison.

#### Division

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

#### Bells

**Speaker:** Mr. Clerk, would you please poll the House.

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Kenyon:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Agree.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Agree.

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** Agree.

**Mr. Nordick:** Agree.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Agree.

**Mr. McRobb:** Agree.

**Mr. Fairclough:** Agree.

**Mr. Inverarity:** Agree.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Agree.

**Mr. Edzerza:** Agree.

**Clerk:** Mr. Speaker, the results are 14 yea, nil nay.

**Speaker:** The yeas have it. I declare the motion carried.

*Motion No. 647 agreed to*

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

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

*Motion agreed to*

*Speaker leaves the Chair*

#### COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

**Chair (Mr. Nordick):** Order. Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order.

**Bill No. 12 — Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09 — continued**

**Department of Community Services**

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 12, *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*, Department of Community Services.

Do members need a break?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Some Hon. Members:** Disagreed.

**Chair:** We'll proceed with Community Services.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I have an individual arriving, but I'll start with my opening address.

I'm pleased to present the Community Services supplementary budget to the members of this House. As members are aware, Community Services is mandated to support Yukon and its people in maintaining healthy communities. We are mandated to promote sustainable, healthy communities by supporting local governments, community organizations and the volunteer sector, encouraging active living through sport and recreation and directly providing community services; planning and zoning; property assessment and taxation; infrastructure and land development; to protect public safety through driver and vehicle programs; to provide community education opportunities through public library programs; and to provide a bilingual inquiry service to the public and Yukon government departments; to support the health, safety and protection of the public through programs such as the application of minimum building, electrical and mechanical codes; responsible employment practices; orderly, accountable and professional commercial activities; to protect broad consumer interests through the provision of education, information and enforcement services; to assist and enable communities and people to protect themselves from the threat of wildland fire, structural fire and other emergencies and disasters and provision of emergency medical services; and to work in partnership with Yukon Housing Corporation and the Yukon Liquor Corporation to support community development and facilitate the delivery of territorial agent services in Yukon communities.

Within this list of programs and services so crucial to Yukoners and Yukon communities, we have accomplished a number of beneficial projects. While there is always work to be done, I am proud of our accomplishments to date. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the dedicated, hard-working people in the Department of Community Services. We would be the first to acknowledge that Community Services do not accomplish all these things on our own. The partnerships with First Nation governments and community governments and the positive working relationship with our contracting and business community are an integral part of our success. We are witnessing interesting and exciting times here in the Yukon and indeed, in Canada.

While we recognize there are challenges ahead as a result of the world economy, our economy continues to be strong. I am pleased that Community Services is contributing to healthy communities and a good economy through many of the projects we have undertaken in the past couple of years.

Some accomplishments of note include: through our FireSmart program, we continue to reduce the risk of wildfire while creating employment opportunities in Yukon communities. Last year, about 28,000 hours of employment were created on 31 projects. This year, there are currently 28 new FireSmart projects with an estimated value in the area of \$1 million. The department is ensuring that Yukoners and Yukon communities benefit fully from the multi-government funding programs, including: MRIF — the municipal rural infrastructure fund; CSIF — the Canada strategic infrastructure fund; gas tax; public transit capital fund; and Building Canada Plan.

Over the past three years of the municipal rural infrastructure fund — MRIF — Canada and the Yukon have contributed a total of \$28 million in funding and have approved a total of 18 Yukon community infrastructure projects.

In May 2008, the department accessed \$466,000 under the 2008 federal public transit capital trust fund for the City of Whitehorse to purchase a new public transit bus. The bus is scheduled to be delivered before the end of 2008.

The Canada-Yukon gas tax agreement is bringing a total of \$37.5 million to the Yukon from Canada between the years 2005 and 2010. These funds contribute to healthy Yukon communities by supporting long-term planning and sustainable infrastructure. Yukon is working with Canada to extend the gas tax agreement from 2010 to 2014, which would result in an additional \$60 million flowing to Yukon communities.

In March 2008, we signed the Building Canada funding agreement with Canada, and Yukon government will receive \$182.9 million in new federal dollars to key priorities for infrastructure development in Yukon. We will see a \$4-million increase for municipalities in comprehensive municipal grant funding by 2012-13 and additional municipal-type service funding for unincorporated communities.

The first year's increase of \$807,510 took effect in April 2008.

This increase in municipal grant funding will help boost the fiscal capacity of communities and help them meet the demands of operating and maintaining new and aging infrastructure. We are supporting waterfront development in both Whitehorse and Carcross to help develop tourism opportunities and add attractions, facilities and community gathering places.

Canada and Yukon are contributing \$22 million through the Canadian strategic infrastructure fund for waterfront development in Whitehorse — \$18.45 million — and Carcross — \$3.55 million.

In Whitehorse, the new \$1.3 million Shipyards Park building is now open. The heritage building renovation is underway and future wharf construction has moved to the engineering stage.

In Carcross, waterfront development is well underway with the completion of the new footbridge and the viewing platform. Construction has started on the carving facility downtown with landscaping and road upgrades.

Work is well underway on the Hamilton Boulevard extension and the project is scheduled to be completed in the summer of 2009.

Land development is underway in Haines Junction for additional residential lots, in Dawson City for the expansion of the Dome subdivision and the Callison industrial park, and in Lake Laberge for developing the new Grizzly Valley subdivision to be constructed next year.

In Whitehorse, Community Services is working on engineering, survey and site preparation for the Arkell-Ingram phase 3 subdivision of about 132 residential lots that are planned to be ready in the fall of 2009. Mount Sima industrial lots and the Whitehorse Copper country residential lots were made available this year. An 88-lot industrial development on Burns Road — Wasson Place — is expected to be completed in 2009. The department and the City of Whitehorse have also signed a subdivision planning agreement for the Whistle Bend residential subdivision in Porter Creek, which should see lots available in the year 2011.

Community Services continues to make fire hall improvements a priority for all 17 volunteer fire departments in Yukon's unincorporated communities. In 2007, the Tagish fire department received, in addition to a fire hall, a new fire tank truck. In 2008, we delivered new fire pump trucks to the Mount Lorne and the Klondike Valley fire departments. We are also constructing a new and larger fire hall for Golden Horn, with completion expected in late 2008. In Watson Lake, we are investing \$1.2 million to purchase and renovate a property to accommodate an integrated emergency-response facility to house emergency medical services and related emergency responders.

New community centres have been built in the Town of Mayo and Marsh Lake, plus there is a major upgrade in Teslin.

Currently, we're working with the City of Dawson to improve the Dawson recreational centre. We have agreed to contribute up to \$1.6 million toward the construction of a youth and elder activity centre in Burwash Landing.

On behalf of all Yukoners, we are supporting the work of the Humane Society in the territory. The new *Animal Protection Act*, tabled this session, will help ensure the humane treatment of domestic animals. Of equal importance, Mr. Chair, we have worked hard to complete the new *Securities Act*, 2008, that will go a long way to enhance investor protection and harmonize our regulatory practices with those of other jurisdictions.

I am sure you will agree that this is a list of accomplishments to be proud of. Now, Mr. Chair, I'd like to address the Community Services supplementary budget so that we may continue our work on behalf of all Yukoners.

Mr. Chair, in the operation and maintenance budget, Community Services is asking for \$2,123,000. Of that \$2,123,000 O&M budget, \$843,000 is targeted for the emergency medical service. The grant-in-lieu of taxes was increased by \$376,000 due to the increase in tax rates in Faro, Teslin and Whitehorse, and increased property value assessments in all municipalities.

All Yukoners, especially our youth, will benefit from the \$200,000 support to the City of Whitehorse to ensure that winter sports activities will continue at Mount Sima. To assist with the fire protection in Yukon communities, contracts between

First Nations and wildland fire service has increased by \$132,000 for a grand total of \$1,150,000. In addition, \$100,000 is the result of responding to high water in Upper Liard this past spring and for cleanup work needed due to the 2007 Southern Lakes flood.

I am pleased to announce this government's support of \$120,000 for Yukon athletes and coaches from across the Yukon who will represent the Yukon at the 2009 Canada Summer Games in Prince Edward Island. Homeowner grants have increased by \$75,000 due to an increase in the number of eligible properties.

For O&M revenue, we are forecasting an increase of \$127,000 in general property tax due to an increase of properties not previously valued. Yukon's increased economic activity, particularly in mining and exploration, has stimulated increased commercial vehicle and other miscellaneous motor vehicle revenue by \$192,000. The department will receive \$17,000 from the registration fees recovered from the Canadian Association of Gaming Regulations Authority.

In addition, \$24,000 is estimated to be recovered from the flood recovery expenditures, to bring the total expected recovery to \$1,285,000. This money comes from Canada's Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements.

Mr. Chair, \$40,000 is attributed to the joint Canada-Yukon evaluation report on the gas tax fund, \$20,000 of which is recoverable from Canada. Yukon and Canada are required to conduct this evaluation as a requirement under the Canada-Yukon gas tax agreement.

The Department of Community Services is seeking \$1,917,000 in capital, which is comprised of \$21,916,000 in revotes from 2007-08 and \$2,081,000 for new projects in 2008-09, offset by the \$22,081,000 in deferrals for various projects and land development under the municipal rural infrastructure program.

The revote approval of \$21,916,000 of capital funds my department is seeking is for the following programs and initiatives: \$591,000 in corporate services for office furniture, computer equipment and systems; \$31,000 for EMO to purchase emergency communication equipment and other response equipment; \$300,000 to start construction of the Golden Horn fire hall and for improvements to the Marsh Lake fire hall; \$31,000 for a new fire truck for the Mount Lorne fire department; \$22,000 to purchase equipment for the Old Crow emergency medical services volunteers; \$77,000 for program improvements for emergency medical services; \$512,000 for contribution to the Kluane First Nation for a youth/elders activity centre; \$214,000 to complete projects for the rural electrification telephone program; \$84,000 to complete projects for the domestic well program; \$148,000 to continue local area planning in Carcross, the Klondike Valley, Marsh Lake and Tagish; \$25,000 to complete the feasibility study for the Dawson recreation centre and Army Beach community well; \$51,000 to continue work on the water treatment system in Ross River, Old Crow and Mendenhall; \$44,000 to construct a pump building for the sewage lagoon in Carcross; \$46,000 to complete the water licence submission for Old Crow and Ross River;

\$30,000 for improved riverfront dike protection in Mayo to complete a YESAA submission for an extension to the dike.

There is \$248,000 for riverbank stabilization in Old Crow, for work to complete the project; \$71,000 to complete a flood assessment and abatement study; \$135,000 to complete infrastructure work in Ross River and Carcross; \$31,000 to complete design work on the intersection of Hamilton Boulevard and the Alaska Highway.

There is \$7,051,000 for the Canada strategic infrastructure fund projects, which include: \$2,954,000 for the Carmacks sewer treatment plant; \$586,000 for the Dawson sewage treatment; \$459,000 for the Carcross waterfront project; and \$3,051,000 for the Whitehorse waterfront project.

There is \$3,961,000 for municipal rural infrastructure fund projects, which include the following: \$36,000 to complete a water, sewer and road project with the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations; \$70,000 for a water project with the Selkirk First Nation; \$3,226,000 for the Hamilton Boulevard extension; \$52,000 for the Dawson City recreational centre upgrade; \$49,000 for road upgrades with the Na Cho Nyak Dun First Nation; \$152,000 for the Selkirk wastewater disposal facility; \$150,000 for a playground in the City of Dawson; and \$116,000 for the Mayo community centre.

There's \$230,000 for design work for the proposed new library on the Whitehorse waterfront and repairs to the community library building in Carcross; \$205,000 for two water projects under the northern strategy fund; \$250,000 for rural municipality unincorporated communities infrastructure funding; \$452,000 for Dawson City's infrastructure; \$6,764,000 for various residential land development projects, including \$6.1 million for the Whitehorse Copper subdivision.

Other capital items of note are: \$170,000 for the review of conditions and maintenance to EMS program equipment in rural Yukon; \$1.195 million to purchase and renovate the property in Watson Lake for the integrated emergency response facility; \$250,000 for renovations and rehabilitation of the Dawson City recreational centre.

We will have a lapse of \$1.5 million for the Takhini North infrastructure replacement project under the municipal rural infrastructure fund, due to delays resulting from the City of Whitehorse public consultation process.

We will have a deferral of \$3,225,000 until 2009-10 because additional projects will not be approved in time for any construction to take place in 2008-09.

As we have mentioned earlier in this budget, we have a \$466,000 contribution to the City of Whitehorse to purchase a low-emission technology transit bus. There will be \$17,355,000 lapsed funding in the land development area for projects that include Grizzly Valley, Mount Lorne and Porter Creek.

Capital recoveries: the Department of Community Services is seeking \$1.917 million in capital, which is comprised of \$21.916 million in revotes from 2007-08 and \$2.081 million for new projects in 2008-09, which is offset by \$22,080,000 in deferrals for various projects in land development and under municipal rural infrastructure programs.

Mr. Chair, the department is forecasting a decrease to capital recovery of \$7.158 million. We will lapse the \$17.355 mil-

lion in land development, which includes \$3.7 million for Grizzly Valley, \$477,000 for the Mount Lorne rural residential project, \$12,780,000 for the Porter Creek residential project, and \$400,000 for recreational land development projects.

Mr. Chair, we will lapse a recovery of \$750,000 for the Takhini North infrastructure replacement project under the municipal rural infrastructure program. We also note a deferral of \$1.6 million in MRIF funding until 2009-10, because additional projects will not be approved in time for any construction to take place in 2008-09.

There is an increase of \$12.5 million associated with the revotes previously mentioned for Community Services, which include the following: \$214,000 for the rural electrification telephone program; \$84,000 for the domestic well program; \$3.526 million for the Canada strategic infrastructure fund; \$1.922 million for the municipal rural infrastructure program; and \$6,764,000 for land development.

**Chair:** Thank you, Mr. Lang. Thank you.

**Mr. Fairclough:** Well, that was a mouthful for the minister trying to get through that and for anybody trying to pay attention to how it has been laid out by the minister.

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

**Mr. Fairclough:** He should be very clear in giving this message out to the public. I tried to follow along, and the minister jumped from page to page in this supplementary budget. I was hoping that the minister could be a bit clearer, perhaps slow down and talk a little bit about some of the projects, for example, that have not gone ahead and could not go ahead this year.

I think it was important for this department — for this minister — to really pay attention to those because we just debated a motion here to look at short-term improvements in the territory. A lot of money here in this department is given back to general revenues because projects could not proceed. So when the minister gets up to answer my question, I'm hoping that he would have that in some detail.

He talked about \$3 million in projects that are not going ahead and he talked about others that are not going ahead when it comes to land development. I'm a bit concerned about that as I read through this budget, because in the spring we were also given a budget by this government and, when you read it, it looks like we're doing quite the improvement to things like land development — 100 percent higher than the previous year, or 124 percent is what it said in the spring.

This has been happening in several departments, where we come back and we are going back almost to the original numbers from the previous budget of last year. I know it's a few million dollars more, but when we talk about keeping people working here, the minister said to us — and it's right here on page 2-5 — that when it comes to land development, for example, and residential land, \$10 million is not being used.

Part of it is because the government fell in their job to do consultation properly, some of it with First Nations. Grizzly Valley is a fine example of that. Perhaps the minister could be clear in his response to us about exactly what is taking place when it comes to land development in Grizzly Valley. Is it tied up in court? Is it going to be resolved? That is going to be a



common question from us on this side of the House, because the government finds itself in court quite often.

The Department of Community Services is one that the communities really look forward to, because when money is spent in their communities, it circulates around. The minister knows that if we spend a dollar in a community, it usually is multiplied by six, as the money floats to different businesses in the community. So people do look forward to the department coming up with ideas and we've presented quite a few over the years.

I would like the minister also to address the line items before us that were not previously in the mains in the spring. When I look at it, there are a number of line items that haven't been there. I understand perhaps that they were only approved afterwards because there are zero dollars put forward to this. I know that the minister talked about Mount Sima, for example, and Selkirk First Nation's small diameter piped water. We're interested in some details on this.

I would also like the minister to explain the community's feelings about the Watson Lake integrated emergency response facility. Some have talked about the training facility and whether it's needed or not, and why the costs may have been reduced somewhat. I'd like the minister to explain.

There are a lot of monies that are in this department that were taken out and moved somewhere else. All through the line items it's like that. There is the unallocated administration of \$3.4 million that was taken out of \$3.6 million. It had been moved around. We've seen increased monies in other places, so they've taken it out of that line item and moved it within, which I would say isn't a bad idea, if the minister can hold to that in the Management Board. We've also seen quite a lot of money that has been moved and added to some of the projects that are already in the books — for example, the Whitehorse waterfront. I know the minister has probably got a good explanation for it, but it was a \$4 million voted on expenditure in the spring. What the minister is asking for is an additional \$3 million-plus toward that project. There are probably good explanations for that.

I am interested in the Dawson City sewage treatment. We have doubled the amount of money since the spring. I am interested in the Dawson City recreation centre. Both under community development fund and sport and recreation, we see \$263,000. We flip over to the other page under community infrastructure and we see Dawson City recreation centre renovations for \$52,000. I know that the minister probably has an explanation, or if he doesn't, he will get one from his officials. I am also very interested —

**Chair:** Order please. Seeing the time, the Chair will rise and report progress.

*Speaker resumes the Chair*

**Speaker:** I will now call the House to order. May the House have a report from the Chair of Committee of the Whole?

### Chair's report

**Mr. Nordick:** Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 12, *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*, and directed me to report progress.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** I declare the report carried. The time being 5:30 p.m., this House now stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. tomorrow.

*The House adjourned at 5:31 p.m.*

### The following Sessional Paper was tabled December 10, 2008:

08-1-95

Yukon Law Foundation: Annual Report and audited Financial Statement for the fiscal year ending October 31, 2007 (Horne)

### The following documents were filed December 10, 2008:

08-1-79

Property Management Agency 2007/2008 Annual Report (Lang)

08-1-80

Yukon Lottery Commission 2007/2008 Annual Report (Cathers)