

**Yukon Legislative Assembly**  
**Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Monday, December 15, 2008 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

*Prayers*

**Withdrawal of motions**

**Speaker:** The Chair wishes to inform the House of a change which has been made to the Order Paper. Motion No. 491, standing in the name of the Member for Klondike, has been removed from the Order Paper as it is similar to Motion No. 647, also standing in the name of the Member for Klondike, which was adopted by this House on December 10, 2008.

**DAILY ROUTINE**

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

Tributes.

**TRIBUTES**

**In remembrance of Erik Nielsen**

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of all Yukoners to pay tribute to one of Yukon's most distinguished sons, the Hon. Erik Nielsen, PC, DFC, QC, LLB, FCMS.

"Yukon Erik", as he was soon to become known both territorially and nationally, was born in Regina, Saskatchewan on February 24, 1924, and grew up in Alberta and the Northwest Territories.

Erik joined the Royal Canadian Air Force at the age of 18 years and flew over 50 sorties in a Lancaster Bomber during World War II. He was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for high skill, fortitude and devotion to duty. "His fine offensive spirit and imperturbable manner must have been a splendid example. He concealed beneath an unassuming manner a matchless courage and an undying determination to press home his attacks. His devotion to duty inspired his crew to give their best at all times. Those, Mr. Speaker, are direct quotes from his Distinguished Flying Cross commendation.

Erik was justifiably proud of his military service, and this sense of duty stayed with him throughout his life, as would indeed his love of flying. He was a qualified pilot for over 50 years and instilled a love of flying in his sons. In September of 2003, Erik attended a most memorable reunion of his RAF 101 squadron in England with his two sons, Lee and Rick, and his daughter, Roxanne.

Erik married Pamela June — PJ, as she was known — Hall, in Louth, Lincolnshire in 1945. He returned to Canada and earned his law degree at Dalhousie University, and was called to the bar of Nova Scotia in 1951. He was called to the Yukon bar shortly after, in 1952, when he moved to Whitehorse to practise law.

Erik's keen intellect and analytical mind enabled him to become an outstanding lawyer. He was appointed to Queen's Counsel in 1962, in recognition of his outstanding work in the

legal profession and his contribution to the constitutional development of the north.

There is no doubt Erik loved the Yukon. He loved the land and he loved the people. He was first elected to the House of Commons in December of 1957, and served Yukoners as their Member of Parliament until January of 1987. During this 30-year period, Erik served Yukon and Canada in many capacities: as Minister of Public Works, from 1979 to 1980; as Deputy Opposition House Leader in 1980; as Opposition House Leader in 1981; as leader of Her Majesty's Loyal Opposition February 1983 through to September; as Deputy Prime Minister from 1984 to 1986; as president of Queen's Privy Council from 1984 to 1985; as Minister of National Defence from 1985 to 1986; and as acting Minister of Fisheries in 1985.

In January of 1987, after his resignation as Yukon's Member of Parliament, Erik was appointed as the president of the Canadian Transport Commission and then as chairman of the National Transportation Agency.

As the Member of Parliament for Yukon, Erik served Yukoners well. He was a friend and confidante of Prime Minister John Diefenbaker whose government created the roads to resources program that led to the building of the Dempster Highway, the Skagway Road and upgrades to the Haines and Alaska highways.

Prime Minister Stephen Harper described Erik as a significant force in the world of Canadian politics, fearless and a formidable leader. He worked with passion and commitment for his constituents every day through his 30 years in Canadian politics. Erik embodied the spirit of Canada's true north, strong and free, and his heart was always in the Yukon.

Prime Minister Joe Clark described Erik as one of the most skillful parliamentarians of the last half century — constructive in office and a very effective MP for a diverse and difficult constituency.

The development of self-government in Yukon owes more to Erik Nielsen than to any other single individual. Erik made the first federal proposal to allow the Yukon and Northwest Territories a seat each in the Senate. He fought to protect the sanctity of Yukon's political boundaries from provincial boundary expansion. He was a proponent of the 1979 Epp letter that granted Yukon responsible government by changing the terms of reference of the Commissioner that have now been enshrined in the *Yukon Act*.

Erik was a champion of First Nation rights: the right to vote, citizenship rights, the aboriginal right to hunt and to fish, the right to have adequate housing and infrastructure such as schools, health centres, an airport in Old Crow and the right to have a fair and just land claims settlement. Erik had a special place in his heart for the people of Old Crow. During caribou shortages, elders in Old Crow credited Erik with arranging shipments of buffalo and reindeer meat from the Northwest Territories.

Erik advocated for and was responsible for the construction of the new airport terminal at the Whitehorse Airport, replacing the old World War II hangar. He was also responsible for signing the first territorial funding formula agreement,

which, today, provides approximately 65 percent of the Yukon government's revenues.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of Erik's long service, dedication and contributions to Yukon and to Canada, the Government of Yukon has renamed the Whitehorse International Airport as the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport in his honour. Erik was a war hero, a great parliamentarian, a great Yukoner and a great Canadian. We remain forever in his debt.

Mr. Speaker, with the House's indulgence, I would ask we turn our attention to the gallery to make welcome many members of the Nielsen and Hougen families. Welcome one and all.

*Applause*

### In recognition of Dave Robertson

**Speaker:** Members, on behalf of the House, it is my pleasure to pay tribute today to David Robertson, as this is the first session in more than 30 years that he has not been involved in the production of *Hansard*.

Dave took the contract to print *Hansard* in the mid-1970s, doing it the old-fashioned typesetting way at the *Yukon News* office. In those days, *Hansard* was contracted out to a court reporting firm in Vancouver who would transcribe the spoken word. The hard copy would then be delivered to Dave for typesetting and printing.

Never one to miss an opportunity to streamline production, in 1977 he implemented computers in the *Hansard* office at his own expense, which eliminated the necessity to retype the *Debates and Proceedings* that had previously been pounded out on old IBM Selectric typewriters.

In 1981, Dave took over the contract to produce *Hansard* in its entirety, continually upgrading the computer system to the amazing equipment that we have here today.

Ever innovative, he started the first *Hansard* daycare with transcriber moms bringing their newborn babes into the office during sessions. When they became too big to come to work with mom, he recruited his wife Barbara to provide daycare so that his prized crew could continue to work.

Ten years ago he retired from the editing process to provide only technical support to the *Hansard* office, maintaining and upgrading equipment and coming in to make certain everything got off to a smooth start each day. Dave's acumen in technology has given the Yukon the fastest turnaround times for the Blues in all of Canada, if not the Commonwealth.

Dave's expertise and cheerfulness are missed in the *Hansard* office today and we would like to thank him for all those 30 years of dedication and ingenuity.

I'd also like to ask all members to join in welcoming Dave's son, Stephen, who is in the gallery here today.

*Applause*

Are there any further tributes?

Introduction of visitors.

### INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I would ask all members to join with me in extending a warm welcome to Claire Festel, who is our chair of Yukon Heritage Resources Board, Missy Folwell, who is also a member of the board, and Ms. Morgan Smith,

who is our executive director for the Yukon Heritage Resources Board.

*Applause*

**Mr. Elias:** I ask all members to join me in recognizing the presence of Joseph Binger, an instructor at Yukon College, who is in the gallery today.

*Applause*

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

Are there returns or documents for tabling?

### TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** I have for tabling the Yukon Child Care Board Annual Report for 2007-08.

I also have for tabling the *Statement of Revenue and Expenditures* for health care insurance programs for 2007-08.

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** I have for tabling the Contracting Summary Report for Yukon Government Departments for April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** I have for tabling the Yukon Liquor Corporation Annual Report from April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2008.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** I have for tabling the annual report for the Yukon Heritage Resources Board for 2007-08.

**Mr. Fairclough:** I have for tabling a letter that was sent to the Minister of Health and Social Services from Chief Ruth Massie.

**Mr. Inverarity:** I have for tabling on behalf of the Official Opposition and the third party a report to the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges to assist with the development of terms of reference for special and select committees.

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

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

**Speaker:** Under presentation of reports of committees, the Chair has for presentation an interim report from the Select Committee on Whistle-blower Protection.

Are there any further reports of committees?

**Mr. Mitchell:** I have for presentation the second report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts.

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

Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motion?

## NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon Party government to ensure that public consultation related to the *Forest Resources Act* includes two rounds of consultation for drafting the forest regulations and the stewardship manual, and further ensure that forestry practices in the stewardship manual are mandatory and an adequate period of time is provided to involve other Yukon government departments, especially the Department of Environment, as well as the successor resource legislation working group, RRCs and focus groups in developing the final manual before conducting public consultation.

I give notice of the following motion

THAT this House urges the Yukon Party government to avoid further delay on its promise to provide the final draft of the comprehensive energy policy within six months, as stated by the minister responsible on May 14, 2008.

I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon Party government to complete and table the governance policy between the Yukon government and the Yukon Energy Corporation and Yukon Development Corporation that has been sitting on the energy minister's desk since August 2004.

I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon Party government to ensure the expeditious delivery of responses to information requests of officials from the Yukon Energy Corporation and Yukon Development Corporation, resulting from their appearance in this Assembly on December 8, 2008.

I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon Party government to justify the continued 15-percent charge to Yukoners' power bills resulting from the fuel rider, given the ongoing requirement for only minimal diesel generation on both Yukon power grids.

I give notice of the following motion for the production of papers:

THAT this House do issue an order for the return of the signed shareholder letter of expectations 2008-09 between the Yukon Development Corporation and Yukon Energy Corporation and the minister responsible for those corporations.

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to immediately strike a committee comprised of members of the Government of Yukon and Yukon First Nation governments to comprise a working group to develop the process and policy options for the development of a child and youth advocate act.

This will ensure Yukon First Nations are involved in an effective process that will provide assurance that their concerns will be heard and that the new legislation will address those concerns.

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

THAT this House improve the ability of special and select committees to consider the matters referred to them by:

(1) ensuring that all parties represented by the Legislative Assembly have reviewed a committee's mandate and terms of reference prior to a new committee being formed;

(2) ensuring that the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly has reviewed the mandate and terms of reference of a new committee prior to the new committee being formed;

(3) ensuring that the new committee is provided the necessary reference material to reasonably consider the issue under review;

(4) expressly clarifying, as part of the select committee's mandate, the types, of meetings and hearings a select committee is empowered to hold; and

(5) establishing timelines for committee returns that is sufficient for thorough and meaningful consultation with the public and stakeholder groups.

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

THAT this House urges the minister responsible for the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board to bring forth amendments to the *Workers' Compensation Act* that would compel the board to release the safety records of companies with the highest number of injuries.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Highways and Public Works to propose amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* to ensure that the law is extended to cover the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board and other government corporations.

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

THAT it is the opinion of this House that:

(1) when children grow up in poverty they have more illnesses, perform poorly in school, have more mental health problems and earn less when they are adults;

(2) research shows that for every dollar that a country invests in giving children a good start in life, it saves \$7 for health and other problems that arise when children's needs are not met;

(3) helping children out of poverty is morally, socially and economically productive and necessary; and

(4) this season of abundance and giving reminds us of our commitment to eliminate child poverty.

I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Environment to respond to the internal audit of the Yukon government's performance under the *Environment Act* and live up to the requirements of the act by presenting a revision to the Yukon conservation strategy to the Legislative Assembly, as the most recent version is dated May 1990.

I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Minister of Environment to respond to the internal audit of the Yukon government's performance under the *Environment Act* and immediately initiate a comprehensive review of the *Environment Act* in light of the substantial governance changes since 1991.

**Speaker:** Are there any further notices of motion?  
Is there a ministerial statement?  
This brings us to Question Period.

## QUESTION PERIOD

### Question re: Environmental management

**Mr. Elias:** I do wish that I could stand up today and give credit where credit is due, Mr. Speaker, but let's get some facts straight here. We need our wood bison population to be at about 200 animals, and we're not even close. There is very little baseline data to help the Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee address the low moose population. The Porcupine caribou herd could be in very serious trouble and is in decline and the minister refuses to occupy the field. We have a very dangerous winter tick infestation of our elk herds and it is not under control. The minister's words during the session are simply not backed up by action.

Mr. Speaker, the Minister of Environment refuses to lead the charge with proper allocation of resources and direction — it is that simple. This begs the question: is the environment actually a priority of this government?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a pleasure to be back in the Legislature from Poland, and I certainly welcome back the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to respond to the member opposite's question, and I am very pleased to reaffirm this government's support for the environment and we have been working toward that very end.

Mr. Speaker, as I have articulated on the floor of the Legislature many many times, Yukon is indeed adhering to our obligations as outlined in final agreements. We are working with myriad stakeholders, including First Nations, Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, renewable resources councils and many stakeholders at large. In terms of addressing wildlife management, again, that is being done through the implementation of the final agreements and through the various cooperative management processes, which include community-based wildlife management planning. I have certainly articulated many examples that we have been just that, including the new Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee, comprising six First Nations, the B.C. and Yukon governments, and the Canadian Wildlife Service, the mandate of which is to manage, in a coordinated approach, moose, caribou, sheep and other wildlife populations.

Likewise, we have been working in collaboration with the Na Cho Nyak Dun First Nation, for example, and the Mayo Renewable Resources Council on a five-year plan to address community-based fish and wildlife planning. There are numerous examples where we are addressing wildlife.

**Mr. Elias:** The minister continuously says that the environment is a priority. Why is it, then, that in six years the minister could not get the job done and complete our species-at-risk legislation, or climate change action plan, or state of the environment report, or comprehensive water management strategy?

The minister refuses to engage and seek the advice of the Yukon Council on the Economy and the Environment to get a trappers support program implemented. The Environment minister has failed to provide enough data for the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board to easily develop a long-range strategic plan and vision for our wildlife populations. Instead, they are left to deal with the situation that amounts to "educated guesswork" in their words.

They are the primary instrument in the management of our fish and wildlife in our territory. When will this minister stand up and fight for the environment and Yukoners' place in it?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Certainly, what this government has done is more than articulated by words. We've actually put our money where our mouth is, and we have been adhering to our responsibilities in developing responsible wildlife management plans for species of value to all Yukoners, which support biological diversity and ensure the conservation of sustainable fish and wildlife inventories, habitat and water resources. In this regard, it is this government that has almost quadrupled the amount of resources available for those wildlife inventories to be taken, which has enabled biologists to conduct an increased number of surveys, including surveys in the Old Crow Flats and the home of the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin — for the first time in 20 years, a muskrat survey, for example — but has also supported an ecosystem approach to inventory work, all of which is linked to the north Yukon wildlife management plan and to the International Polar Year.

Mr. Speaker, other inventory work made possible by new funding includes the collection of data on population size, demographics and seasonal ranges of the South Nahanni and Coal River caribou herds. This year alone, a total of 41 inventory and 17 management projects will be undertaken.

**Mr. Elias:** There is simply no balanced agenda with this government, Mr. Speaker. They will ensure that the updating of the *Miners Lien Act* and the *Quartz Mining Act* are completed, but not the *Environment Act*. It even says so in the government's audit of its performance under the *Environment Act* released last week. The report says the *Environment Act* is hopelessly out-of-date and recommends that the act be updated.

Here's the interesting point: the report also recommended the *Environment Act* be updated and catch up with the times three years ago and nothing was done by this Yukon Party government. It's abundantly clear the environment is not a priority with this government. I rest my case.

When is the minister going to stand up and stop paying lip service to the environment and fulfill her promise to Yukoners?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** When it comes to the audit, we on this side of the House welcome the findings of this internal audit, which is a requirement of the *Environment Act* every three years. The audit, as the members opposite are very aware,

is a requirement of the act, the purpose being to report progress as well as highlighting areas for improvement.

The government recognizes the very importance of such findings and is very much working to adhere to those recommendations listed, including formalizing a risk-based approach to determine which permits are inspected each year, reviewing the storage tank regulation for the purposes of improving the issuing and monitoring of permits, working with Highways and Public Works to develop a green procurement policy.

Mr. Speaker, recommendations regarding reporting, contaminated sites regulation and a review of the act itself are all currently being reviewed and undertaken by the department.

The government values the work provided by the services of the internal audit office. We are working to adhere to those recommendations made and we're very committed to adhering to a clean, pristine environment for the enjoyment of all Yukoners.

#### **Question re: RCMP accountability**

**Mr. Fairclough:** All members are aware of the recent passing of Raymond Silverfox. He died while in the custody of the RCMP. There's a great deal of talk and discussion surrounding his death throughout the Yukon. This is never helpful or positive for any community. Facts are quite often enhanced and, after awhile, they become the facts.

First and foremost, the family needs to know all the facts surrounding the incident. They need to know all the circumstances surrounding Raymond's death. Knowing the facts will help bring closure for them. Over the weekend, the family took Raymond's body to its final resting spot. Now they want answers.

Will the minister order a full public and independent inquiry into the death of Raymond Silverfox?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Again, this is a tragedy and our sympathies go out to the family of Raymond Silverfox. As all members of this House are aware, there are a number of investigations already taking place into the recent in-custody death, the most recent incident being investigated by M Division major crimes unit and forensic identification section, under the direction of E Division major crimes unit from British Columbia. The government has every faith that the RCMP will carry out this investigation duly and correctly.

**Mr. Fairclough:** Not good enough, says the family. Any type of an investigation that is not open and transparent will always be open to suspicion. Why not then have one, Mr. Speaker?

The RCMP is the most highly recognized national police force in the world and it does not need accusations directed at it, accusations that may be totally incorrect. If there was something wrong with this particular case, then it has to be aired publicly and the matter addressed. The officers involved need to have a public forum where they can personally speak and, if need be, defend their actions. Mr. Speaker, when someone whispers, it is because they do not want anyone to hear. An inquiry that is not public is perceived as a whisper, because others will not know what was said.

So again, will the minister, in the best interests of the family and in the best interests of the RCMP, order a public and independent inquiry into this death?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** The Commission for Public Complaints Against the RCMP is an independent agency created by Parliament, whose goal is to promote excellence in policing through accountability. In March 2007, the commission implemented an innovative pilot project that assigned commission staff to observe and assess the impartiality of the investigations conducted by the RCMP division in British Columbia — known as E division — involving high-profile and serious incidents such as in-custody death.

In September of this year, this office, the commission and the RCMP formalized the independent observer program in the RCMP's E Division in British Columbia. It is this very office that will observe the current investigation and assess the impartiality of the RCMP in their conduct of this investigation.

**Mr. Fairclough:** The public has been asking for an independent public inquiry, and that's what we're asking. None of us know when a family member or friend will be in a similar situation some day. This is not just something that happens to First Nation people. Anyone, at some time, could be in the custody of the RCMP. How would they want this matter to be handled? Would they want a secret investigation or one that was public and accountable?

Investigations into a death not only need to be performed properly, but they must be seen as to have been performed properly. This is one of those cases where perception becomes reality. The minister does not need to consult on this issue. Yukoners want any death while in custody to be investigated openly and transparently.

So, again, will the minister reconsider her actions and order a public and independent inquiry into the circumstances surrounding the death of Raymond Silverfox?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Mr. Speaker, you may also be aware that on December 11, the observer completed an initial assessment as to the impartiality of the investigative team and has concluded that there are currently no issues as they relate to questions of impartiality. The CPC observer continues to monitor the investigation.

In addition to the RCMP investigation, this matter, of course, will be fully investigated by the coroner's office, as is mandatory under the *Coroners Act* when there is an in-custody death.

#### **Question re: RCMP accountability**

**Mr. Cardiff:** Last week, the Canadian Race Relations Foundation entered the discussion in the in-custody death of Raymond Silverfox and three other First Nation people in the Yukon since 1999. The executive director of this national body supported our party's call for an independent public inquiry into these deaths. He said, "There have been three inquests to date, so why do we keep seeing the same problems and having similar incidents? It begs a question."

The purpose of an inquiry is to help us answer that question, and in view of the recent comments by a national expert in these matters, will the Minister of Justice reconsider her position and call a full, independent public inquiry?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** As I just stated to this House, we will let this investigation take its due course and follow the process.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Mr. Speaker, there is evidence that some members of the RCMP may be using excessive force from time to time when dealing with First Nation citizens. Last week, my colleague, the Member for McIntyre-Takhini, referred to a videotape that showed a First Nation citizen being wrestled to the ground at the Whitehorse detachment by two members of the force. It looked to us like the incident was unprovoked. We also now hear from a Whitehorse lawyer that he has three First Nation clients who claim they were beaten up by the police. Last week the minister said she had the full confidence in the RCMP and was not aware of any cases where they might have used excessive force in their dealings with First Nation citizens. Has the Minister of Justice had a chance to discuss these incidents of suspected use of excessive force with the chief superintendent of the RCMP M Division?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Mr. Speaker, let me again begin by saying that we have full confidence in the RCMP. In my dealings with the RCMP, I have found them to be very respectful and professional. Mr. Speaker, I have spoken to the RCMP about training in local Yukon cultural traditions to complement the significant amount of cultural awareness training that they already receive. In my various meetings with the M Division, I have found the commanding officer and his staff to be very receptive to my suggestions.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Well, it doesn't sound like she has had a chance to talk to the chief superintendent since last week about these matters, and these are very serious matters, Mr. Speaker. They are very much in the public interest, and they deserve to be raised in this Legislature, despite what the Premier may say.

Now, there are four deaths and three coroner's inquests, and in all of these cases First Nations, First Nation citizens were victims. Surely the minister will admit that there is a problem and that solving it will require her department working closely with the RCMP and with Yukon First Nations.

When will the minister implement recommendations in the *Policing in Yukon* report calling for further training, more training, for the RCMP in cross-cultural, medical and social conditions so that these deaths and abuses don't continue?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** As I have stated in this House many times before, I have indeed been in conversations with the commander of M Division as to cultural training regarding Yukon First Nation cultures. I have also spoken to the commissioner of the RCMP on these very matters. It concerns me that the RCMP should be trained locally, as well as the extensive training they receive at the federal level.

#### **Question re: *Environment Act* update**

**Mr. Hardy:** Mr. Speaker, once again this government is dragging its feet on its obligations to review and update Yukon legislation. This time it's the *Environment Act*. This act was written before devolution, many years ago. The report on the government's performance under the *Environment Act* tabled recently states that the act and its regulations are in need of a comprehensive review. Has the minister started the process of reviewing this out-of-date piece of legislation?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Thank you to the Leader of the Third Party for his question.

Mr. Speaker, this is but one of a number of findings adhered to from the internal audit that was just recently done from previous years, and we are working to implement each of those recommendations identified, which I have spoken about earlier this year.

We certainly value the recommendations and the work of the internal audit office that they have undertaken. We recognize that there are weaknesses and that there is work to do to strengthen the *Environment Act*. That is the very reason why we do undertake these findings and reviews of the act itself.

As I articulated earlier, we are in the process of undertaking a review of all the recommendations made, including, of course, reporting the contaminated sites regulation and a review of the act itself. These are all currently being examined by the department and that which was also responded to within the internal audit.

**Mr. Hardy:** The minister's department is operating under invalid legislation and it questions the legitimacy of being able to operate under this legislation. It is an old act. This act calls for reports to the Legislative Assembly and timelines are provided. These reports are not simply for show. They are not, as a former Minister of Environment, the Premier says, only pieces of paper.

Not having these reports shows this government's lack of accountability and commitment to Yukon's environment and to its people. We on this side of the House are in shock and are wondering just how strong this government's real commitment to conserving our pristine heritage really is if they don't ever get around to doing this. What action has the minister taken on the audit's recommendation since receiving it in June of this year?

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Mr. Speaker, I would just first like to point out for members opposite that, in fact, this is a requirement of the *Environment Act* — undertaking an audit of the *Environment Act*. It has been completed and it has been tabled for members opposite review.

I would also like to report that since the previous audit, a number of key recommendations — in fact over eight — have been completed, including an initiative to harmonize inspection activities between Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources with a formal memorandum of agreement between the two departments, addressing climate change in our respective territory, upgrading the database that is an essential tool used to manage activities carried out under the act. The environmental and energy stewardship initiative is underway. We have created a new contaminated sites unit with two positions created and dollars available for environmental liabilities.

We have also placed increased resources within the special waste collection, household hazardous waste, which has certainly contributed to the environment and so forth. So we are adhering to the work of the internal audit and we are certainly committed to completing those recommendations.

**Mr. Hardy:** Before I ask for the final supplementary, I also would like to welcome the minister back to the Yukon

from her journey to Poland. I actually didn't miss her veil-like voice because I had the pleasure of six days of hearing it.

Now, over the time of this government, two ministers of Environment have now shown disrespect of what is required under the act and a lack of sincerity in their positions.

Yukoners —

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

**Mr. Hardy:** It is the last day, you know. You've got to smile once in awhile in here.

Yukoners have a deep attachment to our wilderness and our wildlife. Many of them rely on the preservation and conservation of the environment for their livelihood and their whole way of life, and this government, from our perspective, has let them down.

So will the minister commit to following through on all the conditions stipulated in the present *Environment Act* as soon as possible, and to bring a revised act to this House in the spring sitting?

**Speaker:** I only hope the minister's feeling the love. Minister of Environment, please.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Well, thank you, Mr. Speaker. I believe I am blushing.

I am indeed delighted to be back in Canada, certainly within Whitehorse, and very delighted that I am being welcomed by my two respective opposition critics, who also joined me in Poznań, Poland. I think we had a very successful climate leaders summit, to which both of the opposition critics were able to accompany me. We were able to articulate Yukon government's response to climate change in the jurisdiction, including adhering to or enhancing our understanding, our awareness of the climate change in our territory, improving our ability to adapt to climate change and, of course, that includes Yukon as a northern leader when it comes to research, development and innovation.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to the environment, the *Environment Act* internal audit points out a number of areas to highlight for improvement. We are very much committed to undertaking those recommendations. Work is already underway in a number of different areas, including putting together a work plan that will encompass the findings of the *Environment Act* and where we need to strengthen it.

#### **Question re: Mental health services**

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, the Yukon Party government issued a news release in November announcing a new three-year financial agreement with the Whitehorse General Hospital. The release stated that some of the funding in this agreement would go toward a six-room secure medical unit and for the hiring of six mental health nurses. Out of these six rooms only two would or could be used for people committed under the *Mental Health Act*.

While this is a start, it is not good enough. More needs to be done for people afflicted with mental health issues than simply providing two beds in an emergency situation. There needs to be a stand-alone residence for meeting the mental health needs of these patients on an ongoing basis. Once these patients leave the hospital there is no supportive housing unit in Yukon.

They need a place — a residence — to provide adequate support and help in returning to the normality of life.

Can the minister tell us if establishing a mental health residence is currently being considered and, if it is not, will he commit a portion of the \$165-million surplus toward constructing one?

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** I'm not sure whether we're being patted on the back or we're being spanked. Anyway, it is Christmas, so I guess I can take it both ways.

I will say that the member opposite indicated that the monies being provided to the hospital is a very good start. And yes, indeed it is. I'm pleased to report to the member opposite that I've spoken with the hospital and they have indicated that they have had a discussion with their staff, and the staff have agreed on where this unit is to be placed. The member opposite is correct — there will be two specific spots set aside for those who are being sent there. But there will also be four other rooms set aside to deal with mental health issues in the same area of the hospital to accommodate those with mental health illness. I look forward to that taking place.

I am also pleased to inform the member opposite that HR has indicated to us that finding the appropriate staff is going well.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Well, I think the minister has missed part of the point of the question. Having just two beds at the hospital is not helping people with mental health issues to deal with ongoing issues and function in daily life. Those people need a facility to go to where there is a dedicated group of health care workers and where families can be a part of this as well to help administer medication, provide necessary counseling and prepare individuals for returning to work and the normality of life.

Can the minister tell us when he plans to take action and hold public consultations on building a mental health residence that would allow parents and family members of those struggling with these issues to play a role in the treatment of their loved ones?

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** I'll thank the member opposite for the question. I will indicate as I did previously that we are working with the hospital to address the immediate situation for mental health patients and we have made a big step in that direction. With regard to providing separate housing facilities, we have several issues to deal with in the Health portfolio, many of which have a higher priority right now.

We are working toward trying to address all of these issues because, as the member opposite knows, the Department of Health and Social Services has many issues and many circumstances that require immediate attention throughout the Yukon.

#### **Question re: Childcare grants**

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Speaker, Little Paws daycare was awarded a \$50,000 grant to be paid to a developer. A department spokesperson stated that the department considered the fact that the daycare had been in business for 17 years. While relevant, that should not have been the sole consideration for granting \$50,000.

Mr. Speaker, part of any application to the capital development fund should be a comprehensive business plan. The

government should have realized that paying \$12,000 monthly for rent might be a problem, considering it represented an increase of \$8,000 per month, or \$96,000 annually. The government should have known better.

Our experience with such matters is that department officials would have given such a request thorough scrutiny. When the minister received a funding request from Angel's Nest, he rejected the submitted business plan. This time, it appears that no one requested nor examined a business plan. It doesn't matter how long they were in business previously; if the business plan's numbers don't add up, then you don't invest the public's money. Will the minister explain how this application came to be approved with apparently so little oversight?

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** Thank you, Mr. Speaker, and again I thank the member opposite for the question. I think he has kind of used up all of his Christmas treats, though.

Mr. Speaker, with regard to the daycare, I wish to state that the funding was provided to assist the daycare with their new facility at their request and, as the member knows, many of these daycares are independent and privately owned. We are quite often not privy to many of the situations that they are in, and I would have to say that they were being ejected from their previous facility and were in great need of an immediate replacement for that facility so the daycare could continue. That particular funding request was made to the minister of the day, and thereby the funding was provided to enable them to carry on with a new facility.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Well, Mr. Speaker, I have some sympathy for this minister, who once again, as he relates, has been called upon to answer for poor decisions made by his predecessor. It is clear that the Health and Social Services minister is struggling to clear up this mess.

The department has indicated that they hope to recuperate \$12,500 by pro-rating the 24-month agreement. Again, Mr. Speaker, we have a daycare that is closing; it's behind in the \$12,000 or more per month rental payments and, for all intents and purposes, it is broke. It is neither realistic nor fair to go after the directors, the parents, past or present. They were simply parents trying their best to keep their daycare operating.

Unfortunately we have far more questions than we do have answers in this case. Was there any collateral given to secure this \$50,000 grant in the first place? Have the employee salaries and benefits been kept up to date? Are there other companies listed on the accounts payable? Are there any outstanding accounts listed in the receivables? These are questions that should be answered.

Will the minister commit to helping to find a solution for the parents and the daycare workers and will he assure all directors that he will not be seeking the recoveries from them?

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** Again, the member opposite is making me out to be a grinch. I will attempt to respond to his question. I will say that the department is going out of its way to assist those parents in locating new spaces for their children. We are also going to provide those parents with their subsidies for the month of December so they will not lose that subsidy in the process while they are looking for new locations. We do have people waiting to assist those who are making that re-

quest. We're more than willing to assist those parents to find a new location for their children.

As I have said previously on many occasions, our government recognizes the importance of childcare. We've demonstrated it in the past year. We've increased our funding to wages and childcare expenses by over 100 percent in the last year alone, in addition to providing increases to subsidies throughout the Yukon and throughout the spaces here in Whitehorse. I believe that demonstrates our great policy with regard to childcare.

**Mr. Mitchell:** The minister can't simply abandon the daycare's directors. His government contributed to the inevitable failure of Little Paws daycare and must now take action. There's only one party responsible for this government's oversight and that is the government. The government's lack of due diligence in approving this grant should not result in transferring the burden of accounting for these funds to volunteer directors.

I want to end my final question of this fall sitting by reminding those members of the public who may be listening that all members of this Assembly come to work every day with some common purpose: we're all elected to serve our constituents to the best of our abilities. All members of this Assembly, regardless of their political views, run for public office because they have a strong desire to see Yukon be a better place for all — for friends, for families, for neighbours. So to the minister who felt that I was describing him as a grinch, I'd like to take this final opportunity of the sitting to wish every member of this Assembly and those who may be listening a very merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Mr. Speaker, in the spirit of Christmas, will the minister find a solution to the Little Paws Learning Centre daycare that does not penalize the volunteer directors for the government's failure to exercise due diligence?

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** Again, I thank the member opposite for his question, but I will state to the member opposite that our department staff are looking into the situation, and we will be addressing it and providing assistance to all those parents who are looking for new locations and dealing with their situation. As I said, we have provided assistance in the form of not withdrawing their subsidy for the month of December and allowing them to carry it into the new year.

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

## ORDERS OF THE DAY

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

## INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

**Hon. Mr. Lang:** Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure today to introduce your son, Jess Staffen, and his fiancée, Ashten Black. Both of them are studying political science at the University of Northern British Columbia. Welcome.

*Applause*



**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):** Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 12, *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*.

Do members wish to take a brief recess?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

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

*Recess*

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

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

**Chair:** The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 12, *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*, Vote 11, Women's Directorate.

#### Women's Directorate

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Mr. Chair, I am pleased to present this supplementary budget for the Women's Directorate, but first I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the good work of the Women's Directorate over the past several months.

In late July, the Women's Directorate provided support for 11 Yukon women to attend the 2008 National Aboriginal Women's Summit in Yellowknife. This summit provided an excellent opportunity for Yukon delegates to discuss how to address local and national aboriginal women's issues.

In October, the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues hosted an extremely successful women's forum called "Making Our Way: Yukon Women in Leadership." This forum brought 75 territory-wide participants together to explore leadership skills and to hear the personal stories of Yukon women in a wide variety of leadership roles.

Work on the Whitehorse affordable family housing project also continues. This project will provide affordable housing for 30 lone-parent families. A public information meeting was held in September, and an advisory committee, with representatives from Riverdale, First Nations, women's organizations, social housing clients and others has now been formed.

The advisory committee recently had its first meeting. Its role is to provide ongoing advice and perspectives on the Whitehorse affordable family housing project's design and construction phases to ensure that the features of the building will meet the needs of those it is designed to serve. Recently, as

part of the Circles of Respect in Equality public education campaign, the Women's Directorate helped produce two Yukon-relevant violence prevention videos and a training manual to help educate and raise awareness on violence against women and children in Yukon.

Three train-the-trainer sessions have also now taken place, which trains front-line workers on how to use the two videos and training manual.

In recognition of Woman Abuse Prevention Month in November, the Women's Directorate presented Ben Atherton-Zeman's one-man show, *Voices of Men*, to almost 300 Yukoners in three different performances. The *Voices of Men* performance addresses sexual assault and consent, dating and domestic violence, and sexual harassment and objectification.

And last, but certainly not the least, the Yukon government employee-led 2008 Bare Essentials campaign just wrapped up. On December 9, staff from the Women's Directorate and other volunteers sorted and delivered literally thousands of donated items that will provide women's shelters with basic hygiene products for women and children.

My sincere thanks to everyone who donated products and helped with the sorting and delivery. I know the shelters are most appreciative of your generosity and these products are expected to last for the entire year.

The Women's Directorate supplementary budget request includes \$79,000 for O&M. This will increase the Women's Directorate 2008-09 O&M budget from \$1,125,000 to \$1,204,000. The \$79,000 represents a seven-percent increase in the Women's Directorate O&M budget. Our request includes an increase of \$34,000 to cover personnel costs due to a maternity leave and two revotes in the total amount of \$45,000. More specifically, the two revotes are a \$25,000 revote to complete an evaluation of a long-term public education campaign on the prevention of violence against women, which concludes with a second train-the-trainer session on how to use the campaign's resources in Yukon communities and the second revote is \$20,000 for completion of a northern strategy trust fund project for a feasibility study on an emergency shelter for women.

With this brief overview, I am pleased to answer any questions from the floor.

**Mr. Elias:** It is always an honour and a privilege to rise in the Legislature to debate the supplementary budget. First of all, I would like to thank all of the officials in the Women's Directorate for all their hard work and years of commitment to achieving the departmental objectives and goals. Thank you very much for your hard work.

I've got just a couple of questions. We're dealing with a department that only has a \$79,000 revote budget.

It's with regard to the single family affordable housing unit that is proposed to be built on Nisutlin Drive in Riverdale. A couple of questions: there seems to be a lack of public consultation on the location. The question is: why was there a lack of public consultation on the location? And the other one, the major one, is: when can single families expect construction to start and is there a target for them to be able to occupy the units of the single family affordable housing unit?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Prior to the announcement, targeted consultations with social housing clients, women's groups, transition homes and other groups identified priorities, including affordability, safety, proximity to schools and transportation. The site selection was based on the results of the consultation as well as specific criteria, including cost, zoning characteristics, physical and technical site characteristics, adjacent amenities and general and child safety issues.

Of the sites under consideration, the Riverdale site met the majority of the features outlined in the site comparison chart and the consultation. It is in a residential area. It is close to five schools, a grocery store and public transportation. It is also within walking distance to downtown where numerous other necessary services are located.

There were three other sites under consideration: a McIntyre parcel, a Takhini parcel and a downtown escarpment parcel. McIntyre was deemed too far from important services identified in the consultation and the land is not owned by the Yukon government. The Takhini site was also determined to be too costly as it would need to be purchased from the City of Whitehorse and would also require significant preconstruction infill due to its slope and grade. The downtown escarpment parcel is designated as a no-build area due to escarpment sloughing. Riverdale was by far the best site due to its proximity to services as well as the fact that it is Yukon government land, and it is also zoned appropriately.

**Mr. Elias:** I would just like to move on to a different topic. I can see a time when we have a more representative Yukon Legislature. We don't have enough women in this Legislature as far as I'm concerned. We have 18 seats and only two women. I do thank the minister responsible for the Women's Directorate and the Minister of Environment for their dedication and work fulfilling their duties as members of this Legislative Assembly. I'm sure there are young women in our territory who look to them both and think that they want to be an MLA someday. Women make up 49 percent of our territory's population but only 11 percent of our members of this Legislative Assembly.

For women to truly have a political voice in shaping the territory's future via public government and to effect change, we need more women to be elected as territorial representatives. I congratulate all the women who have been elected to our school councils, town and city councils and to leadership positions around our great territory.

I have a general question for the minister. I'm just wondering if she has any ideas or initiatives on the go to try to — not entice — but to get more women to run for territorial elected public government?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** Mr. Chair, I thank the member opposite for his question, and his awareness of this problem we have, that we need more women in leadership in Yukon. The Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues hosts an annual Yukon Women's Forum, which I believe the member opposite is aware of. On October 3 to 4, the 2008 Yukon Women's Forum, "Making Our Way: Yukon Women in Leadership," brought 75 territory-wide participants together to explore leadership skills, lessons and opportunities through information-

sharing, storytelling and networking. There were so many women interested that we had to turn a lot of them away, so we'll have to plan for more women to be able to participate in future years. The participants were able to directly hear the experience, opportunities and challenges of many prominent Yukon women in leadership roles, such as business, the arts, political and community leadership.

The Women's Directorate budgets \$40,000 for this women's forum, and it's usually fully utilized — overutilized, really. We need more. I would encourage all members of this House to bear in mind that we need more women in leadership roles. Wherever you go, wherever you speak, which I do, and I encourage the young people to come forward — the young women to step forward and take their place in leadership roles in the government, wherever they are.

I thank the member for bringing this up.

**Mr. Hardy:** What both members have said is correct. We do have a shortage of women in the Legislative Assembly and some of us are guilty of running against women and beating them, and maybe that's a question we have to ask ourselves as well. If we truly believe that we need more women in the Legislative Assembly, maybe we should step aside and let women run in some ridings to represent that riding, because, frankly, the women do very, very good work in here and often bring a tone to the Legislative Assembly that is much needed and very much appreciated. After my 10 years in the Legislative Assembly, I know that I've learned a lot from the approach that women take in debate, as well as in how they approach a problem.

I think we're all in agreement that there should be more women in the Legislative Assembly, and that has been approached around the world in different ways. Some areas guarantee that an amount of seats will go to women. Now women, as the Member for Old Crow indicated, make up 49 percent of our population. Maybe that is what we need to take a look at to ensure that there is a good balance in here. I know this is a touchy subject — I have seen and heard much debate about it, but if we are going to explore this issue, there are other countries, other levels of government that have addressed this in very proactive ways and not just left it up to elections. So far, it really hasn't worked. You can look at Parliament. I don't have the figures in front of me, but I know for a fact that it is very poorly represented — both as the 308 seats but also in positions of importance. I can tell you from being married to a person who was a Member of Parliament, how women are treated down there is something that we need on a federal level, but also on a territorial, provincial, municipal — any elected level — to look at, because her stories and her experience was not one of support, I can assure you. That's a shame, and maybe that's why more women don't run, because they unfortunately hear the kind of treatment they get once they're elected.

I do have a few questions. Is the minister contemplating any type or form of second-stage housing in the territory?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** I thank the member opposite for his comments. Before we can get women into leadership roles and be healthy, what is so very important is that we stop the vio-

lence against women and children. I made some notes here to myself earlier.

Did you know that half the women in Canada over the age of 16 experience physical violence at least once in their lives? Every year, up to 360,000 children in Canada witness abuse in their homes. One to two women die as a result of domestic violence every week. We have to stop this violence against women and children in order to get our women strong, to get them into leadership roles.

These figures that I just gave do not reflect the fear that stays with a child who has witnessed domestic violence. They don't measure the level of courage it takes for a woman to leave an abusive relationship. It doesn't estimate the fear that stays with the woman who has endured domestic violence. They can't estimate the amount of strength it takes for a woman to start a whole new life for herself. They can't measure the level of self-esteem a woman falls to mentally after enduring mental and physical violence.

The violence against women in the Yukon is three times higher than the national average, and we as Yukoners must work together to end this violence, to get our women strong, to get our communities strong, to get our families strong.

The next question was on second-stage housing. The Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues recently discussed the possibility of future forums on women in leadership, which is also very encouraging. I will be working with the advisory council to examine how to do so in the future.

The second-stage transition housing — as you know, the second-stage housing provides a safe supported option for women and the children who are victimized by spousal violence and have chosen to leave those relationships. I made a tour of the facility at Kaushee's Place last week, and I was so encouraged to see the level of care and the protection. The workers there are so dedicated to their cause and to the women — the protection and the strength of the women to get them back into their own lives to build up their self-esteem. It was so heart lifting to see these women and children.

In 2007, government departments were asked to research priority needs in the general population of women. Research indicated that single women with children made up the majority of the wait-list for social housing and therefore were considered to be in significant need and a priority.

As a result of this study, the government is building the Whitehorse affordable family housing project, which is aimed at providing affordable housing for single-parent families, which was the priority identified.

While the emphasis of the housing project will be single women and their children, who comprise the largest group of the Yukon Housing Corporation wait-list, single-parent families led by men will also be included. The government's focus will be on the completion of the Whitehorse affordable family housing project, so that we can better meet this one area that was identified as a priority right now.

**Mr. Hardy:** As always, and it has always been noted by us, the Women's Directorate does amazing work, and we really take our hats off to what they're able to do with what funding they do have.

Now, I have a couple questions about the single-family housing unit that's in the planning stages — and that is my understanding. It's a little way away before it will be tendered. This is a question I believe the member before me asked, but I'll start at the other end: when can we anticipate the tenders to go out for this building?

I do understand this building is going to be built under the new super-green program that the Yukon Housing Corporation has developed, which will entail some challenges for the developers and the contractors in building it. Interestingly enough, Habitat for Humanity is playing a role in trying to train people in that regard so there are some good possibilities there.

When can we anticipate the tenders to go out? How many units are being identified for single men with families? How many units are being identified for single women with families? What constitutes a family? It's not going to be any single woman; it's going to be single women with one child, two children, three children. What kind of priority is being set on it, in order to meet this need? I do know that the former minister responsible for the Women's Directorate talked about needs in this area, so if the minister can answer those questions, I'd appreciate it.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** As I said earlier, there has been an advisory committee formed with the representatives from the Riverdale residents, women's organizations, First Nations and current social housing clients. The committee's role will be to advise on the design and some programming aspects of this new affordable housing unit. They had their first meeting on November 18.

The Yukon Housing Corporation has recently staffed a new director of capital development, who will oversee the construction aspects of the project. The design aspects of the project are currently being determined and discussed with the advisory committee. The design, we anticipate, will be completed in the spring of 2009.

Again we have the Yukon asset construction agreement with KDFN, which will be negotiated in the very near future, and we hope to break ground soon thereafter.

With the YESAA process, the initial application has been filed. Further information on the design of the project will be provided to them soon. The public YESAA process, we suspect, will not begin until the building design has been determined. And, as I said, the design we anticipate will be completed in spring 2009.

We have 30 units for single-parent families, and they aren't set aside as so many for women, so many for men. They are on an "as received" basis. There could be one or more children. We estimate the tenders will go out in the spring.

And, of course, the Yukon Housing Corporation's priority policy is for women fleeing violent homes. If they apply, they have priority over all others.

**Mr. Hardy:** Could the minister explain how they came up with 30 as the number of units? Was that based upon how many families they had identified? Are we going to find out that only meets half the requirements? I'm still trying to find out how they are going to balance the men with families and women with families because it seems predominantly this is

being built for women, and I support that, but since the aspect of men with families being in there as well — pardon me, single men — how many of them? There must have been an assessment of the need. If the minister can explain that, I would really appreciate it.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** The study was done by the Women's Directorate for priorities for women in Yukon. Originally it was for women only, but we also realized there was a need for single-family male homes as well.

What was the second question?

The project will be available for lone-parent families based on Yukon Housing Corporation's wait-list. I don't know the criteria for the 30-unit building, but I know that 30 units will take half of the people on waiting lists with Yukon Housing currently, which will be a big help for all of Yukon, for all the people on the waiting list.

**Mr. Hardy:** I just need some clarification on that — half the people on the waiting list? Does that mean the waiting list you're talking about specifically — is it just the single parent waiting list? So there are still another 30? Or is this just the waiting list for social housing for Yukon Housing?

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** The 30 units is about half of the average wait-list with Yukon Housing Corporation of single-parent families on the list. As I stated earlier, this is the lion's share of these single-parent families on the waiting list.

I would like to point out that this government, since being in office, has introduced 100 new units, which includes these 30 units. We are addressing the needs of Yukoners and people on waiting lists for housing in Yukon.

**Mr. Hardy:** Okay. There are going to be a lot more questions in the springtime, of course, in regard to this, especially once we have more of a concrete design and maybe identify in greater detail what this building is going to entail, all the way from security to common rooms, to places with children, to daycare needs. It will be very interesting, and it will be a very interesting project to engage with the minister on. We on this side of the House have some — I hope — creative ideas. They are given in the spirit of creativity that may also lend in making it a really good project.

But the minister mentioned something, and it was on my notes here, and that is the increase in violence — three times the national average in Yukon is what I believe she said. Can the minister give me some indication why it's three times the national average? That's quite substantial, and there must be some indicators that the Women's Directorate would possibly have. What is actually causing such a high degree of violence against women?

I totally agree with what the minister said and we have to deal with this. We really do have to deal with this. If we are at this level, there must be some analysis — I'm sure there has been some analysis done on why it is so high in Yukon and what is and what is not working in order to address it. So if the minister can respond to that, I would appreciate it.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** It is truly disturbing that the Yukon is three times higher than the national average. The Northwest Territories is seven times higher than the national average. Nunavut is 24 times higher than the national average. Violence

is found to be linked to gender inequality — men and women do not have equal access to safety and security in our society. Women's experiences of fear and violence are a barrier to women achieving social, political and economic equality in society. The Government of Yukon continues to demonstrate commitment and leadership in advancing women's equality in a number of ways, including responsive affordable housing options, Yukon-relevant violence prevention campaigns, research initiatives on women and substance use, and creative funding for grassroots equality initiatives. The Women's Directorate recognizes that in order to decrease incidents of violence against women and girls, the government must make progress in breaking down key barriers that influence women's vulnerability. That means we are working on enhancing women's housing security, developing innovative and culturally-sensitive education materials on violence prevention, and providing better support for women with substance abuse problems.

The Women's Directorate also takes a lead on activities in support of Woman Abuse Prevention Month. This year the Women's Directorate presented Ben Atherton-Zeman, the spokesperson for the National Organization of Men Against Sexism in the United States. He is also an advisory board member for the White Ribbon campaign in the United Kingdom.

I don't know if you had the chance to go and see his play at the Arts Centre. It was very, very well done. And I don't know if the member opposite has had a chance to see the videos that were made in Yukon by Yukon actors against violence to women. They were truly encouraging, and it was more relatively important, culturally important, to us to see our Yukon locale used in the videos.

For many women, a lack of economic independence is one of the main reasons a woman chooses to stay with a partner who is abusive. The Government of Yukon has developed two key housing options for women to enhance their independence and safety. These include the Yukon Housing Corporation's victims of abuse policy, which provides women who are leaving abusive partners priority access to social housing, which I mentioned earlier, as well as the recent announcement to design and build a new and innovative Whitehorse affordable family housing project.

This also intertwines with the Justice department for more relevant programming at Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

Contributing factors to violence against women in Yukon, again, are linked to gender inequality, substance abuse, residential school syndrome trauma. Violence against aboriginal women is also more prevalent than violence against non-aboriginal women. This is an anomaly that we are continuing to work on and have to work on to end the violence. We have to end the violence.

**Mr. Hardy:** Well, there is no question about that — we have to. So, how? If we are three times the national average — and putting aside the other territories and their astoundingly bad, scary figures — we are not doing enough. Really, when it comes down to it, we're not doing enough. There are not

enough resources in this department. There is not enough education out there. There is not enough prevention.

I know the federal government gave the territorial government housing money and it was identified to build the 30 units, but that's after the fact. Maybe that will help get families — single mothers and their children — away from violence. That's a good thing. But we have to address the initial root causes of the violence. I asked about what studies have been done in this area, and why we're so high, and why we continue to be this high.

So a couple of questions — and I'll lump them together. One is: are we doing education in the schools at a young age? And I mean at a young age, because it does start at a young age, I can assure you. I taught self-defence and self-esteem for women for many, many years and put on courses and was invited into schools to work with classes. But I also worked with the boys to teach them it's wrong to be violent. And it's definitely wrong to be violent against somebody who can more easily be your victim. But it's wrong to be violent.

My wife and I and other people with me put on many, many courses in this area, and I can assure you, I am very, very conscious of that, but I believe that it has to happen in the schools and it has to happen at a very young age and it has to be continuous through the school, because that's where a lot of problems can be addressed. We have to bring in experts; we have to bring in people who want to make an impact in this area.

So has there been, or is there being contemplated, a more thorough educational process that doesn't happen after the violence, but tries to address it before? And also, are we identifying children who are subject to the violence or witness it in their homes? And how do we address that? Because often there's so much damage done — and the minister has indicated this already — there is so much damage done that it takes a lifetime to heal from, and I've seen that. What are we doing in that area?

And how do we work with daycares, with the young children there? Do the workers in daycares get some kind of orientation and training to identify problems that they may see in the behaviour of children who may come from violence within their home? Do they know how to handle or deal with children who have been subject to this and are struggling with this?

So those are a few questions; if the minister please could answer my questions, I would really appreciate it. One final one and that is, in the last five or six years, has violence been increasing in Yukon? Has it stayed the same? Violence against women, has it stayed the same? Has it been going down? Has it been going like a rollercoaster? Can we have those figures please? I would really appreciate it to help myself understand where we are at and where we are going.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** I don't have the actual facts for the rates of violence against women. I know since 2003 the rates of violence have been going down in Yukon, but the actual figures I don't have on me. I can provide those to the member opposite.

The *Family Violence Prevention Act* was strengthened to also include emotional abuse and, as well, the penalties were

strengthened. The Women's Directorate provides funding to several women's organizations such as Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, the Whitehorse Aboriginal Women's Circle, the Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues and the Yukon Status of Women Council. There were quite a few questions there.

The Yukon government has increased funding for child-care. We have also increased the minimum wage. This also helps women. We reinstated the Women's Directorate because we recognized there was a problem, that women and children did need help. So this government did reinstate the Women's Directorate and doubled the funding.

The Women's Directorate has been working to achieve gender equity in education for many years. Gender equity encourages young women and men to succeed on the basis of ability and interest and to have their contributions and activities recognized regardless of their gender.

The Women's Directorate helped develop a gender studies high school course in collaboration with the Department of Education. The course was taught for the first time in 2007 at Vanier Catholic Secondary School and is being offered again this year. The gender studies course allows high school students to explore their place in the world around them and to examine issues, like body image, the media, and gender stereotyping.

The Women's Directorate contributes its Just for Girls and Just for Guys sexual assault information pamphlets to the grad pack project led by health promotion. All grade 12 high school students receive the grad pack, which includes promotional material from agencies such as Yukon Liquor Corporation and alcohol and drug services branch.

The Women's Directorate works to advance gender equity in the schools and communities for young women and men and also very important is what we're passing on to boys and men. If we see something happening, we have to have the courage to step in and stop it, to correct it or to give advice so that this revolving cycle is stopped, because our children are learning from us in our homes. I say that in general because I'm sure everyone is doing it and they're not aware of what they're doing, but the children are picking it up. We have to correct ourselves as well.

**Mr. Hardy:** Well, a couple of the questions that maybe the minister could touch back on are: again, how far down in the educational stream do we start educating or making children aware of this problem that we have, to try to prevent it later on? Sorry, I just need a figure and my suggestion is that, if we're not very far down the stream, if we're only doing it at grade 12 — the minister mentioned that — then I would suggest that we are at the wrong end, really. I'm not saying that it shouldn't happen in grade 12, but I'm saying it has to happen at a lot younger age, because by the time you're in grade 12, some of your behaviours, though you may not want to have those behaviours, are ingrained in you. It could be anger, it could be what you've witnessed growing up, it could be many things that you've not had the counsel to understand that this is not acceptable in our society, and it's not acceptable in any type of behaviour.

So if the minister can tell me how far down the education stream they do these courses, I would really appreciate that. Gender equity was mentioned and if the minister can give me the figure of where the equity issue is around pay and positions within the government, I would really appreciate that. In general, we do have those figures: what percentage of women are in upper management or decision-making positions within government in relation to men?

What is the pay structure right now, because usually the national average is given and each province and territory usually comes up with one? I believe the territory — and I could be wrong — but I remember reading somewhere fairly recently that it was like 85 percent still, that women are paid 15 percent less than men still, overall, in our territory. If the minister can either correct me or confirm that, I would appreciate that.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** I want to say a few words here before I turn it over to the minister responsible. It does begin when a child is young. In my riding I have gone to the principals of the schools and encouraged human rights, and mainly I am saying human rights because I want the respect of the young children toward each other in the schools, which is very important. It should be started in daycare.

The teachers — it's just throughout the school that human rights is a beginning, just to recognize that each of us is equal and that we should all be treating each other as equals, with respect. I will turn it over to the Minister of Education.

**Hon. Mr. Rouble:** The member opposite has asked a number of questions, and really these are issues that do cross an awful lot of boundaries and operate interdepartmentally. The member may be aware of the common client program that the government has that is addressing some of these issues. But really, the Women's Directorate works with the Department of Education, with the Public Service Commission, with Justice, with Health and Social Services, and really all government departments, to bring forward these issues and concerns and to work with all departments to look at how we can address them in our workplace. We do that both as an employer and also in the services and programming that we provide to others, to Yukoners.

Mr. Speaker, there are numerous programs that are out there, whether they be the federal Head Start program or the daycare programs, encouraged and supported by the Department of Health and Social Services, but also the education system and our public school system. It is unfortunate that in the Education debate the other day there were no questions from the NDP about programming going on, but I can answer the member now. I can tell him that there are many programs throughout the school grades — starting in the youngest grades and continuing through to the high school grades — where these issues are raised on a daily basis: the issue of respect for each other, respect for individuals and really the behaviours that we expect to see in our society are demonstrated in our schools.

There are programs out there around social justice that are working not only to bring equality measures about women but also about people with disabilities, with different ethnic races and with different religious practices. There might not be a

specific course or a specific test on some of these things, but they are practised, modelled, discussed and educated in our system. There is work on what is in the Yukon human rights legislation, but also work done on a regular basis about modeling appropriate behaviour and about not accepting or tolerating in our school system inappropriate behavior.

It is a fact that in our school system there are instances where discipline has to happen, where children and students are acting inappropriately. We work with our school councils in establishing discipline policies, but our teachers and principals and vice-principals on a daily basis are intervening in the lives of our students, not tolerating inappropriate behaviour, telling them how to behave properly and then also working with parents to ensure that they're aware of the situation. So we do have programs starting in the earliest grades, continuing all the way through to the high school grades.

If I can switch hats here for a moment, Mr. Chair — as the minister responsible for the Public Service Commission — the Public Service Commission is scheduled for debate later today, but I will let the member know that women represent about 60 percent of the Public Service Commission — so 60 percent of the employees who work for the Government of Yukon are female. The split at the mid-management and senior management levels is just about 50:50.

We've seen significant growth in these areas since 2000, but it does work out pretty close to 50:50, if memory serves me right on this. Perhaps we can get into more of those details when we get to the Public Service Commission.

**Mr. Hardy:** I will address my comments to the minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, as I don't think I can start questioning the minister responsible for the Public Service Commission in this debate, but I doubt very much that we're going to get to the Public Service Commission, which is unfortunate. I think we're going to find ourselves short on time to debate significant issues, and I'll have to wait until the spring, unfortunately, but this is such an important area. This is such an important part of our society that we can't just ask a few questions and walk away from it and hope things are going to get better.

I am asking these questions in the spirit of contributing and not in the spirit of criticism, at all. If I can put the question in a way that I can get responses that help me understand where we are and where we can maybe make suggestions about where we are going — I would appreciate it. If the minister who just spoke, the minister responsible for the Public Service Commission, could supply me with those figures — which is not uncommon in the Legislative Assembly — I would really appreciate it. That way, we don't have to debate it right now.

However, going back to the minister responsible for the Women's Directorate, I have a few more questions. The questions are really based on the written questions that we asked on April 29, 2008, and I don't believe that we've received a formal response to them. If we have, then I haven't seen it and I apologize right now. I don't believe we have, I've checked and I can't find them.

The questions are — and if the minister doesn't mind, I will give all four questions, or else I can give them one at time — whatever the minister prefers.

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

**Mr. Hardy:** All at once? Okay. I'll give them all at once.

The Women's Directorate and the minister should have the questions, because they were from the spring sitting. What we asked the minister to do was table the following information concerning the 2008-09 main estimates for the Women's Directorate. One was a "progress report on the northern strategy emergency shelter feasibility study". Number two was "the criteria for the evaluation of a long-term public education campaign on the prevention of violence against women and children". Number three was "the process for evaluation and the results of the evaluations of the projects initiated by aboriginal women to address violence prevention in their communities in 2007-08", and finally, number four, the "process for evaluation and the results of the evaluations for the projects funded in 2007-08 under the women's equality fund". We had asked for this information in a written question. Now if the minister doesn't have it in front of her, that's fine. If she could assure us on this side that we will get that information, I'd appreciate it.

Thank you.

**Hon. Ms. Horne:** I can give you the status of the feasibility study on an emergency shelter for women right now, and with regard to the other three, we will have to get back to the member. Our apologies for not responding; there was a change in ministers and our director has changed and we will get back to the member with these answers.

On the feasibility study of an emergency shelter, in 2007 the Women's Directorate and CYFN were successful in receiving \$58,500 from the northern strategy trust fund to undertake a feasibility study to determine the most effective ways to address the hidden situation of homeless women in the Yukon.

The scope of the feasibility study was developed by an inter-agency advisory committee with representation from women's organizations, the Yukon Bureau of Statistics, Council of Yukon First Nations and the Women's Directorate. It provides an examination of the space and programming needs for homeless women. The feasibility study was received by the Women's Directorate and is currently under review.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate? Seeing none, we'll proceed line by line in Vote 11.

**Mr. Hardy:** I request the unanimous consent of the Committee to deem all lines in Vote 11 cleared or carried, as required.

#### **Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 11, Women's Directorate, cleared or carried**

**Chair:** Mr. Hardy has requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 11, Women's Directorate, cleared or carried, as required. Is there unanimous consent?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Unanimous consent has been granted.

#### **On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

#### **Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$79,000 agreed to**

##### **Women's Directorate agreed to**

**Chair:** Do members wish a two-minute recess for officials?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will recess for two minutes.

##### *Recess*

**Chair:** Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 12, *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*, the Executive Council Office.

##### **Executive Council Office**

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Chair, I am very pleased to provide an overview of the supplementary request for the Executive Council Office. There is, in this supplementary, a request for an increase in O&M spending of \$1,760,000 and an increase of O&M recoveries of \$221,000. On the capital side of the ledger, Mr. Chair, an increase is being requested of \$181,000. Ninety-six percent of the O&M request related to revotes from 2007-08 with the remainder due to new, 100-percent recoverable program costs with the Bureau of Statistics. The revote of \$1,679,000 will address projects relating to development assessment, governance liaison, youth directorate and the northern strategy.

In addition, this supplementary budget requests \$87,000 to cover costs associated with a cultural inventory and survey to be completed by the Bureau of Statistics under the federal targeted investment program. Details of the revote requests are as follows: \$316,000 relating to northern strategy projects within governance, liaison and capacity development branch; \$300,000 for development assessment branch for YESAA-related projects; \$115,000 to fund the rollout of the public education campaign aimed at youth and parents, which was approved under the substance abuse action plan; and \$967,000 to fund projects under the northern strategy program that is being led by Yukon First Nations. Elements of these projects were carried into this fiscal year and the funds are required to bring conclusion to these initiatives.

These estimates also reflect an increase in the O&M recoveries of \$221,000. This increase is to reflect the \$81,000 in O&M money received from Canada under the targeted investment fund for the cultural inventory and survey project and \$140,000 received from Canada for environmental assessment work that was undertaken by the department or the development assessment branch for projects commenced prior to YESAA coming into full force and effect.

The changes on the capital side reflect an increase of \$6,000 for the cultural inventory and survey projects funded under the federal targeted investment program; a revote of \$150,000 to fund a commitment made by this government, as part of the Canada Winter Games, to establish an aboriginal

sports legacy trust fund; and a revote of \$25,000 to provide funding to the Council of Yukon First Nations for executive capacity.

With these brief comments, Mr. Chair, I'd be pleased to proceed to debate on the Executive Council Office. I'm sure the members may have some questions.

**Mr. Mitchell:** I thank the minister for his brief overview, and I would also like to start by thanking all the employees in the Executive Council Office for the work they do on behalf of Yukoners year-round. It is an important department, considering some of the areas that it is responsible for — first and foremost, First Nation relations and land claims implementation are obviously hugely important to Yukoners.

I will try to be fairly quick with my questions because time is limited. In terms of internal audits, we have seen and we've debated the reports on Pharmacare, the Department of Environment report was just tabled on Thursday, and there's the internal audit on contracting. I'm not going to delve into those now because I think we could get hung up pretty quickly on any one report. I believe that in the spring the Premier indicated that there was also a report on lotteries — is that report yet completed? If not, when is it expected to be completed?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Chair, with respect to the report on lotteries — you know, I think we have to also recognize that these audits are to find ways to enhance and improve governance overall so that using this type of tool is going to continue. Of course, we're pleased that we're able to move ahead with many of the recommendations.

Now as far as the lotteries, I believe the report — or at least the work that will generate a report — is now done and we should be able to bring that forward shortly in the very near future.

**Mr. Mitchell:** I agree with the Premier that it's a good thing the government is undertaking these internal audits. They should be tools that assist government in proving how government operates on behalf of Yukoners, so there's no argument there.

I guess it leads to my next question, which is: in the future, could we ask the Premier for a commitment to make these internal audits publicly available when they're actually issued or dated? What has been happening is that they appear on a government Web site some four to six months after the date on the report. We recognize there's going to be some period of time that the government wants to receive this information before making it public, but we asked about that after the delay in making public the report on contributions, and we haven't seen the situation improve in terms of — for example — the reports on Pharmacare and on contracts I think were dated May 13 and became available this fall.

So I'm wondering: is there a particular structural reason of some sort why we can't get them sooner than that, or why they're not available? Does it have to do with a review process that the government must undertake or, if not, why can't they be made available sooner rather than later?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** I think, Mr. Chair, the best way to respond to this question is to reflect on the fact that there is a process involved here that ensures, to the extent possible, that

when the reports are made final and tabled and made public, that they are vetted and correct in all of the information. I think that's critical for any report to be a useful tool, so there is a process at the end before we make public a thorough critique of the work that was generated to date to ensure that the correct and pertinent information is being made available.

**Mr. Mitchell:** I guess what I would say regarding the information that the Premier just provided — that it's important to make sure they've been vetted and they are correct in all information — is that we have every confidence that the internal audit team — the government employees — are being thorough and correct in all information. The perception — which, of course, may not be the case — would be that, if government spends several months perusing a report and perhaps making changes in the information that was first provided by an independent audit team, the government is trying in some way to colour or change or massage the information, which would certainly not be the result that anyone would be looking for.

I wouldn't think that an internal audit team would be making a report available dated May 13 or June 27 — like the environment report, what have you — and then it first being subject to being checked for how accurate and correct it is. So, again, I would ask the Premier if that process could be expedited. We're not talking about checking information to make sure there are no typos or misprints; we're talking about as much as six months that pass between when these reports are provided by the team and when we finally see them.

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** We always ensure to try to expedite processes. And no, none of the work in that process is intended to discolour or change in any way, shape or form what the audit function was intended to do.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I will just leave it on the record that those of us on the opposition side of the House would appreciate seeing these reports in as timely a manner as possible and we think that is in the public interest.

Can the Premier provide us with any more updates on the progress of the nine-year review and the status of the financial transfer agreements with those First Nations who are currently in the process of renegotiating those agreements?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Chair, after all the extensive work done to date, we know that the federal government is right now involved in a process to structure a new mandate that is inclusive of the financial transfer agreement. I think it is fair to say that all parties recognize there are some longer term issues here and that there may be some delays overall. However, we are pleased with the progress that is being made.

The Yukon and First Nation representatives have done considerable work with federal ministers and we're at a stage now where we have an expectation that, going forward, we should be seeing something in the coming months with respect to a new mandate in the implementation of our agreements here, both final and self-government.

**Mr. Mitchell:** I'm wondering if the Premier can be any more specific in terms of what he means by "in the coming months." Is this two or three months, or next November?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Unfortunately I can't speak for the federal government, but I can tell you that First Nations and



Yukon have certainly gone the distance to provide information to the federal ministers, to meet and discuss with the federal ministers the importance of the implementation of our final agreements here and self-government agreements. At a recent intergovernmental form, there were some commitments by the federal minister in this regard. So I can't speak for the federal government, but I'm sure the federal government is fully aware of what the federal minister had committed to here in the intergovernmental forum in Whitehorse.

**Mr. Mitchell:** I certainly wouldn't expect the Premier to speak for the federal government but he does speak to the federal government or with representatives of the federal government, including the Prime Minister, on a more frequent basis than those of us on this side of the House, so we would expect he could provide us with updates on progress, not speak for them.

Speaking of the federal government, can the Premier provide us with any update on the Fitch report and the status of this report at this time? It seemed to me that, in the spring, the Premier still had not seen it. I believe he said he hadn't had an opportunity to see a report. I know that there was an order-in-council passed extending the land withdrawal from settled land claims by some five years — is that correct? I'm thinking back to notes I took in the spring.

I'm wondering if there's any further progress with Canada on determining whether Canada will create a new mandate for the three unsettled claims in Yukon as we move forward on many, many issues. We saw it with forestry and the *Forest Resources Act*, and no doubt we'll see it if things start to heat up having to do with an Alaska Highway gas pipeline proposal or any proposal that passes through First Nations' traditional lands, that we might well be better off if we could complete that process. If the minister can provide us with an update, that would be appreciated.

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Chair, with respect to the Fitch report, I can't say for sure, but I am positive — at least from our perspective — that the federal minister and his department are considering the report and what to do with it. Secondly, there is no federal mandate to conclude the unfinished business in Yukon. We consistently encourage the federal government to get one so we can do so. We are hopeful that the recent resumption of negotiations in British Columbia with the Kaska First Nation will help move the federal government along on the Yukon side.

The interim protection — we extended the interim protection of all selected lands, both for Ross River Dena and for the Liard First Nation and for White River by order-in-council for another five years. So those are all of the selections that were the result of land claim negotiations until the time the federal mandate ceased.

**Mr. Mitchell:** In the past, the Premier entered into what became known as the bilateral agreement with the Liard First Nation. Is the Premier working on any other such bilateral agreements with any of the First Nations that don't have settled land claims? Or is that a direction that his government will no longer be going in?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** At the time, this was an agreement between the Yukon government and the Kaska Nation. It included the cessation of legal proceedings against the Yukon government. It included the commitment by Liard First Nation — the Kaska Nation in general — to finish up their land claim and settle. The Yukon government dealt with its areas of obligation. There was unsuccessful progress — no progress, in fact, on the settlement of the land claim; therefore, a sunset clause was written into the bilateral agreement and was agreed to. As far as considering any further bilateral agreements of this nature, no, at this time we're not, but we do enter into intergovernmental accords bilaterally with First Nations at their request and choosing.

**Mr. Mitchell:** The Premier mentioned in his opening remarks projects carrying forward under the northern strategy, and that funding — I believe it was \$40 million in total — started flowing, I think, in 2006-07, and I believe that 2008-09 is the last year of the three. I guess I'm asking what happens next. Are there any discussions underway with Canada toward extending this strategy or renewing it? Because in the spring, officials told us during the briefing that Yukon was in discussions with Ottawa on this.

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Chair, it is in the context of strategic investment in the north, all-inclusive, though there are some differences today with the commitment to develop a northern economic development agency, but the issues of northern strategy, northern housing, the territorial health access fund — these are examples of strategic investments that we are in discussions with Canada on, and we will continue to do so. There is still another year of uptake for the northern strategy. We are pleased we had a joint investment process with Yukon First Nations where we jointly have conducted the processes for the investment of these monies. I think it is clear that in doing that we are able to make a fairly solid case with Canada on the benefits resulting from the northern strategy here in Yukon. At the end of the day, it is a process that we have entered into with Canada, and we are still working on what will hopefully be a positive result in renewal of such strategic investments in the north. It is also a pan-northern arrangement with our sister territories.

**Mr. Mitchell:** I guess I would ask how much of the original funding still remains to be assigned to projects in working jointly with the partners and how much has been assigned to projects where it has either been spent or will be spent in the current fiscal year?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** We do have a date here, Mr. Chair, of March 2009, and that's what we're working on. The remaining balance of the northern strategy is \$15 million. There is a long list of projects to which funds have already been allocated from the northern strategy. They are far too numerous to mention here, but they certainly have been made available each time that the approvals have been made and we've released accordingly. They're also on the Web site, but now what's left is a total of \$15 million.

**Mr. Mitchell:** So just to clarify, that \$15 million would be allocated based on meetings together with the Yukon Forum between now and the end of the fiscal year?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Actually there's a common working group that works on receiving the applications, goes through the applications, provides recommendations to the Yukon Forum, and it's at that point the Yukon Forum makes the final decision.

It's all done jointly, and I think we're all well on our way for this last final round and uptake with the technical committee and look forward to the recommendations coming out of their work.

**Mr. Mitchell:** YACA, the Yukon asset construction agreement with the Kwanlin Dun First Nation — I'd like to ask the Premier, first of all, from his perspective, I guess — that's the perspective he'll provide: what went wrong? That is, why did Yukon end up having to renegotiate the YACA at the eleventh hour, following court action by the Kwanlin Dun First Nation? As part of that, what was learned? In other words, has Yukon learned any lessons in this process of renegotiation and avoiding a court process that will serve us well in the future with future projects that would fall under the agreement with the Kwanlin Dun First Nation for them to have participation in projects of — I think it was over \$3 million on a go-forward basis?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Frankly, it's not about renegotiation of anything. It was a process that we're obligated to conduct based on the Kwanlin Dun final agreement. It is not our choice of going to court or to litigate. That was a choice made by the First Nation itself. The courts did provide an injunction, by the way. Of course, that is simply done for the court, because the injunction merely provides another step for all evidence to be brought to bear. With the process ongoing, the government continued on with the First Nation and the result is that the project is moving ahead, and the choice was made not to proceed further with any litigation.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Did the Government of Yukon pay any compensation in order to avoid continuance of litigation?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Chair, these agreements, by nature, are government-to-government agreements. It is not a matter of paying compensation for anything. It is a requirement — an obligation — and what government must do is clearly articulated in the agreement. Those are things we must meet. Those are the issues that we met in an agreement. It's not about paying compensation for anything; it's about addressing our obligations under the final agreement with Kwanlin Dun First Nation.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Well, the Premier says that it's clear and that the obligations of Yukon are clear, but if it were that clear to all involved, then presumably the agreement would have been completed prior to Kwanlin Dun deciding that they felt they needed to go to court, or there wouldn't have been a need for an injunction and the construction at Whitehorse International Airport — or I guess I should now say the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport — would have gone ahead during the regular construction season instead of being deferred to next spring.

So I guess I would ask again why things didn't proceed that way if it was that clear, and again, what government has learned from the process that will serve us well in the future.

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Chair, there was an agreement. That's just the way it is; it's part of the process. The choice was made to go to the courts — not the choice the government made, but from time to time governments will have to address that. But the government has and continues to meet its obligations under the agreement, including this particular arrangement that is specific to the Kwanlin Dun First Nation.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Government officials — in fact, the senior government officials, at least the Deputy Minister of Highways and Public Works — stated publicly that much was learned in coming to a successful conclusion that would assist the government in future such agreements. I'm asking the Premier: what was learned and why wasn't it understood before this?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** I can't comment on what others say. I think it's fair that this type of an agreement has never been attempted before in the whole of Yukon. It's — as I said — specific to the *Kwanlin Dun First Nation Final Agreement* and I think the process, if anything, when you talk about what was learned was the need to make sure that we have a template as we proceed with these types of agreements, because there are going to be further projects here in the traditional territory and we'll see.

But at the end of the day, we don't make the final decision on behalf of the First Nation. That's up to them. What the government must always do, on balance, is recognize that we must meet our obligations under the agreements. By the same token, we must meet our obligations, on balance, to the public interest in general.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Will the Premier make available to this House the agreement between the Government of Yukon and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation that was reached over this project?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** This is a government-to-government process. No, we won't make it available to the House. If the Kwanlin Dun First Nation government decides that it would like, as a government, to make this public, we would not stand in the way of that but we're not going to do it unilaterally. This is something we would do in conjunction with the First Nation government itself.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Many government-to-government agreements are made public. Obviously the land claim agreements were all made public when they were all signed after being negotiated. Those were agreements, obviously, between Canada and the First Nations. Other agreements that this government has entered into with different governments have been made public.

So I would ask, when the Premier is saying that he won't make this agreement public, is that at the request of the partners in the agreement, the Kwanlin Dun First Nation, or is that a decision being made by the Premier? Is this a standard policy of government with all agreements between this government and First Nations or this government and Canada, or is it specific to this instance?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** The standard procedure here is out of due respect for another order of government. This is about how the government will not make a unilateral decision here. If

there is a joint decision to release the agreement, so be it. That is not the case today and the government won't make one unilaterally.

**Mr. Mitchell:** That is fine, Mr. Chair: the government not wanting to make it unilaterally if the partner in the agreement doesn't want to make it is understandable. Would the government consider, or has the government requested of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation, their agreement in making this agreement public so that all Yukoners, and certainly the contracting community, will be aware of exactly what this agreement does and doesn't say?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Chair, when it comes to the contracting community, they will be well aware of it because it is part of the project. That said, I haven't had discussions directly with the government myself. I leave that up to the officials. We view this as a part of the overall process of negotiation in developing these types of agreements and, at the end of the day, as far as I know, there was no consensus on releasing the agreement at all, but it certainly is going to comprise a significant part of the project itself overall and will find its way into tendering and so on.

**Mr. Mitchell:** So just to summarize what I believe I've heard from the Premier, he has no objections to the agreement being made public, provided that the other party to the agreement agrees with doing that. So if the Kwanlin Dun First Nation were to state at some point that they were prepared to have it made public, then the Premier would be willing to do so on behalf of Yukon. Is that correct?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Certainly.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Just a few more questions. I know the third party will want to get into this debate, either right away or after the break, so I'll just let them know that I don't have much more to ask.

The next meeting with Governor Palin — are there any scheduled meetings and what issues would be on the agenda for the next meeting with the Governor of Alaska?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Considering the surprising circumstances that took place over the last couple of months, no, we don't have any meetings scheduled but Yukon and Alaska do have a structured instrument — it's an intergovernmental protocol — where from time to time we will be meeting. There are a number of issues that are of course on the horizon, be it the Alaska Highway pipeline and the continuance of getting new and modern updated data for the Porcupine caribou herd, for example. We're working with Alaska on that. We continue to work on the Shakwak issues and the results therein. So there are a number of areas that we continue to work on, on an ongoing basis and, from time to time, the governor and I will get together to follow up and to further those areas of mutual interest and cooperation.

I can say that we'll be interested in sitting down with the governor shortly or as soon as we can, now that she's back in office after the federal campaign in the United States.

There is, of course, the issuance of the licence for the proponent in Alaska for the Alaska Highway pipeline. In this case, it's TransCanada Pipelines Ltd. That licence has now been

formally announced, as it's being issued. There is that to talk about.

But, specifically, we want to pursue with Alaska, which has committed to this, the work we need to do on the Alaska side of the border for getting an updated count of the Porcupine caribou herd. That is a critical component of moving forward with our harvest management strategy.

**Mr. Mitchell:** I just wonder if the Premier can provide a little more detail regarding that count. He'd be familiar with it from his former portfolio of Environment, as well. I know at times this has been weather-related — an inability to get an accurate count. Can the Premier provide us with any kind of assurances that there is a methodology being looked at that would allow us to get an accurate count moving forward, so that resource can be properly monitored and, hopefully, maintained based on good sustainable practices once we have an accurate count.

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Well, that is exactly what we are intending to do in cooperation with Alaska. I will leave the methodology to the biologists and the experts in the field in how they do it. I can tell the member, though, that weather sometimes doesn't cooperate and so too do the animals sometimes not cooperate. However we are in general terms aware of the fact that the herd itself is probably below the 100,000 number threshold. That is of grave concern and that is why we are in discussions on an ongoing basis with the Porcupine Caribou Management Board and First Nation governments and stakeholders involved here, because getting below that 100,000 threshold creates another set of issues and concerns overall because of the impacts that may be impacting the herd today — predation, hunting, climate, environment and the whole gambit here.

The work we are doing with the board itself is as important as the work we're going to do with the State of Alaska, again, in the coming season to try and get that count.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Well, I wish the Premier success in getting that work accomplished. I know that the Leader of the Third Party and I sent a joint letter to President-elect Obama, reaffirming our — as far as us, as two of the political leaders in Yukon — our strong support for the continued protection of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and not opening up any of it to drilling or exploratory drilling. I know that the President-elect has been on record as opposing that. Hopefully, the Premier will continue to make that case on behalf of the Government of Yukon in as strong a way as possible with the new administration, and in a collegial way with his counterpart, the Governor of Alaska, who we know doesn't necessarily share that opinion. But the resource belongs not to one state or one territory, but rather to all of us in the north.

I'm not sure whether I should ask this here or hope that we're going to get to Community Services, but since the Premier has been hands-on on this file, I'll just ask whether he can update us at all on any progress with Dawson in terms of the sewage disposal system and the court order? I don't know whether that falls under his purview at all; he made the announcements initially.

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** We will continue to pursue vigorously the protection of the critical habitat for the herd. We do that on a number of fronts, be it meetings with the governors of Alaska — whomever they may be at any given time — with direct interventions with the government in Washington, or direct interventions with the Government of Canada to make sure they are pursuing Washington to live up to the 1987 agreement that speaks to the protection of this herd by both — and it's an international agreement by both Washington and Ottawa — and of course to assist and follow the requests of the Government of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. All those initiatives and priorities will continue.

With respect to Dawson, we're all aware of the fact that democracy sometimes evolves in ways that can be somewhat unexpected. The right to referendum did take place in the city of Dawson. The citizens of any community in the Yukon have that democratic mechanism available to them. It was clear that the citizens of Dawson, the taxpayers of Dawson, were not all that comfortable with a proposed sewage lagoon system to treat Dawson's sewage.

That has allowed for a process whereby we've worked with the federal government, both Fisheries and Oceans and Environment whereby we've gone back to court, received extensions, and whereby we've pursued now a process which we call an RFQ or a request for qualifications for a mechanical treatment system. I am pleased to be able to inform the House that we are making great progress in that area and expect to be proceeding forthwith once the RFQs are in to thoroughly assess the RFQs and then get to the next step of making choices here on proceeding with dealing with the City of Dawson's sewage treatment requirements.

**Mr. Mitchell:** Final question, I think, Mr. Chair, seeing the time and I know that we want to get to the Environment debate. The Premier has announced that it looks like things are moving forward on the RFQ.

If a mechanical system is substantially more expensive in the end than the previously planned lagoon system, does the Government of Yukon's commitment to cover the bulk of these costs — so that we don't unnecessarily burden Dawson taxpayers — still hold? In other words, is it kind of an open-ended commitment?

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Well, I think if you go back to the bailout package for Dawson City that this government implemented, it included making sure that we don't encumber the City of Dawson with something that they just simply cannot manage. That's why we're going through the process we're going through. But the instrument, by the way, for the cost of this system would now be the Building Canada fund.

Of course, we know that that's a 75-percent federal contribution and 25-percent Yukon. That's better, actually, for Yukon than the former community strategic investment fund, which was a 50:50 requirement, and/or the municipal rural infrastructure fund, which was a one-third/one-third/one-third requirement. Building Canada, used in this instance, is a better deal for Dawson and a better deal for Yukon.

**Chair:** Is there any further general debate?

**Mr. Mitchell:** Mr. Chair, at this point, I request the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 2, Executive Council Office, cleared or carried, as required.

**Unanimous consent re deeming all lines in Vote 2, Executive Council Office, cleared or carried**

**Chair:** Mr. Mitchell has requested the unanimous consent of Committee of the Whole to deem all lines in Vote 2, Executive Council Office, cleared or carried, as required. Is there unanimous consent?

**All Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Chair:** Unanimous consent has been granted.

**On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures**

**Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$1,760,000 cleared or carried**

**On Capital Expenditures**

**Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$181,000 agreed to**

**Executive Council Office agreed to**

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will recess for 15 minutes, and will resume with the Department of Environment.

*Recess*

**Chair:** Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 12, *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*. We will now proceed with the Department of Environment.

**Department of Environment**

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Mr. Chair, it is my honour and privilege to present to the Assembly the 2008-09 supplementary budget for the Department of Environment.

Mr. Chair, I would first like to extend my gratitude and thanks to the department officials for their hard work over this last year and years previous ensuring that this budget comes to fruition and for the work that they do day in and day out to ensure that we have a vibrant, pristine, quality environment for all Yukoners' enjoyment past and present.

This proposed supplementary budget that we are here today to speak to represents an approximately \$1.3-million increase and includes a number of initiatives. For example, funding includes capital resources for the completion of interior display work on the new Tombstone Territorial Park interpretive centre exhibits. It also includes continuing work on updating our key wildlife habitat inventory.

I know there has been a significant amount of debate on the floor of the Legislature over the last couple of months with respect to wildlife inventories. I did just want to articulate again for members opposite that during the past year and going forward, the Department of Environment is very pleased to be able to work with a lot of different partners to carry out many different species surveys throughout many different projects. As I stated on the floor of the Legislature earlier this year, this fiscal year alone we are carrying out about 17 species surveys, as well as 41 different projects. That's actually up from the last

fiscal year, where we had about 12 different surveys and about 32 different projects. An additional \$500,000, which builds upon substantive increases that we have seen over the last couple of years, has really enabled us to undertake and support efforts to manage for sustainable populations and to set harvest levels. Again, this is work in collaboration with First Nations, renewable resources councils, the Government of Northwest Territories, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Canadian Wildlife Service, Parks Canada, and so forth.

As I mentioned earlier, we are undertaking a number of different initiatives, whether it's in caribou, elk, freshwater fish, fur bearers, grizzly bears, moose — the list goes on to other rare species — sheep and other habitat surveys, including, for the first time, a community ecosystems monitoring program, and of course, our ongoing work with the Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee, to name but a few resources.

As I mentioned, we have been working on a number of different plans over the recent years, and of course, just recently, was the Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee, which is in response to commitments under treaty agreements, under Kwanlin Dun and Carcross-Tagish First Nations, their final agreements, and that includes six First Nations, the B.C. provincial government, and the Canadian Wildlife Service, again, for the purpose of identifying management planning in the region.

So the committee is now in place. It'll be dealing with a coordinated approach to the management of a number of valued species in the Yukon, again, for the purposes of ensuring diversity and sustainable harvests.

Of course, you could also say that this committee can be considered a bit of an evolution from the work that had been undertaken by the Southern Lakes caribou recovery program steering committee over the last 16 years alone. Another example of carrying out wildlife management in the territory — and I will get to it a little bit later — is elk management, which is relatively new, but advancements are quickly evolving in terms of elk harvest management and elk management.

Mr. Chair, we are working with Kwanlin Dun, Little Salmon-Carmacks, Champagne-Aishihik, Ta'an Kwach'an First Nations, and many other organizations on wildlife management plans. It includes the elk management plan and the implementation of that plan and a management plan for winter tick control. We continue our work with the Porcupine Caribou Management Board and that comprises eight respective partners at the table for developing a long-term harvest management strategy that will be used to manage harvest levels for the herd itself and for the purposes of conservation first and foremost.

We're working with our renewable resources councils and the Fish and Wildlife Management Board to address other community-based fish and wildlife management plans in the area. As I mentioned, we're completing implementing management plans for wood bison, woodland caribou and elk, providing ongoing technical planning support for the Southern Lakes Wildlife Coordinating Committee as I mentioned before

and the Fortymile caribou working group in accordance with our final agreement implementation.

We are managing the Yukon wood bison through the Yukon wood bison technical team and the Yukon bison management committee. We are working on a number of management plans when it comes to special management areas, habitat protection areas and so forth.

So the Government of Yukon is very much involved on a number of different fronts when it comes to managing our wildlife habitat, and we are very pleased to include dollars within this supplementary to support those very efforts.

Approximately 11 percent of this supplementary budget or \$153,000 is for funds that we administer and then recover from a third party, and this includes dollars from the federal government, which administers several water quality and river ice monitoring projects.

Dollars are also allocated within this budget for special waste collection, which we have seen a huge uptake on over the last couple of years. As members opposite may be familiar with, special waste can be motor oil, paint, and chemicals that we wish to collect and not see end up in our landfills or rivers or groundwater.

We know these products can be hazardous to all living creatures if not disposed of properly. In fact, we saw a 100-percent increase, or doubling, in the public demand and use of this service this year alone.

Several factors, including greater public awareness, increased fuel and transportation costs and also contributed to this additional demand for special waste handling and disposal. Of \$116,000 in additional cost for this initiative, approximately \$60,000 will be recovered from the applicants, who pay to have this special waste they generate removed from their area and the territory.

A major change we made this year and recognize as a priority, which was recently announced, is also reflected in approximately \$250,000 of this supplementary budget's allocation. This is being dedicated to community-based recycling centres to assist them in carrying out their valuable services in their communities.

These additional funds will definitely help the 17 registered community depots send recyclables to the main processing centres here in Whitehorse. It will also enable them to help with capital improvements and to run their centres more efficiently. It will also go toward increasing core funding.

We're very pleased to be able to provide an additional \$250,000 housed in the supplementary budget, which effectively doubles the budget for recycling programs to \$518,200 from \$245,000 last year.

As I mentioned, in addition to assisting community recycling depots, a major portion of that — approximately \$75,000 — will go toward a new program for recycling action and education in Yukon schools. In support of a recycling awareness, composting and other recycling-related activities, we were very pleased to be able to provide that — again, for providing continuity throughout our schools in the Yukon and in support of those schools that have taken on recycling in their communities and others that may be thinking about it but haven't had the

resources to get a jump-start on recycling. So, we're very pleased to be able to provide that funding.

We've always said that in order to effect change, we need to start at a very young age, and getting into our schools is a really good start in terms of effecting change at a young age. It soon became apparent that while we were supporting, in part, school initiatives, it wasn't consistent and certainly wasn't continuous. So we wanted to ensure that we have a fair and efficient delivery of recycling programs offered through our schools. We're very pleased to be able to deliver on that.

Of course, I would be remiss if I didn't mention that this support builds on a number of initiatives that are already delivered through the Department of Environment — the waste reduction initiative through the recycling fund and other initiatives. We've been able to support our recycling centres; however, we also recognize that the costs of transportation are going up, the costs of doing business have gone up and continue to go up, and we recognize that changes continue, as we have seen with worldwide commodity prices in flux these days and, as a result, that has really impacted the way we do business all around.

So, it's very timely that we were able to announce this increase and I was able to recently meet with the recycling depots for a conference here in Whitehorse and talk to them first-hand about some of the challenges they have had and how they're very much looking forward to working together in a holistic manner, in a great network, to support each other and learn from one another on best practices when it comes to recycling.

So again, we're very pleased to be able to do that, and of course this will also help divert a lot of material from winding up in our landfills, for which Community Services is very much responsible — that is, the operation of our solid waste facilities throughout our respective unincorporated communities.

Mr. Chair, a major portion of this supplementary budget is an initiative that has had the interest of a lot of people and organizations in Yukon over the last couple of years. Our efforts to manage winter ticks, for example, found within the wild elk population, make up about 25 percent of the supplementary budget, or roughly \$330,000 for this year. These funds are being used to construct special holding pens this winter for the Takhini herd west of Whitehorse and the Braeburn herd north of Whitehorse so that we can contain the tick-infested elk during the shedding period and determine how well our efforts to remove the ticks are paying off.

I think that when we look at what the department has been working on over the last year in coming up with an elk management plan — which is approved and worked on in collaboration with a multitude of partners — and of course in working on a winter tick management plan, as well, we were very pleased to see the recovery of approximately 80 percent of one individual herd tick-free as a result of these recovery efforts.

I congratulate the department and congratulate all the stakeholders who were very much involved in that process. Clearly there is more work to be done and of course this is part of the winter tick control strategy, moving forward with next steps. It also includes tick monitoring, surveillance, tick ecol-

ogy studies, learning much more about these matters and relying upon the expertise and resources of others.

In this regard, we have been really fortunate in obtaining advice and help from professors at the University of Calgary and the University of Alberta, as well as doctors of veterinary medicine from the Government of British Columbia and the United States Department of Agriculture. Funds will go toward the ongoing monitoring and recovery of those elk that are infested with these winter ticks.

It's important to many Yukoners and we must acknowledge the important role of many stakeholders, as I mentioned, who have helped draft the overall elk management plan and that of the recently developed program to manage the ticks that have been found on the wild elk population.

So these funds are really helping us implement a relatively quick response and also help support continuing our research efforts with the advice and help of First Nations, renewable resources councils, the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, the Yukon Game Growers Association, the Yukon Agricultural Association, the Yukon Conservation Society and the Yukon Wildlife Preserve — again, a multitude of partners.

Mr. Chair, before I wrap up, I just wanted to say again what a privilege it has been to work as the Minister of Environment over the last few months. It hasn't been very long, but there has been a tremendous amount of information to learn, and of course, key to undertaking management of our environment is that it is not done in isolation; it must be done in concert with a multitude of stakeholders.

We have been working to implement our climate change strategy, as I mentioned earlier today, which includes improving our ability to adapt, improving our ability to continue to reduce the greenhouse gas emissions, establishing Yukon as a northern leader in research development innovation and also enhancing our understanding, awareness and knowledge of climate change in the Yukon and how it is affecting the circumpolar north.

As I mentioned earlier, we are very busy on work in collaboration with First Nations on the creation of a multitude of special management areas and habitat protection areas — again, for the enjoyment of all Yukoners. We are working to promote waste reduction initiatives. And, of course, I just alluded to recycling initiatives. We're working to identify and address contaminated sites in the Yukon and working to conduct wildlife inventories — again, for the purposes of monitoring and enforcing and so forth.

So the department has been very busy over the last year, and we certainly have a lot of undertakings to look at in the year to come. I also look forward to being able to host the next Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment as the chair. We're hopefully going to host a meeting sometime next year as a result of the election.

Seeing my time is up, I will welcome any questions that come forward. Thank you very much.

**Mr. Elias:** I thank the minister for her opening comments. They were very thorough and concise. As always, I would like to acknowledge each and every official within the Department of Environment for doing their hard work over the

years and many of them who have dedicated their entire lives and professional careers to the environment. Thank you to each and every one of you for working toward achieving the departmental objectives.

It is always a pleasure to rise and debate the 2008-09 Environment supplementary budget. We do have less than half an hour though, Mr. Chair, to get straight to the point here.

I would like to begin by talking about the Porcupine caribou herd. It is estimated that over half of the entire Porcupine caribou harvest occurs on the Dempster Highway. Because of the high concentrations of caribou hunting, this has increased the potential for conservation, public health and safety issues. Conservative Prime Minister John Diefenbaker commissioned the building of the Dempster Highway in 1958 — and it was finished in 1979 — calling it the road to resources.

The highway was built along an old Gwich'in trail. Now that highway provides access for thousands of people right through the prime Porcupine caribou habitat, access that wasn't there prior to 1979. So can you imagine the traffic and the additional harvesting pressures on the caribou that could occur if the Mackenzie Valley pipeline goes forward? With no one occupying the field and taking the lead to conserve the caribou and ensure a sustainable harvest, the Dempster will be busier than ever before. Public safety concerns will go up and undoubtedly caribou mortality will go up as well.

The Porcupine caribou have kept the Gwich'in culture alive for thousands of years. Harvesting 20, 30, 40 and even 50 caribou at a time out in the open tundra with pickup trucks, snow machines, four-wheelers, et cetera, along the Dempster Highway that was built 29 years ago — I think, what other highway allows this practice to occur? Do we want this to become the traditional way of hunting on the Dempster Highway? I don't really care who it is — no one should be allowed to harvest the caribou in an unsustainable manner on Yukon lands and, in these times of uncertainty, with other large caribou herds crashing all around us, harvesting practices are critical, including the Cape Bathurst herd that has crashed and the Bluenose West caribou herd that has crashed — and those are right next door in the Northwest Territories.

And when I talk about crashing caribou herds, I'm talking about the elimination of thousands of caribou over a short period of time. I also would suggest that, for individuals hunting with \$40,000 trucks and snow machines, hunger and food is not an issue. Gone are the days where one family needs 20 caribou to live. Three to five, I've been told by many families, will suffice for the winter, depending on the size of the family. Tradition and respect needs to get put back into harvesting along the Dempster, in my opinion, and the Yukon government can play a role in that.

Having the power and doing nothing with it is the worst thing a leader can do, and our Yukon Minister of Environment holds the ultimate authority to act when it comes to the conservation of the Porcupine caribou herd and public health and safety.

There are many sections of various legislation and constitutionally protected agreements that support my assertions and

are relevant to this dialogue and the budget debate today. I'll summarize a few of those sections.

Under the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, 16.3.1: "...respecting the Minister's ultimate jurisdiction...for the management of Fish and Wildlife and their habitats,"; 16.3.2: "The management and Harvesting of Fish, Wildlife and their habitats shall be governed by the principle of Conservation,"; 16.3.3, which speaks to the exercising of rights under this chapter: "... is subject to limitations...of Conservation, public health or public safety."

16.3.11 basically says that if there is a conflict between the *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement* and chapter 16 of the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, the *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement* shall prevail to the extent of the conflict. And I'm talking about many around the territory who consider the *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement* to be outdated and needs to catch up with the times, as do many pieces of legislation and agreements.

The Yukon *Wildlife Act*, section 194(1), gives the emergency powers of the minister to prohibit or otherwise restrict the hunting or trapping of wildlife in any part of the Yukon for a period of time if, in the opinion of the minister, it is urgently required to do so for purposes of public health, public safety or conservation.

Part F(7) of the *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement* explains the minister's responsibilities as well.

Further to this, all of the *Umbrella Final Agreement* boards and committees identified in chapter 16 send recommendations to the Environment minister that deal with fish and wildlife and their habitat when the issue concerns public jurisdiction. So, you see, all fingers do point to the Environment minister as having the final and ultimate authority and legislative responsibility to act in the public's interest for all Yukoners on public lands when it comes to the conservation of the Porcupine caribou herd and public health and safety.

It is important to note that on November 5, 2006, the Porcupine Caribou Management Board unanimously passed the resolution that says they believe it is necessary to take immediate steps to ensure the conservation of the Porcupine caribou herd, thus resulting in the development of a harvest management plan currently ongoing. It is also important to remember that the Premier unilaterally lifted the 500-metre no-hunting corridor and let the leaders pass regulations along the Dempster Highway last year. He basically rejected the Porcupine Caribou Management Board's recommendations and rendered the board ineffective. The Premier reportedly did so because he didn't think they could win a court challenge by the Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation.

In my opinion, there were plenty of other ways to deal with this situation. If the Porcupine Caribou Management Board — which is the primary instrument for the management of the Porcupine caribou herd and its habitat — recommendations are not good enough for the Yukon Party government to implement, then what process or agreement is good enough, I ask myself?

Now the Yukon Party government has tasked the same Porcupine Caribou Management Board with leading a harvest

management plan and to once again recommend the plan to the Minister of Environment for consideration. So we are still operating under the auspices of an outdated *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement* that doesn't recognize the new First Nations self-governing era here in the Yukon.

The public governments of Canada, the Yukon, Northwest Territories, and the First Nations of Na Cho Nyak Dun, Tr'ondek Hwech'in, the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, Gwich'in Tribal Council and Inuvialuit are all signatories to the harvest management plan being developed under the auspices of an outdated *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement* and led by the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, yet the majority of the First Nations above are not identified as parties to the *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement*.

I am confident that all eight signatories will reach an agreement. However, there is always the chance that, in dealing with the harvest management under an old, outdated agreement, things could go offside. Nonetheless, this is a matter of great public interest and there is much at stake, because make no mistake: if we allow the Porcupine caribou herd to crash, the northern ecosystem will crash and there will be a huge social and economic price to pay and everybody is going to pay it here in the Yukon.

I am worried that because the *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement* doesn't reflect the new self-governing era and is, quite frankly, out of date and needs to catch up with the times — as quoted out of the harvest management plan draft — that there will be a dangerous void in terms of a solid contract agreement or law-based solution to ensure that the herd is conserved and sustainably harvested along the Dempster Highway if the eight signatories cannot come to an agreement.

Where there is no law, there is anarchy and chaos. Someone has to occupy the field, Mr. Chair.

I have been advocating for years now for a new Porcupine caribou conservation agreement at public meetings throughout the years that I have been attending. I feel the present *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement* is a big part of the problem. It seems, however, that the political will to renegotiate for a new Porcupine caribou conservation agreement is not there yet and I respectfully disagree with those who say it can't be done — because it needs to be done and it can be done. If the eight signatories do come to an agreement on a harvest management plan, a native user agreement, there still remains the government-to-government meaningful consultations and accommodation that must occur over and above the work to date.

If I am wrong and I have missed some overt political purpose, then I hope the minister can enlighten me with some facts. There is an aboriginal right and obligation to conserve the herd and ensure a sustainable harvest, so yes, all eight signatories must get their respective houses in order if the harvest management plan and native user agreement are to be a success. To his credit, the Premier has taken the lead and conducted a legal review in concert with affected Yukon chiefs — a legal review of the roles and responsibilities in respective jurisdictions and the management of the Porcupine caribou herd and how they relate to today's realities and I thank him for that.

I did put a motion forward on the floor of the Legislative Assembly a few weeks ago urging the Yukon Party government to make the entire legal review document public. I have yet to read the legal review. I do wish to read it and maybe the minister can provide it to me. I also would like a summary document from that legal review to be made public so that we can help engage the folks out there who care about the herd's longevity understand and provide more valuable information to the public government.

Over the course of the years and months, Yukoners have come to me and suggested some solutions. Again, they realize that sacrifices are going to have to be made by everybody across the board if we are to conserve this herd. The first order of business is to seek to renegotiate the *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement*.

People are talking about the sale of caribou. It is the public government's role to get rid of the market for the sale and for the purchase of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board on both sides of the border. We need education and maybe a law-based solution. Part L section 2(d) of the *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement*, in my opinion, is being abused and has no place in today's age with managing a caribou herd. Yukoners have come to me and said, "I don't know why we're allowed to hunt during the rut. Caribou are inedible between October 10 and November 10 — during that month." Suggestions were made to me that maybe the Porcupine caribou harvest should end on October 1. Either that, or continue the hunt in January. It's going to be difficult after the antlers drop off the bulls, but still.

Right now, under laws of general application, every person in the Yukon who gets a caribou permit can hunt two Porcupine caribou cows today, as we speak — my constituents, people from around the Yukon. Maybe we should exercise a quota system for every Yukoner or everybody who's allowed to hunt the herd. Maybe we should constitute communal hunts that are structured with the new powers from First Nations who have control over their land and their people. The Dempster problem: we need to deal with it. It has been festering for years, and again, what other highway allows this type of harvest to occur? I really can't think of one.

Some other Yukoners have come to me and said, "Look, we've got 14 conservation officers to cover a vast area with thousands of kilometres of roads, plus old mining roads, plus trails, plus rivers and lakes and creeks. Maybe it's time that we tried to get more conservation officers hired on full-time, dedicated to high-use areas, dedicated to places we should worry about wildlife populations, like the Southern Lakes moose population and the Dempster Highway. We need more education programs on both sides of the border. The rules have to be the same on both sides of the border when we're harvesting caribou."

For instance, there has been a check station on only one side of the Dempster Highway for years. I understand that check stations have been implemented on the north side of the highway. They have been tried, but I'd really like to see check stations where it's mandatory to stop on both sides of the Dempster Highway. Again, someone has to occupy the field.



We have to work hard to find out more of what we don't know. There is lots that we don't know. We don't know the population of the herd. We don't know the grand mortality of the herd, wounded loss, the actual harvest numbers, predation, and the actual effect climate change is having on the herd.

I'll give you an effect of climate change. The Porcupine River breaks up three weeks earlier now, and it has for the last decade. One early morning in May, I watched 250 cows get swallowed up by the Porcupine River and not one surfaced. So that was in front of town. Can you imagine, with the length of the Porcupine River, how many times that has happened over the years? In light of such compelling evidence, my point is that I believe the precautionary principle is met, and the minister has adequate ammunition to occupy the field and initiate conservation measures for the Porcupine caribou herd and stop their population decline.

Over the years, we have been relying on a computer model that we put certain data into with regard to the collared caribou that are out there. I did speak with the biologists, and I asked them a poignant question about the confidence limits: will the computer model provide confidence limits that the public can have a greater confidence in making management decisions? The answer was no. As the years go on, those confidence limits depreciate at a rapid rate. So doing nothing can be viewed as acting in the public trust, and we must avoid a Porcupine caribou recovery program.

I'd just like to get that message on the record and ask the minister at this time: at what point, with regard to what we don't know and what Yukoners are saying, will the minister exercise the jurisdiction that is laid out in every single document — in the land claims agreement, in Yukon public law — to exercise her jurisdiction to conserve the herd, because as far as I'm concerned, the minister must have a plan B in her back pocket if we cannot achieve a harvest management plan and native user agreement. And again, the *Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement*, in my opinion, is the problem. It needs to get fixed. If we can fix that, and recognize the respective First Nation governments and their jurisdiction over their lands and peoples, and work together with public governments and accompany it with education and everything that I mentioned today, I think we can solve this problem. But we have to act quickly because, as the Premier said just a few minutes ago, the population of the herd could be well below the 100,000 population. So I'll begin with that question for the minister.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Well, Mr. Chair, seeing I have a few minutes to respond I'll endeavour to answer some of the questions that the member opposite has raised, and I thank him for that, and I thank him for his work over the years, too, advocating for sustainable levels of this valued caribou herd. Not only is it valued here in the Yukon, it's valued worldwide, and we have seen measures taken and pledges made by citizens from all over this globe in saving the Porcupine caribou herd.

I wanted to reiterate, though, that the Government of Yukon continues to be a very strong advocate of this valued herd, whether it's through our commitment to research and scientific monitoring — which, I should include, has been going on for over 35 years in work conducted by this government

and by previous governments. We are also, as the member opposite knows, a contributing member of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, and we are a great supporter. As the member opposite articulated, we are one of eight parties, when it comes to the long-term harvest management plan for this particular herd.

It's really critical, though, to acknowledge that when it comes to this particular herd, when it comes to this particular herd, the herd runs through two nations; it runs through two territories; it runs through five distinct comprehensive land claim agreements. It is complex. The governance structures are anything but simple as well. So above all, it has to be recognized that the work to successfully manage this caribou herd requires the cooperation and the commitment of all the respective parties around the table.

For that very reason, the Government of Yukon — and thank you to the Premier — a year ago committed to working with Yukon First Nations comprised of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, the Na Cho Nyak Dun First Nation, as well as the Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nation to work with the Porcupine Caribou Management Board on a long-term harvest management strategy. I just included Yukon components, but there is also Government of the Northwest Territories. We spoke about the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, Government of Canada — we all agreed to develop this strategy led by the board to address the conservation of the herd, first and foremost. The creation of the strategy is a commitment of all parties, which was signed on by all parties by way of a protocol that sets out how the plan will in fact be developed and rolled out. As the member opposite knows full well, the work to develop that plan is currently underway. It has been led by the board itself, by a working group of the respective parties, with representatives from each of the respective governments, including the Yukon government. We very much value the work they have been undertaking over the last year.

We remain very committed to this process and when we receive the recommended plan, the parties are very committed to meeting to jointly address this and, in fact, that work is underway right now. The parties respectively in the Yukon are working and remain committed to identifying how we can jointly implement our respective responsibilities to ensure that the herd is held at a sustainable level. We are discussing that as to how we can jointly address those implementation measures, including the identification of our own responsibilities and our mandates within our own purviews as well.

I just want to say that the Government of Yukon will always err on the side of caution and, in fact, this proposed plan is based on the precautionary principle. It has to be made known. You know, the key concepts identified in the plan include a number of conservation initiatives, which include a number of provisions, from harvesting bulls only, identification of a total allowable harvest, education, communication, the commitment to continue to provide up-to-date indication information, all of which the member opposite has made reference to.

The thought is that that work is underway. I value the ideas and suggestions coming forward from the member opposite and

urge him to work within that process as well. I appreciate that as well.

#### **Termination of sitting as per Standing Order 76(1)**

**Chair:** Order please. The time has reached 5:00 p.m. on this, the 28<sup>th</sup> day of the 2008 fall sitting. Standing Order 76(1) states, “On the day that the Assembly has reached the maximum number of days allocated for that Sitting pursuant to Standing Order 75, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, if the Assembly is in Committee of the Whole at the time, shall interrupt the proceedings at 5:00 p.m. and, with respect to each Government Bill before Committee that the Government House Leader directs to be called, shall:

“(a) put the question on any amendment then before the Committee;

“(b) put the question, without debate or amendment, on a motion moved by a Minister that the bill, including all clauses, schedules, title and preamble, be deemed to be read and carried,

“(c) put the question on a motion moved by a Minister that the bill be reported to the Assembly, and,

“(d) when all bills have been dealt with, recall the Speaker to the Chair to report on the proceedings of the Committee.”

It is the duty of the Chair to now conduct the business of Committee of the Whole in a manner directed by Standing Order 76(1).

The Chair would now ask the Government House Leader to indicate whether Bill No. 12 and Bill No. 55, the only bills now before Committee of the Whole, should be called.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** The government directs that Bill No. 12 and Bill No. 55 be called at this time.

**Chair:** The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 12, *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*.

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

**Chair:** The Chair will now recognize Mr. Fentie as the sponsor of Bill No. 12 for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** I move that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 12, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*, be deemed to be read and carried.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Fentie that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 12, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

*On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures*

*Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$21,277,000 agreed to*

*On Capital Expenditures*

*Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$33,403,000 agreed to*

*Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to*

*Schedules A, B and C agreed to*

*Title agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Mr. Chair, I move that Bill No. 12, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*, be reported without amendment.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Fentie that Bill No. 12, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*, be reported without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

#### **Bill No. 55 — Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act**

**Chair:** Committee of the Whole will now deal with Bill No. 55, *Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*. The Chair will now recognize Mr. Hart as the sponsor of Bill No. 55 for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** I move that all clauses and the title of Bill No. 55, *Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*, be deemed to be read and carried.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Hart that all clauses and the title of Bill No. 55, *Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

*Clauses 1 to 12 agreed to*

*Title agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** Mr. Chair, I move that Bill No. 55, entitled *Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*, be reported without amendment.

**Chair:** It has been moved by Mr. Hart that Bill No. 55, entitled *Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*, be reported without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

**Chair:** As all government bills remaining in Committee of the Whole have now been decided upon, it is my duty to rise and report to the House.

*Speaker now 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, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*, and directed me to report it without amendment.

Committee of the Whole has also considered Bill No. 55, entitled *Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*, and directed me to report it without amendment.

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

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** I declare the report carried.

Standing Order 76(2)(d) states: “On the sitting day that the Assembly has reached the maximum number of sitting days allocated for that Sitting pursuant to Standing Order 75, the Speaker of the Assembly, when recalled to the Chair after the House has been in the Committee of the Whole, shall: ...

“(d) with respect to each Government Bill standing on the Order Paper for Third Reading and designated to be called by the Government House Leader,

“(i) receive a motion for Third Reading and passage of the bill, and

“(ii) put the question, without debate or amendment, on that motion.”

I shall, therefore, ask the Government House Leader to indicate whether Bill No. 12 and Bill No. 55, the only bills now standing at third reading, should be called.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Mr. Speaker, the government directs that Bill No. 12 and Bill No. 55 be called for third reading at this time.

## GOVERNMENT BILLS

### Bill No. 12: Third Reading

**Clerk:** Third reading, Bill No. 12, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Fentie.

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** I move that Bill No. 12, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*, be now read a third time and do pass.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 12, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09*, be now read a third time and do pass.

As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Agreed.

*Motion for third reading of Bill No. 12 agreed to*

**Speaker:** I declare that Bill No. 12 has passed this House

### Bill No. 55: Third Reading

**Clerk:** Third reading, Bill No. 55, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Hart.

**Hon. Mr. Hart:** I move that Bill No. 55, *Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Minister of Health and Social Services that Bill No. 55, entitled *Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act*, be now read a third time and do pass. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

**Some Hon. Members:** Division.

## Division

**Speaker:** Division has been called.

## Bells

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

**Hon. Mr. Fentie:** Agreed.

**Hon. Mr. Cathers:** Agreed.

**Hon. Ms. Taylor:** Agreed.

**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:** Disagree.

**Mr. McRobb:** Disagree.

**Mr. Elias:** Disagree.

**Mr. Fairclough:** Disagree.

**Mr. Inverarity:** Disagree.

**Mr. Hardy:** Disagree.

**Mr. Cardiff:** Disagree.

**Clerk:** Mr. Speaker, the results are nine yeas, seven nays.

**Speaker:** The yeas have it.

*Motion for third reading of Bill No. 55 agreed to*

**Speaker:** I declare the motion carried and that Bill No. 55 has passed this House.

We are now prepared to receive the Commissioner, in her capacity as Lieutenant Governor, to grant assent to the bills which we have passed in this House.

*Commissioner enters the Chamber, announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms*

## ASSENT TO BILLS

**Commissioner:** Thank you. Please be seated.

**Speaker:** Madam Commissioner, the Assembly has, at its present session, passed certain bills to which in the name and on behalf of the Assembly, I respectfully request your assent.

**Clerk:** *Second Appropriation Act, 2008-09; Electoral District Boundaries Act; Act to Amend the Social Assistance Act; Act to Amend the Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act; Act to Amend the Judicature Act.*

**Commissioner:** I hereby assent to the bills as enumerated by the Clerk.

I am now going to give a little Christmas message. As we reflect on the year gone by and get ready for the holiday season, I wish only good things for you and your families. It has been a busy time, and I thank you for your work in the Legislative Assembly. I extend a special mention to all of the support staff who ensure that your time in this House is manageable.

We are so fortunate to live in Canada and, being a bit biased, especially Yukon.

As shown during this past few months, our parliamentary system can be very interesting and challenging and I'm very proud to take part, in some small way, in this Legislative Assembly. It is a system where we can argue, discuss or explain our points of view with freedom, and where we are put in a place of authority to bring laws into effect and affect the lives of others.

When you swore your oaths of allegiance, office and secrecy before me after the last election, you agreed to work as members of this House to the best of your ability. I believe that you are doing just that. On behalf of all Yukoners, thank you.

Have a wonderful holiday season and a much needed rest. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

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

As the House has reached the maximum number of days permitted for the 2008 fall sitting, as established pursuant to Standing Order 75(3), and the House has completed consideration of the designated legislation, it is the duty of the Chair to declare that this House now stands adjourned.

*The House adjourned at 5:19 p.m.*

08-1-84

To Assist with the Development of Terms of Reference for Special and Select Committees (Report to the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges, dated Fall 2008) from Donald Inverarity, MLA, Porter Creek South and Steve Cardiff, MLA, Mount Lorne (Inverarity)

**The following Sessional Papers were tabled December 15, 2008:**

08-1-103

Yukon Child Care Board 2007-2008 Annual Report (Hart)

08-1-104

Yukon Liquor Corporation 2007-2008 Annual Report (Cathers)

08-1-105

Yukon Heritage Resources Board 2007-2008 Annual Report (Taylor)

08-1-106

Select Committee on Whistle-blower Protection: Interim Report (dated December 2008) (Speaker Staffen)

08-1-107

Public Accounts, Standing Committee on: Second Report (dated December 2008) (Vol. 18) (Mitchell)

**The following documents were filed December 15, 2008:**

8-1-81

Health Care Insurance Programs: Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for Fiscal Years 1997-98 to 2007-08 (Hart)

08-1-82

Contracting Summary Report for Yukon Government Departments (April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008) and Yukon Government Corporations (YDC and YWCHSB: January 1, 2007 – December 31, 2007); YHC & HLC: April 1, 2007 – March 31, 2008) (Lang)

08-1-83

Child and Youth Advocate Act (proposed): letter (dated December 15, 2008) from Chief Ruth Massie, Ta'an Kwach'an Council to Hon. Glenn Hart, Minister of Health and Social Services (Fairclough)