

**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Wednesday, April 1, 2009 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

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

Are there any tributes?

TRIBUTES

In recognition of Cancer Awareness Month

Hon. Mr. Hart: Mr. Speaker, I rise in the House to ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing April as Cancer Awareness Month. This is an appropriate time to honour the men, women and children who have battled and won against this disease, and to grieve for those who have lost that battle.

Monsieur le Président, j'invite aujourd'hui mes collègues à se joindre à moi afin de souligner le mois d'avril comme étant le Mois de la sensibilisation au cancer. L'occasion est bien choisie pour rendre hommage aux hommes, aux femmes et aux enfants qui ont lutté contre le cancer et ont réussi à vaincre cette maladie, et à ceux et celles qui ont malheureusement perdu la bataille.

Cancer affects all of us. There is not one person in this House today who has not been touched by cancer in some way. In 2007, across Canada, an estimated 159,000 Canadians were diagnosed with cancer and about 72,000 died from the disease. These numbers appear staggering, but there is progress.

Since 1994, death rates have declined for all cancers combined in both sexes. Excluding lung cancer, mortality rates have dropped 20 percent in women since 1978. In the 10 years between 1994 and 2003, incidence rates declined by two percent or more for lung cancer in males, stomach and larynx cancer in both sexes, and cervical cancers in females.

Death rates are still declining for males at all ages and for females under 70. The declines are even more rapid in children and adolescents.

Chez les hommes de tous âges atteints du cancer et chez les femmes de moins de 70 ans, les taux de mortalité continuent de diminuer. Cette baisse est encore plus marquée chez les enfants et les adolescents.

We've all seen the daffodils — those heralds of hope around town. The Canadian Cancer Society volunteers are selling them to raise funds and awareness of cancer.

The Relay for Life is another fundraising event organized by the Canadian Cancer Society. It takes place in June. I encourage all members of this House and all Yukoners to support these fundraising events by participating and/or donating.

Then there are those volunteers who provide advice, a shoulder to cry on and a strong arm to lean on. These are the men and women who share their stories with those newly diagnosed and frightened, who drive cancer patients to their treat-

ments, who listen to their heart-wrenching stories and provide hope to rise above despair. These men and women are heroes in my book, Mr. Speaker, as are all volunteers working toward eradicating cancer.

In the Yukon, Department of Health and Social Services has received a small grant from the Canadian Breast Cancer Research Foundation to do research on what young women know about cancer, what they want to know and how they prefer to learn about it. This research is another small piece of the mosaic. One day, the mosaic will be complete and we will finally be cancer free.

Merci. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Mitchell: I rise today on behalf of the Official Opposition to pay tribute to Cancer Awareness Month and notably, the Canadian Cancer Society.

Chacun d'entre nous connaissons une histoire ou une autre au sujet du cancer. Nous avons tous été touchés directement ou indirectement par le cancer. Selon une récente étude effectuée par Statistiques Canada, un plus grand nombre de canadiens vivent avec le cancer qu'avant.

We all have a cancer story. We've all been touched by cancer, directly or indirectly, in some profound way. More Canadians are living with cancer than ever before, according to a recent study released by Stats Canada. The study says 695,000 living Canadians — or 2.2 percent of the population — were diagnosed with an invasive cancer.

The report attributes the higher rates of cancer to being detected more frequently in patients and to earlier detection, improving survival rates.

Jusqu'à ce que nous puissions éradiquer le cancer, le but pour les gens touchés par le cancer est de devenir survivants du cancer. Until the day we can eradicate cancer, the goal for cancer patients is to become cancer survivors.

La société canadienne du cancer est un organisme bénévole national, à caractère communautaire, dont la mission est l'éradication du cancer et l'amélioration de la qualité de vie des personnes touchées par le cancer.

The Canadian Cancer Society is a national community-based organization of volunteers whose mission is eradication of cancer and enhancement of the quality of life of people living with cancer.

Funds are raised through donations from individual Canadians and through door to door campaigning. The bright cheerful daffodil is the society's symbol of hope. The purchase of daffodils kicks off the April campaign, which is one of the Canadian Cancer Society's single most important drives in the fight against cancer. This year's Daffodil Days campaign was very successful, raising over \$25,000. The annual daffodil luncheon will now be held in the fall.

This year the Relay for Life in Dawson City will be held on May 23 and 24 and in Whitehorse on June 6 and 7. Le Relais Pour la Vie aura lieu à Whitehorse les 6 et 7 Juin prochains.

All of these events contribute to the ongoing fight against cancer. I encourage all Yukoners to get involved, become a

volunteer, help sponsor a team or make a donation. It is about you making cancer history.

On behalf of all Yukoners, I would especially like to publicly thank and tribute the tireless efforts of our Yukon volunteers. We truly appreciate your time and commitment to making cancer history. Nous désirons également remercier les nombreux donateurs qui supportent cette cause chaque année.

We also thank the many donors for the support they so generously give every year to this very worthwhile cause. The fight against cancer will be advanced through your continued support. We will make cancer history.

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

Mr. Hardy: I rise on behalf of the NDP caucus to pay tribute to the month of April as Cancer Awareness Month, but, truthfully, cancer is 365 days a year. Though we pay tribute in months, I'm sorry, I see too many people suffering from cancer, too many people dying from cancer, daily, to categorize it as a month.

We're all acquainted too closely with cancer — every single person in here. We all know people who have had to deal with this disease, and many of them are in our own families. One in three Canadians develops cancer in his or her lifetime. It is the leading cause of premature death, and it affects every single age group.

Medical science approaches cancer from a curative stance and there have been many effective treatments coming from substantial research, but most cancers are preventable. The chances of survival can be greatly enhanced through prevention and risk reduction. This requires us to make fundamental changes in our lifestyle, Mr. Speaker. We must all make a commitment to healthy eating and routine exercise. If we are smoking, we should make efforts to quit today, not tomorrow, and to be conscious of the harm of second-hand smoke. We should practice protecting ourselves from the sun and support efforts of environmental organizations to reduce the chemicals in our environment. Timely screening leads to early detection and that's a very important factor in the prevention of cancer.

We must come to grips with the environmental causes of cancer. Our air, water and even the food have changed from past years. They have become more and more dangerous to our health. We must consider the health implications of decisions made in support of our economy that cannot continue without severe risks. Our past carelessness means that our present health is being affected. It is imperative to support the efforts of environmental organizations to reduce the carcinogens in our environment and in the food we eat.

Much more research needs to be done to identify where cancer rates are higher than expected. This is especially true in the north. There is a question I have been asked many times in my visits down south, and that is why are so many more people being sent out of the north for treatment regarding cancer. The doctors and the nurses and the researchers have all noticed that there has been quite an increase in leukemia in the north. Recently, I was talking to one person, and they feel that could be traced to Chernobyl and the fallout from the nuclear meltdown that happened quite a few years ago and now is being seen in

our fish population, in our caribou population, in the food sources that many people in the north eat and rely upon in the north. It can be seen in the quality of our air, and it can be seen in the changing of our environment and the climate change and what that is bringing about.

Let me take this opportunity, like other people in this Legislative Assembly, to thank the thousands of volunteers, researchers and health professionals who ensure that Canadians with cancer have access to the highest quality treatment and care if they are stricken. As well, I would like to thank the charitable organizations and individual donors who assist in fundraising for the Canadian Cancer Society, and there are two members from the society here in the Legislative Assembly today.

Cancer, from my perspective, will continue to grow. Contrary to what I heard on the floor today, there is an increase in cancer, and I believe that the research that's being done out there is struggling to try to keep up with the changes that are happening to the types of cancer that we are all being exposed to now.

I want to close with a very simple quote. I read an extremely powerful book over the last couple months. It's an old book by Ken Wilber, written in 1987 or 1989. It's called *Grace and Grit*. There was a quote in there from his wife, who died of cancer. When she spoke at a gathering, she said, "Because I face death, I live life more fully."

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

In recognition of Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Month

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I rise to pay tribute to Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Month as an opportunity to celebrate the animals, insects, fish and amphibians that also call the Yukon home.

Mr. Speaker, this year, more than 20 organizations and many volunteers are involved in organizing dozens of events across the territory that really affirm the very importance of Yukon's biological diversity to the territory.

One of the most important wetlands in the southern Yukon is the M'Clintock Bay and Lewes Marsh area north of Marsh Lake. Each spring it is one of the first ice-free areas and provides an important staging area for migratory birds, including swans. The Celebration of Swans is a much-loved and internationally recognized community-driven festival of wildlife viewing and appreciation that involves the Girl Guides, Ducks Unlimited, Yukon Energy Corporation, the Department of Environment, local businesses and many dedicated volunteers.

Mr. Speaker, Swan Haven has grown to become one of the most important accessible wildlife-viewing sites in the Yukon, attracting hundreds of individuals to the area each and every year. This year's poster, featuring a photograph by a local photographer, Jukka Jantunen, adds to the variety of the art that has been donated over the years by many Yukon artists.

The task of selecting an image of course gets more difficult each and every year as more artists and photographers bring forward their swan artwork for consideration. It does, however, speak to the level of artistic talent we have here in our respective communities.

A new innovation this year is a special video that has been made possible by the work of Jim Hawkings. Jim donated more than seven hours of high-definition video from Swan Haven in the Marsh Lake area, and the results are truly mesmerizing and a complete joy. Phil Timpany at Wildman Productions has taken that work and produced a three-minute video that will be on display on the screen at the Whitehorse International Airport terminal for the next three months and then three months in the fall.

Swan Haven will be open for visitors starting this Wednesday, open from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on weekday evenings and from 12 noon to 7:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays. Other events over the coming weeks include a biodiversity music showcase, a biodiversity forum, and two family fishing days organized by the Yukon Fish and Game Association.

Special events are also planned for the Sheep Mountain Visitor Centre at Kluane National Park, and the Yukon Wildlife Preserve is offering several special events, including an earth day for birds.

Beyond the month of April, I'm also pleased to note a number of special wildlife viewing events happening in May in the communities of Carcross, Faro, Teslin, the Yukon Wildlife Preserve and at Tombstone Territorial Park.

Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Month also comprises Earth Day on April 22, as well as National Wildlife Week from Sunday, April 5, to Saturday, April 11. This year's theme, "Our home and native plants", is important in terms of Yukon's biodiversity. Yukon is not only home to more than 1,200 plant species, but we are also in the enviable position of having plants that are found nowhere else in this country.

Yukon's biodiversity also has four amphibian species, 38 fish species, 66 mammal species, 227 bird species and, yes, well over 6,000 insect species. Each and every one of those has a very important role to play in Yukon's natural environment.

I encourage all Yukoners to enjoy the outdoor world in your own neighbourhood and celebrate your natural heritage at the many outdoor events this Biodiversity Awareness Month.

There are several ways for everyone to get more information on these and other events. You can visit the Yukon Environment Web site, at the wildlife viewing pages. Also this week, Yukoners will find in each of their respective mailboxes a "Yukon Celebrates Spring 2009" flyer.

It lists the dozens of events planned for April, and dates and times for the five in May as well.

Mr. Speaker, I'd like to take this opportunity to commend the staff of the Department of Environment who contribute to the success of Biodiversity Awareness Month each and every year, as well as their continued work in preserving and protecting Yukon's natural environment each and every day.

Mr. Fairclough: I rise today on behalf of the Official Opposition in recognition of Biodiversity Awareness Month. In celebration of Biodiversity Month, we have an opportunity to pay tribute to our environment, the support of life itself here in the Yukon. There are many unique events planned throughout the Yukon in celebration of Biodiversity Awareness Month. It is a great time to join in events such as National Wildlife

Week, Earth Day and the Celebration of Swans, as these activities are now a part of Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Month.

Biodiversity is very important for the future of our planet, and we need to know more about our ecosystems and how they function in order to protect biodiversity. Biodiversity means a variety of living things, and if the earth's ecosystems are to remain healthy, they require many different species of plants and animals. Every living organism has a role to play in our environment.

Many Yukoners recognize the importance of our ecosystems and are working hard to ensure habitats are suitable, sustainable and protected for our wide variety of species.

As we welcome spring to the Yukon, take a moment to recognize our fragile and unique ecosystems, and help celebrate our diverse environment during Biodiversity Awareness Month.

Mr. Hardy: I rise on behalf of the NDP caucus to pay tribute to the month of April as Yukon Biodiversity Awareness Month.

The Yukon Department of Environment Web site states: Simply put, biodiversity means a variety of living things. If the earth's ecosystems are to remain healthy, they require many different kinds of species of plants and animals. Every living organism has a role to play in our environment.

I want to take this opportunity to talk about one of my favourite Yukon animals as an example: the wolf. I'll look at a few points about biodiversity and the interconnectedness of life from the perspective of this beautiful animal. The wolf — in Latin, *Canis lupus*, called gray wolf, or timberwolf — is found in Canada, Russia, parts of the U.S., Europe, northern China, and a few pockets here and there. At one time, the wolf inhabited virtually all of the northern hemisphere. Yukon's wolf population is estimated by outfitters to be around 4,500 animals. If an area can sustain a large population of wolves, it's a reflection of the health of the whole ecosystem.

It means there is enough prey for the wolves, and it means the prey species are healthy because they have access to the necessities of life to thrive. Wolves are found over the entire Yukon but are more abundant where moose numbers are high.

Another interesting fact is that, where wolves are present, the population of feline predators like lynx and cougars are low. Wolves are apex predators, meaning they are preyed upon by no one aside from humans and are at the end of a long food chain, where they have a crucial role of maintaining the health of ecosystems.

It may sound rough, Mr. Speaker, but the prey owes the predator something. Through predation of the weak and the old, predators provide the stimulus for genetic fitness. Wolves in the Yukon have an annual home range that varies from 500 to 2,500 square kilometres. Average home range size is about 1,000 square kilometres per pack. They require a huge territory; human encroachment into this habitat and the shrinking of their territory through human development is one of the greatest threats to the health of wolves and the ecosystems they inhabit.

There are many symbiotic relationships between different species in the wild, where the behaviour of each benefits the other. Wolves and ravens have developed a symbiotic relationship that depends on each other. Wolves have learned to watch ravens for clues of danger. When they see ravens circling, they know there is food nearby. Ravens follow wolves and rely on scraps from their kills. Interestingly, scientists say they tend to avoid carcasses where wolves are not present.

Now there is a beautiful Yukon cultural connection to the symbiotic relationship when we think of the clan system of the Yukon First Nations. We are lucky enough to live in a part of the world where animals like wolves can thrive because of the wild spaces that are untouched by the human footprint. But who is to say what the future holds. When we step into adjust predator populations to ensure our own harvesting of animals, we are walking a very fine line. Our actions can have ramifications never imagined. Let us never forget the fact that we are the most prolific, dangerous, destructive predator on this planet. If we want to enjoy and marvel at the Yukon's biodiversity and the health of its amazing animal populations, we must minimize our ecological impact on the land and preserve areas from development.

Speaker: Are there any further tributes?

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Hart: Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in welcoming two members of the Yukon Canadian Cancer Society, Elaine Smart and Blake Rogers, who are in the gallery today.

Applause

Mr. Cardiff: I would like ask all Members of the Legislative Assembly to join me in welcoming Mr. Keith Clarke, teacher of the grade 4 and 5 class at Golden Horn Elementary School, as well as all of the students joining us from Golden Horn school today, and the parents and chaperones.

Applause

Mr. Hardy: I would like the Legislative Assembly to join me in welcoming an old friend, an old Yukoner I remember from back in the days of F.H. Collins, a very athletic young man back then, Mr. Bill Mooney.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any further introductions of visitors?

Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

Are there any notices of motion?

NOTICES OF MOTION

Mr. Inverarity: I give notice of the following motion for the production of papers:

THAT this House do issue an order for the return of reports regarding the studies done on the Watson Lake hospital by:

- (1) Kobayashi & Zedda Design Group; and
- (2) Resource Planning Group Inc.

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to respond to health care needs and responsibly expand health care funding by:

- (1) establishing systems of primary care clinics that are team-based multi-disciplinary models;
- (2) supporting home care systems so that seniors can live comfortably and safely at home;
- (3) establishing public education programs for nutrition, injury prevention, mental health and addictions;
- (4) providing a continuum of care for treatment of addictions that include detoxification, counselling, intensive in-patient treatment and after-care; and
- (5) enhancing prenatal programs, especially in rural Yukon.

As well, Mr. Speaker, I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House immediately establish a special legislative committee whose mission would be to banish party politics from the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Speaker: Are there any further notices of motion?

Hearing none, is there a statement by a minister?

Hearing none, that brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Whitehorse Correctional Centre rebuild

Mr. Mitchell: I have a question for the Minister of Justice. The government has confirmed that it is commencing construction of the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre. It is now seven years behind schedule. The estimated cost is \$67 million, plus the cost of repairs to the present centre over the past seven years, plus future costs associated with the conversion of the women's transitional centre. Who knows the real cost.

Now all of this is starting without a completed set of architectural drawings. Without these drawings, final costs cannot be determined. We cannot go to tender without the plans.

Will the minister confirm that the \$67-million figure is at best an estimate, and that the final cost could be significantly higher?

Hon. Ms. Horne: I presume we are talking about our lean, green, mean corrections machine.

Mr. Speaker, we have designated \$21.6 million in our capital budget this year. The total estimated cost is \$67 million. We are building it to higher green standards than the previous facility. Our current staffing complement provides us with sufficient staff resources to operate the new facility. Our goal is to help offenders heal, so more staff will be working in living units, and will be providing programming. The new treatment

and correctional facility will allow us the flexibility to have more correctional officers providing programming.

We have to break the recidivism cycle. This new building, along with our new act, and many of the other initiatives we are undertaking in correctional reform, are designed to reduce our recidivism rate.

Let me say again: the new multi-purpose facility is a treatment and correctional centre that emphasizes treatment rehabilitation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the members opposite if they want to reduce recidivism or not. Do the members opposite want us to invest in treatment or not?

Mr. Mitchell: If the minister wants to ask questions, there's room over here.

Mr. Speaker, \$67 million is not lean. We hope it will be green and I'm not going to touch "mean". Unbelievable — seven lost years and an increase of at least \$42 million and no plans. This government hasn't learned from its past mistakes. They're now trying to shoehorn a hospital into an empty shell in Watson Lake and have jeopardized \$36.5 million in bad investments of Yukon taxpayers' money. But all of that is piling in comparison to the potential of this project to become a white elephant of trophy size.

Yukoners do not want a \$25-million correctional centre to jump to \$67 million, and who knows how much more before it's done? Is there not anyone on that side of the House who can see what's happening here? They are still in a financial stewpot in Watson Lake and here we go again.

The project is seven years overdue now. A couple more months of waiting for the plans isn't unreasonable.

Will the minister do that? Will she wait until there are plans?

Hon. Ms. Horne: If we're talking about mistakes here, let's talk about the facility that the Liberals planned.

The building would have been more expensive — operations and maintenance. The building would have been a bigger, newer warehouse, but still a warehouse. Isolation means the workplace is less safe for correctional officers and inmates. It did not have enhanced programming options or programming space for male offenders. It did not have enhanced facilities for female offenders.

I am truly amazed at the lack of consultation that the Liberals did on that mistake they were planning.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, certainly the minister didn't look at the documents that were tabled last week to say what she is saying. Instead of discussing a project they cancelled seven years ago, let's talk about the project they are trying to get off the ground. The North Fraser Pretrial Centre is a one-of-a-kind facility in Canada. It houses 490 inmates and cost \$32.4-million to build. That is an average cost of \$66,000 plus per inmate.

Now taking the minister's conservative figure of \$67 million for 168 inmates, that works out to \$398,810 per inmate. That is over 500 percent more.

Usually with this government, Mr. Speaker, costs balloon well after a project starts. This one appears to be out of control and it hasn't even started.

The Auditor General said, in referring to past projects of this government, "We did not find any documented project plans that clearly set out a strategy and a course of action for completing a project." History has once again found a way to repeat itself.

Will the minister cease and desist with the construction until the true cost has actually been determined?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I marvel at the Leader of the Official Opposition's crocodilian approach to corrections in this territory. We have been talking in this House about a concept for corrections that began in the early 1900s, that the former Liberals were going to proceed with when in government, and obviously this Leader of the Liberal Party supports fully.

There are major steps being taken in the territory when it comes to the reform of our corrections system, inclusive of substance abuse action and dealing with root problems in our society, more constructive and more effective in dealing with those who find themselves in our justice system.

The investment we make today is far more than bricks and mortar: it's an investment in Yukon society, and an investment in Yukon's future. The comparisons the member is making to what this government is doing in the full context of correctional reform — a new facility that is for multi-purpose use, a women's transitional unit, a facility that will be turned over to health care for further use long into the future — there is no comparison, Mr. Speaker.

What we inherited was a pile of dirt. That was the Liberal plan for a correctional centre, and we had enough prudence to incorporate that pile of dirt into this project.

Question re: Whitehorse Correctional Centre rebuild

Mr. Mitchell: Clearly, the cost of the proposed new Whitehorse Correctional Centre continues to be very much up in the air; however, we are equally concerned that the programming to be offered is also incomplete, and a work in progress.

Since yesterday, we have heard from many Yukoners. They're alarmed that the general public will have to go to "the jail," as they refer to it, to receive the help they need, but they are also angry — angry at the insensitivity of this government, and angry at the lack of consultation on this multi-use plan process. They are very upset. Mr. Speaker, the first step is to identify the needs. The second step is to develop programs, and the third is to design a building around those programs. The building is not yet designed and the programs are clearly not finished. Will the minister undertake to table in this House the complete set of programs that will be offered at the new facility?

Hon. Ms. Horne: I'd like to know which hole in the sand the member opposite's head has been in for the last five years while we have been out consulting.

Speaker's statement

Speaker: Order please. The honourable minister, of course, knows that those types of remarks are inappropriate. The honourable minister has the floor.

Hon. Ms. Horne: The new treatment and correctional facility is part of a larger package of correctional reform that includes a new act and a new way of providing help to offenders. Flowing out of our extensive consultations was a focus on treatment and programming to help us reduce our recidivism rates.

The new multi-purpose treatment and correctional facility will not be a warehouse. Offenders will receive treatment opportunities for their substance abuse issues. This facility will work in concert with our initiatives on correctional reform with the substance abuse action plan and our expanding options for treatment — like the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court and Community Wellness Court. Helping offenders become healthy — that is what the facility is for.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, while this minister tries to frame this issue in terms like “warehouse”, I would like to remind her that hundreds and hundreds of Yukoners have been warehoused for seven years since this government cancelled the plans for a new facility.

Mr. Speaker, the minister and the Premier have made much of the new transitional women’s living unit. This is 21st century stuff, claims the Premier. Yesterday we learned that citizens requiring the benefits of alcohol or drug addiction counselling may have to go to the WCC. We understand the new women’s transitional unit will be transferred to the Department of Health and Social Services down the road.

Would the Minister of Health and Social Services give this House a brief overview of the programs to be offered at the transitional living unit in its new role once it has been transferred?

Hon. Ms. Horne: Again, warehousing — that’s what the facility would be today if the Liberals had continued. We’re comparing an ox cart to a space shuttle in this case and we have the facility. The members opposite are questioning why our approach is better than theirs. It is obvious they still have some concerns because they keep asking questions — questioning this new facility. Let me share with you some of the reasons why our approach is the right one.

We are building a multi-purpose treatment and correctional centre. Our focus is on treatment and corrections to help reduce the number of incarcerated individuals by reducing our recidivism rate. We are offering more individualized programming for the inmates. The new facility will further provide even more opportunities to provide programming to Yukoners. Our facility will reflect First Nation values and will have a formal place for First Nation culture. Our approach provides more respect and dignity to female inmates. We are using the enhanced direct supervision. Where are the errors in our plans?

Mr. Mitchell: Well, that would require having the plans, wouldn’t it? Officials from the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Social Services are currently working together to determine the most appropriate types of programs that could be operated from this new building. This sounds like it’s a very long way from maturity. In fact, we’re not even convinced it has even started.

Here we are, once more — seven years, grandiose announcements, no plans. As the commercial says, “Where’s the

beef?” Here are two key pillars so frequently floated by this government — drug addiction programs and the women’s transitional unit — not completed. We aren’t sure if they’ve even been started. Where has this government been over the last seven years, speaking of in the sand? It certainly has not been designing a new correctional facility.

Will the Minister of Health and Social Services call upon his Cabinet colleagues to halt this project until they get it under control and before any more money is jeopardized? Or, is he looking forward to inheriting this one too?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I think the member is starting to understand something here when he speaks of time elapse and expense that is the direct result of that time elapsed. Actually this correctional reform process should have taken place in the Yukon decades ago.

We have been warehousing individuals to the detriment of our society; it’s a waste of time for our courts; it’s wasting the police force’s time; it is costing the taxpayer far more money to warehouse individuals who should be dealt with in another manner.

Let me remind the Leader of the Official Opposition that not only is this multi-purpose facility going to accomplish that — no matter what he says about plan or program; the distance here is the member’s distance from reality — it will also include enhanced security for those individuals who must be incarcerated.

Furthermore, this territory does not house or incarcerate individuals whose crime is serious to the point where they must serve federal time. That time is served outside this territory.

So, Mr. Speaker, what we’re doing is enhancing, overall, the process in the Yukon when it comes to justice, corrections, substance abuse, incarceration and security for the public.

Question re: *Child and Youth Advocate Act*

Mr. Hardy: We commend the government for its response to consultations by adding the child and youth advocate position as an important service for Yukon children and youth; however, there are several reasons why the tabling of this proposed *Child and Youth Advocate Act* has caused concern.

First Nations claim that there has been inadequate consultation on all child welfare matters. As in the past, requests from First Nations for collaborative work through working groups on this latest child welfare legislation have been ignored. In a letter to the Minister of Indian Affairs, the Council of Yukon First Nations has labelled this government’s pushing forward legislation without proper consultation and work as reckless and irresponsible. Will the Premier consider deferring the debate on the *Child and Youth Advocate Act* until the fall sitting in order to work more closely with the stakeholders he professes to consult?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Well, Mr. Speaker, the short answer: absolutely not, because by law the government is required to have this act before the Legislature within 12 months of the debate and passage of the new *Child and Family Services Act* for this territory, and we are abiding by the law.

Secondly, to suggest that there has been no consultation in this area is absolutely ludicrous. Five years of consultation took

place to get us to this point in dealing with the health and safety of children.

That consultation began with an agreement with First Nations that this government has not deviated from. That consultation included a joint partnership with First Nations to get us to where we are today.

Mr. Speaker, that process included jointly informing the drafting of the *Child and Family Services Act* that has been passed in this Legislature. Are we going to stand down on the advocate who is an independent body and will report to this Assembly? Absolutely not.

Mr. Hardy: Well, Mr. Speaker, as per usual, a request from this side often gets rejected by the other side. Even when we try to put it in better light, it is just not acceptable.

The structure for the position of the child and youth advocate that is proposed in the bill is also a problem for many First Nations and for non-governmental organizations. The view that many people have is an advocate's job is to represent and help children and youth — all children and youth. In this bill, the advocate's basic work is restricted to advising children and youth who are receiving services or who are eligible to receive services from government. The position advises on how to access designated services and promotes the interest of the child or youth to receive services provided by the Department of Health and Social Services and Department of Education. This means that services provided by non-governmental organizations, such as child development centres, daycares, the Grandparents' Rights Association of Yukon and any corporation such as Yukon Hospital Corporation, are not on the list.

Will the Premier reconsider the narrow functions outlined in this act and redesign it to more adequately meet the responsible expectations of Yukoners?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Here we go. The opposition — in this case the third party — has already precluded any process of debate in this House on the act, number one. Number two, he totally ignores the fact that the function of the advocate is to deal with a specific area. Are we not — every person in this Assembly and every adult in the territory — advocates for children? Mr. Speaker, we are living up to our obligation under the law.

Now I find with great interest that the Leader of the Third Party suggests that any request or some proposal offered to this House — to the government side — is refused. I'm confused about that. How does the leader explain safer community neighbourhoods legislation? How does the leader explain the substance abuse action plan? How does the leader explain the smoking-ban legislation? These were all instruments unanimously developed and supported in this House. As recently as last week, the government side clearly supported an opposition motion. Let's have a realistic debate.

Mr. Hardy: Mr. Speaker, I actually agree with the Premier on this. Yes, substance abuse action plan — I know where that came from. It was an initiative we worked together to bring about.

SCAN legislation — I also know where that came about and, ultimately, we worked together to bring that about. The *Smoke-free Places Act* — I know where that came from. I also

know what happened in the Legislative Assembly that brought that into place and will benefit so many people in the Yukon.

I know we can work together, that's why I'm asking the question here; that's why I'm asking if the Premier will find a way in order to address some of the concerns that have been brought forward by First Nations — the CYFN and Ta'an Kwäch'än specifically — in regard to this, as well as some of the concerns we have in here that have been expressed to us by various organizations, NGOs. Will he consider expanding that debate to allow representation from those groups before the Legislative Assembly?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I'm trying to be very clear and understanding. No, we're not going to stand down on the child advocate legislation because by law we're required to have it tabled before this Assembly and put into action now.

I want to make reference to what the leader is suggesting that he understands, based on the information he has received on the rationale why we should stand down.

The information is incorrect. He is suggesting there was no consultation on this particular area of policy and legislative framework, as applied in the Yukon.

That's not factual, and I've just reiterated why that is. Over five years of consultation, agreements, partnership, jointly informing legislation — that's why we see no reason to accept the request. There is absolutely no rationale to do so.

We've done our work, we've met our obligations, and we're getting on with dealing with the health, well-being and safety of children in Yukon.

Question re: Watson Lake health centre

Mr. Inverarity: In 2004, the Yukon Party government announced \$5.2 million to construct a multi-level care facility in Watson Lake. We have spent that much money already, and even now the project isn't even half-finished. They started the ball rolling by handing out several sole-source contracts to people in the Premier's riding — no tendering, no open competition, just handing out the contracts.

In 2007, the Auditor General of Canada's report criticized the way the government was handling this project, and the government ignored that advice. The Auditor General said roles and responsibilities for projects were not clearly defined. Two years later, this problem still persists.

Who is now managing this project, Mr. Speaker — Health and Social Services, Highways and Public Works or the Hospital Corporation?

Hon. Mr. Hart: For the member opposite, the main focus, as I mentioned before, on this particular project is to ensure and enhance health care for the citizens of all of the Yukon, and in particular for those citizens in Watson Lake.

Mr. Inverarity: Well, it would be nice to get an answer to the question, so we could direct the question to the right minister.

Mr. Speaker, this project has been poorly managed from the beginning. In her 2007 report, the auditor said, "We expect that the Department of Highways and Public Works would apply sound project management practices, and adhere to the directive for planning and implementing building development projects. However, we found weakness in managing building

development projects. In projects that we looked at, we did not find any documented project plans that clearly set out a strategy and a course of action for completing the project.”

This clearly applies to the Watson Lake hospital, where the government still doesn't have a plan in place. Will the minister confirm that almost \$5 million has been spent on this project to date?

Hon. Mr. Hart: For the member opposite, yes, we have expended the amount the member has indicated with regard to that facility, but as I indicated previously, we're looking at enhancing health care for our citizens in Watson Lake.

As such, we are going through the process, in conjunction with the Whitehorse Hospital Corporation, to assess the needs for that particular building and how that building can be utilized to enhance health care for Watson Lake residents.

Mr. Inverarity: We are now five years into this project, and the government still has no idea how it will end up. The chair of the Hospital Corporation admitted as much last week when he said that whether the shell is even in an appropriate location for the hospital remains undecided.

It sounds to me like they are going to move it, Mr. Speaker.

The previous Health and Social Services minister has moved on to another job, because he was unable to complete this project effectively. The government is now funding two separate studies to try to decide where to go to next. I guess they will keep paying for studies until someone tells them what they really want to hear. The government has set aside \$2.5 million in this year's budget for this particular project.

What does the government plan to spend this money on?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: In listening to the Member for Porter Creek South, it brings to mind the fact that the real problem here is the Official Opposition's attempt to create something that isn't happening.

Mr. Speaker, when they asked what the investment to date achieved, did they think the new structure that's on the ground today, with the external heating facility and all the underground plumbing and mechanical that goes with it, just fell out of the sky? It cost money to put that on the ground.

In conjunction with that, in this process it became very apparent that the existing hospital — and that's another thing the members can't get their heads wrapped around: Watson Lake has had a functioning hospital since the late 1970s. The existing hospital, structurally, was time expired. That only came to light when the attachment of the new building was at the work-in-progress point where they started looking into the structure of the old facility.

So we've made a conscious decision on behalf of health care for Yukoners. What's it going to cost? Whatever it costs this territory to provide health care services to Yukoners will be the cost.

Question re: Decorum in the House

Mr. McRobb: I wish to raise an important policy matter in the public's interest. All elected members of this Assembly should be fully aware by now of the public demand for a higher level of debate in this House. There was much to-do about the increased decorum issue in the previous sitting. At

that time, the Premier committed to raise the bar of debate in this House. He reconfirmed that commitment on Thursday of last week. For the record, here's what he said — on the record: “We will be very expeditious in moving the business forward day to day here in the House and do our level best to help expedite that debate.”

My question for the Premier is a simple one: has he communicated this commitment to his Cabinet colleagues and what will he do to ensure they comply with this policy?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I think it's pretty clear by way of the evidence recorded in *Hansard* what the real issue is here. However, as far as expediting the public's business in this House in a constructive and productive way in the spirit of cooperation, I ask the Member for Kluane: how does he explain the fact that we are already debating departments in the largest budget in the history of the Yukon Territory some six to seven days into the sitting? If he looks back in history, he will find that is a dramatic increase in our ability to be expeditious.

Mr. McRobb: No answer — and the reason is because this government has deferred general debate.

Now, actions speak louder than words, Mr. Speaker. Let's examine what occurred on the very first day in this spring sitting, in which this government had the opportunity to practise what it preaches. Yesterday, when debating the Department of Economic Development in Committee of the Whole, the minister gave lengthy responses without answering questions, and spoke at length on matters extraneous to the question.

For example, he was asked a straightforward question about whether his focus had changed due to the current global economic uncertainty — an honest question, deserving an honest answer. Mr. Speaker, the question had to be asked five more times, yet wasn't answered once among the minister's 3,517 words transcribed in *Hansard*. Does the Premier believe such conduct is consistent with his public commitments to raise the bar and expedite debate in this House?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Well you know, Mr. Speaker, I would wonder, as I'm sure all listening would wonder, does the Leader of the Official Opposition actually sanction this? The member has just said that we've deferred general debate, yet he went into a long dissertation on the amount of general debate that took place yesterday. I cannot answer a question in this manner. There's no answer to the question, and I think the member himself put it on record yesterday of what Question Period is all about. Question Period is not about getting information. I rest the government's case.

Mr. McRobb: Mr. Speaker, there are two general debates, and this didn't take place in Question Period. There is yet another example from yesterday to bring to the Premier's attention. At a point later in the afternoon, both opposition parties signalled they were prepared to clear general debate on this department and advance to line debate.

Instead of cooperating and expediting debate, we were subjected to a display that, in fact, might be unprecedented in terms of being unproductive in this House. That's when another government minister stood and asked his own colleague a question that prompted a lengthy answer. This consumed another 20

minutes of House time and prolonged general debate. Like I said, Mr. Speaker, actions speak louder than words.

It's time to nip this in the bud and live up to commitments made to the public. What will the Premier now do to ensure his ministers conduct themselves in accordance with his public commitments to raise the bar?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: This is an interesting line of questioning, but I've got to say that the Official Opposition has made much about the economy, so the government chose to put before the House the Department of Economic Development for debate.

This is the outcome from the Official Opposition who are actually here to hold government to account on behalf of the public when it comes to debating the Department of Economic Development on our actions in the economy. I haven't heard a thing that relates to debate yesterday about the economy. Of course the minister is here to provide, in detail, information about what the Department of Economic Development is doing and will continue to do to build Yukon's economy.

Let me remind the Member for Kluane about the progress that we've made since coming into office when it comes to building Yukon's economy. We have done that without the Official Opposition, who have voted against every investment this government has brought forward that has made a great contribution to stimulating the Yukon economy. I am sure they will vote against the biggest budget in the history of the Yukon Territory with the largest capital investment ever stimulating the Yukon economy. Shame on the Official Opposition.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 702

Clerk: Motion No. 702, standing in the name of Mr. Nordick.

Speaker: It is moved by the Member for Klondike THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to present the business case, entitled *Healthy People Strong North: A Case for the Continued and Enhanced Strategic Investment in the Health Care Systems of the Territories*, to the Government of Canada for the continuation or replacement of funds, such as the territorial health access fund, which are designed to meet the unique health care needs and challenges of the north.

Mr. Nordick: Mr. Speaker, I will be brief in my opening comments and look forward to other members' comments on this important topic. I will briefly outline the main argument for the continued funding of the territorial health system sustainability initiative. I would like to say that this is an important initiative for all Yukoners, and I urge all members of this House to support this motion.

One of the primary motivations for the federal government to consider the argument for increased funding is the federal role to assist the provinces and territories to provide comparable services at comparable levels of taxation. The north has a relatively small tax base and a relatively high cost for services. In the case of health, the territorial governments have the primary responsibility for health care for their residents. However, the federal government has a number of roles and responsibilities that make it an important player in the health of the north, particularly in the areas of aboriginal health, community-based wellness programs, regulatory responsibilities and information sharing.

The logic behind the case for the new territorial health initiative is relatively succinct. Federal priorities and policies for the nation and the north can in part be achieved through investment in northern health. For this funding investment to be effective, the investment must acknowledge the unique environment and health-delivery challenges of the north.

The policy question presented in the argument for renewed funding comes down to the fact that per capita funding for health care does not work in the north. I would like to repeat that: per capita funding for health care does not work in the north. The consequences for the health system of the north are dependent on the choice made.

The argument is also made that the termination of funding in 2010 will jeopardize and undermine the success of the current federal investment in the northern health care systems. Mr. Speaker, this is the heart of the matter. The federal government can choose to continue the building of future health care capacities in the north or they can decide to withdraw funding from the north.

I look forward to this debate today and I urge all members to support this motion.

Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Hart: I rise today in this House to debate this motion. It gives me great pleasure to do so, and I am proud of serving my constituents as an elected member of this Legislative Assembly.

As my colleague indicated, the crux of the issue we are debating today is the sustainability of our health care system. In the Yukon, we are experiencing our greatest expenditure in history in the area of health care. We need to look at the sustainability of our health care system, and we need to look at making a strong business case to Canada for continuation of the territorial health care sustainability initiative. The population-driven funding provided to the Yukon from Canada in the form of the Canadian health transfer is, quite simply, not enough money to sustain our current health care system, nor is it enough to provide equivalent health care to Yukoners that Canadians enjoy in the south.

I will briefly outline the business case and associated reports to Canada. It needs to be noted that this report was developed by the three northern territories and, as such, is the property of the three territories. This is not the property of just one government, but of all three. The cooperation in putting together this business case and the report across the territories is

a testament to how we are working with our sister territories on this very important issue.

The north has unique challenges as compared to the south, and within the north, each territory has its own challenges. However, we three territories are standing united on our call to Ottawa with a need for further funding in health care. Renewal of the territorial health system sustainability initiative funding beyond the 2010 expiry date will allow us to obtain the original stated territorial health access fund objectives of reducing reliance over time on our health care system, strengthening community-level services, and building self-reliant capacity to provide services in-territory.

The main case — by addressing access to health care in the north, the territorial health system sustainability initiative will aid and support the capacity of the Yukon, the Northwest Territories and Nunavut to improve efficiencies of the territorial systems and strengthen health care promotion and illness-prevention efforts.

Federal health funding has successfully assisted the territories to begin to achieve the original stated objectives for this funding. The business case to Canada builds on the success and argues that, to be fully successful in the longer term, there is a requirement for continued and, in some case, conditional funding grants — in other words, a territorial health initiative. To achieve the goal of comparable levels of health services, more federal funding is needed in the territories than anywhere else in Canada.

The logic behind our case for a new federal fund is relatively succinct: federal priorities and policies for the nation and the north can, in part, be achieved through a strategic investment in northern health. Moreover, for this funding investment to be effective, the investment must acknowledge the unique environmental and health-delivery challenges of the north and the need to develop solutions unique to those challenges in each of the territories.

Comparable health programs and services are a primary determinant of health from the policy perspective, as well as being both a constitutional right and a federal responsibility. The path to achieving the federal policy priorities for the north is through strategic investment to ensure healthy people, healthy communities, and sufficient and effective infrastructure, including health care capacity.

In summary, the question of our case comes down to the federal government choosing to continue the systemic building of our future health care capacity in the north. The argument will also be made that determination of funding in 2010 will undermine the successes and transformative contributions of the current federal investment in the northern health care systems.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I would just like to highlight the importance of this issue for health for all Yukoners and all northerners. We have come a long way in five years by building capacity in the territories for health care.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all members of this House to support this motion. Supporting this motion is support for a united call to Ottawa for a sustained funding for health care that is needed by Yukoners and by all northerners across the north.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Mitchell: I thank the mover of the motion for his motion and the Health and Social Services minister for his comments to the motion.

This motion that we have in front of us today regarding the business case, entitled *Healthy People Strong North: A Case for the Continued and Enhanced Strategic Investment in the Health Care Systems of the Territories* — making that case to the Government of Canada is certainly something that all of us as legislators recognize as extremely important to the Yukon.

I think the minister hit upon it quite clearly when he talked about providing comparable health programs to Yukoners equivalent to the services they would receive anywhere else in Canada. Let's be realistic. There are some 34,000 Yukoners who live in this beautiful territory. We would be a small city if you took that entire population and located it in the Okanagan, perhaps the size of Penticton. We agree with the Minister of Health and Social Services and the Member for Klondike that per capita funding simply can't get the job done. When you start looking at the kind of expenses that we incur today, when we look at CAT scans, when we talk about the possibility of an MRI in Yukon — not only the capital costs, but the O&M costs of funding the expert technicians, the physicians, the radiologists and so forth that we need to provide these services, or the alternative, which is to continue to send people Outside for specialist services — it's very, very expensive.

We were at the Health and Social Services department briefing just this morning, and the deputy minister and his officials again reminded us that health care costs are going up in this territory and projected to continue going up some eight to 10 percent annually, and that if this continues at that pace and we don't have access to funding, we're going to be in a very, very difficult position. The example that the deputy gave was that the health budget could become half of the entire budget of Yukon in a very short period of time.

Now, I'm not known for being very amenable to buying a pig in a poke, so to speak, and we have not seen the document that the Premier and his colleagues will be presenting to the federal Health minister and to the Finance minister of Canada regarding the continuation of funding that's not based on a per capita basis; however, the Leader of the Third Party and I had an opportunity to meet with the Premier earlier this morning and he explained to us his inability to provide us with that document at this time, based on the fact that it's a document that includes three jurisdictions and he would need the acquiescence of the others.

I'm going to go along with that at this point, because I think it's to the benefit of Yukoners that this House stand united in support of the need for this funding to carry forward. We know that the government is concerned. Last year, mains to mains, as has been pointed out, the budget for O&M in Health and Social Services was \$209 million and this year it's \$229 million, an increase of \$20 million — although, by the time you look at what's forecast for last year, it's only a one-percent increase, or some \$3 million, because of additional monies that

came in supplementary spending during the year, and we would expect that will happen again this year.

So \$229 million is only the starting point. There will likely be millions more added again over the course of the year and that is a concern, and needs to be, to all members of this House.

The government's case was laid out in the *Yukon Health Care Review*, the report that we received in the fall sitting. Right now, the government is undertaking to do public consultations on health care. In fact, there is one scheduled for here in Whitehorse for tomorrow night. I would encourage Yukoners to attend that because there is some pretty startling information about the current trends that they will learn about. It would be good for them to take part in this process.

In this report last year, the government said in making their case that the Government of Yukon is apprehensive that the imminent termination in 2009-10 of over \$10 million per year in transitional health funding provided by the federal government over the past five years will seriously jeopardize the fiscal future of Yukon. Unless this federal funding is renewed, there will have to be major adjustments made to the government's fiscal framework in order to deal with these funding reductions. If transitional funding such as the territorial health access fund, or THAF, is not renewed on a permanent basis, the projected health care funding gap will grow from the projected \$250 million in coming years to approximately \$350 million — I think that was over a 10-year period.

We were told this morning that it is growing at eight to 10 percent per year — the costs.

In 2003 and 2004, the federal government recognized some of the challenges facing the north in the area of health care delivery and, as a consequence, they provided some additional funding in the form of the 2003 northern health supplement — \$20 million for Yukon over three years — the 2004 territorial health access funding, which provides Yukon with \$21.6 million, plus an additional \$8 million for medical travel over five years.

That funding is set to expire in 2009-10. We heard today that these funds have been used to provide a variety of health care services, in terms of the health access, increased and improved mammography services, echocardiographic technology to better improve the information that's available in diagnosing people's cardiac issues, improvement in increased specialist services, the electronic distribution of lab results to physicians — so we do know this money is important.

We were also told today in the Health and Social Services briefing that, in effect, there are some 58 to 60 people directly employed in the provision of health care as a result of these funds and, without that funding, the jobs those people are doing on behalf of Yukoners would be jeopardized.

I could go on at more length, but I think the important issue here is the argument that the Canada health transfer should not be based on a per capita formula, as that would not allow Yukon, N.W.T. or Nunavut to provide adequate health care, is a very strong and legitimate argument and we do support it.

We have no problem, therefore, supporting the government's approach because the pressure on our health care budget is increasing every year. I do want to note for the record that

this is part and parcel of why we hold the government's feet to the fire when we think money is being spent less than efficiently. And some of that money has been spent in the area of health care, as we have discussed with the Watson Lake project, where it seems to have morphed into a different project without previous and initial planning to become that.

At this point, I know that the Leader of the Third Party has some other commitments, and I want to ensure that he is able to get on the record in support of this. It's important that the House be united to support this case to Canada, and we will be supporting this motion.

Mr. Hardy: As the Leader of the Official Opposition has indicated, we did meet with the Premier in regard to this motion that was brought forward. Possibly, if the motion had been worded slightly differently, in hindsight, we wouldn't necessarily be talking about the business plan, particularly, but we would be talking about the united front that is necessary to ensure that the Premier and the Health and Social Services minister are able to make a very, very strong case on behalf of Yukon people, in conjunction with Nunavut and N.W.T. representatives, in ensuring that the unique situation that we have in the north is recognized by the federal government and that monies such as the northern health supplement do not dry up, and that there is other funding that is granted toward the north to meet those challenges.

Of course, we all know that the per capita won't work if we're trying to ensure that the people of the northern territories receive the same type of care and opportunities of care that people in the southern provinces have access to, mostly because they have the larger tax base to supplement or to enhance their transfers from the government. We don't have that up here.

The challenges that we face are transportation, environmental challenges and trying to ensure that we have comparable health programs. Meeting the requirements of the *Health Act*, of course, is number one — and also in many ways, looking at the unique challenges that people face in the north with regard to — as I've said before in the Legislative Assembly — being the canaries in the mine shaft when it comes to many illnesses that are popping up around the world. People in the north seem to be subject to it at an earlier stage and sometimes at a greater intensity.

So there are a few ways to approach this. One is of course getting the federal government to recognize — as they have in the past — the uniqueness of the north and the fact that people up here deserve just as good care as anywhere else in Canada, but also recognizing that in the north there is a great opportunity to do a lot of research around many of the illnesses and diseases that are coming to the forefront, which are increasing the cost of health care all over Canada and not just in the north.

I think that should also be part of the lobbying effort and that is that the federal government does make an investment in a research centre up in the north — and it could be in regard to the things that we talked about earlier, and that is cancers; it could be in regard to diabetes. We have a higher rate of diabetes in the north, I believe, than just about anywhere else in Can-

ada. So maybe, possibly, the federal government should make an investment with the territorial governments to have some research done in the north and not all the research happening in the south.

I support and I will stand side by side with this government, with the Premier and with the Health and Social Services minister, in fighting for the rights of the people of the north when it comes to health care. I put my trust that the business plan that is being brought forward is one that is for the best of the people of this territory. I believe that it probably is. Though we don't have the business case in front of us — and it was explained to us why it wasn't going to be available until the Premier had authorization to share it with us — I am comfortable with the plan that is being brought forward based upon the Premier's comments in our meeting today.

However, I will not support cuts to our health care system. If the federal government is moving in this direction, I believe they need to be challenged and challenged very seriously. I will not support the north being treated less well than anyone else in Canada. I will not support privatization in any way, shape or form, of our health care system. I hope that is not part and parcel of any direction we are going in.

The federal government must recognize all people's rights to equal treatment, no matter where they live, no matter what their income. It must be free and it must be public. Health care workers need to be treated with respect, and you do that by ensuring that they get the proper training, are kept up to speed with the phenomenal changes that happen within their fields. They need to be paid accordingly for the work they do, because I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, their work is extremely stressful and very taxing.

We must ensure that the public is comfortable in knowing that they will be cared for, no matter what. That's primary; that's why we have a health act. We must hold on to that. That's what separates us from so many other countries in the world. That's what makes Canada great in so many areas.

So, I support this. I support the challenges, I support the actions of the three territories uniting together to once again make a business case for why we need to have more funding. As I have already said, the NDP will stand side by side as long as the principles of the *Health Act* are adhered to and the people of the north's interests are put foremost. Thank you.

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

Mr. Nordick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I'd like to thank all members for supporting this motion, and that's the conclusion of my comments. Thank you.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Horne: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Hart: Agree.

Mr. Nordick: Agree.

Mr. Mitchell: Agree.

Mr. McRobb: Agree.

Mr. Elias: Agree.

Mr. Fairclough: Agree.

Mr. Inverarity: Agree.

Mr. Hardy: Agree.

Mr. Cardiff: Agree.

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

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

Motion No. 702 agreed to

Motion No. 691

Clerk: Motion No. 691, standing in the name of Mr. Nordick.

Speaker: It is moved by the Member for Klondike:

THAT this House urges the Yukon Government to proceed with the implementation of a number of priority initiatives identified in the Corrections Action Plan, some of which include:

(1) the implementation of correctional reform through the ongoing operations of the corrections action plan implementation office;

(2) passage and implementation of new Yukon *Corrections Act, 2009*, based on the principles, which provide for the rehabilitation, healing and reintegration of offenders into society;

(3) the construction of a new correctional centre built in conjunction with a new treatment centre;

(4) the implementation of the enhanced direct supervision model in the operation of the new correctional centre including human resource development and training for staff such as the correctional office living unit training model;

(5) the construction of the women's transition living unit to meet the immediate needs of female inmates;

(6) the operation of therapeutic courts such as the Community Wellness Court and the Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court;

(7) work with First Nation governments, communities and NGOs to provide access to land-based camps/treatment centres for inmates of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and offenders supervised in the community;

(8) the continued implementation of the five-step FASD action plan;

(9) the continued implementation of the substance abuse action plan which emphasizes harm reduction, prevention and education, treatment and enforcement; and

(10) the enhancement of enforcement measures through the continued operation of the *Safer Communities and*

Neighbourhoods Act and the RCMP street crime reduction team.

Mr. Nordick: In preparing for today's debate, I reviewed our government's approach to corrections. One of the things that is very impressive is the scope and comprehensiveness of our strategy. Clearly, it is carefully thought out, and it is being delivered in a logical and methodical manner. The first step in the process was to start making positive changes.

When we came to power in 2002, the previous government was poised to make a major error by going ahead with a facility with no consultation. Mr. Speaker, that's with no consultation from stakeholders. It looks to me like the only consultations the Liberals did were with the fire marshal and an architectural firm. The House Leader of the Official Opposition said he didn't want the place to burn down. I guess if that's what they consider consultation, that's fine by me.

Mr. Speaker, it looked to me like they took a *Field of Dreams* approach: If you build it, they will come. What a nightmare.

We have been doing corrections the old way for 40 years and the members opposite seemed intent on carrying on doing it that way for the next 40. Mr. Speaker, all they wanted was a newer, bigger building. These buildings are very expensive and we simply cannot afford to get it wrong. The Liberal building would have been the wrong building for the wrong reason at the wrong time. Mr. Speaker, we put a stop to that.

What we did instead was to ask why so many Yukoners are constantly cycling through the correctional centre. We asked: what do we need to do to have an effective correctional system that actually does corrections? Unlike the folks opposite, we didn't believe that we were the only ones with all of the answers. What we did was consult with Yukoners. We set up a team to go to work on this issue.

Let me share with you some of the efforts that went into a developing a correctional reform package that we are talking about today. The corrections consultation was a 15-month territory-wide public consultation on the future direction of the correctional system in Yukon.

By the time the consultation concluded in March 2006, some 160 consultation meetings had been held. The consultation was co-chaired by the Yukon government and the Council of Yukon First Nations. A project team represented the Yukon government and the Council of Yukon First Nations conducted the consultation. The co-chairs were Barb Joe representing CYFN, the Council of Yukon First Nations, and Sharon Hickey representing the Yukon government. The policy analysts were Brenda Jackson representing CYFN, and Joanne Lewis representing the Yukon government. An executive committee representing both Yukon government and First Nations provided direction to the project team. The information gathered by the project team during the consultation helped shape the corrections action plan for delivering correctional programs and services in the Yukon.

Because all Yukoners are affected by the correctional system, Yukoners were asked how to improve the system. During the consultation, Yukoners were asked for their views on the

following: challenges facing offenders, victims and communities. They were asked their views on opportunities for meeting those challenges and their views on suggestions for improving the correctional system.

The information developed during the consultation was used by the project team to draft a corrections action plan to guide the delivery of correction programs in communities and in a new correctional centre. The corrections action plan was reviewed by the Minister of Justice and Yukon First Nation chiefs at a round table on corrections in March 2006. So, Mr. Speaker, I'll repeat: the corrections action plan was reviewed by the Minister of Justice and Yukon First Nation chiefs at a round table on corrections in March 2006. The plan's recommendation and implementation framework were approved at the Yukon Forum on April 3, 2006. The implementation structure and office were set up over several months in the spring of 2006, and the implementation planning began at that time. The corrections consultation began in April 2005. We held a corrections summit in November 2005. The corrections consultation final report was issued April 2006. The correctional redevelopment strategic plan was published in February 2007, and we began the *Corrections Act* consultation in December 2007.

The act consultation wrapped up earlier this year, and we have that before us in this sitting. The corrections action plan implementation office, otherwise known as CAPIO, has done a fine job to date and \$569,000 is in this budget to fund this until March 31, 2010.

Mr. Speaker, the approach we are taking is all the stronger because of the extensive consultation that we have done. I think it has been a long process but one that is very worthwhile. We gained valuable information by taking time to consult with Yukoners. We heard loud and clear that substance abuse is the biggest driver of crime in our territory. If we want to reduce crime, we have to deal with the substance abuse. I will talk more on the substance abuse action plan later, Mr. Speaker. The point I want to make here is that whatever we do in corrections needs to have a strong component for dealing with substance abuse.

Mr. Speaker, the old philosophy lumped people into two groups: the good and the bad. The old philosophy was to build a box in which the bad people got dumped. The good people's main job was to watch the bad people to make sure they didn't run away. And then it was expected that the bad people, having been surrounded by lots of other bad people, would emerge from the box as good people. That is what the Liberals would like to see continue into the future. Clearly, this kind of approach to corrections is not going to work.

What was needed was a new approach, one that emphasized treatment and rehabilitation. In our approach, we are emphasizing having the corrections officers working closely with the inmates. As I said, most of our inmates at Whitehorse Correctional Centre have substance abuse issues. They need treatment. Simply putting them in jail was not addressing their needs.

We needed a new act that reflected a modern, sensible, realistic approach to corrections. My colleague, the Minister of Justice, has delivered that. Our new *Corrections Act, 2009* is

the result of an extensive consultation process. The passage and implementation of Yukon's new *Corrections Act, 2009*, based on principles that provide for the protection of society, rehabilitation, healing, and reintegration of offenders into society, sets the stage for the new building.

Buildings need to serve the principles and objectives of the government, not the other way around. This is why it is so important that the construction of a new correctional centre will reflect the aforementioned principles and be built in conjunction with the new treatment centre that will provide for the development of more rehabilitation programs and services to offenders separately as well as those in need.

Mr. Speaker, we heard time and time again during consultation that Yukoners in the correctional system need treatment and rehabilitation — not the approach the Liberals wanted to take: lumping all the bad people together with no hope for the future.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share with you some of the comments in *What We Heard*. As I can see from the members opposite, they are starting to understand that our approach to correction reform is the positive approach. I like the smiles from all the members across the way, because they have come to realize that this is the correct approach.

Mr. Speaker, as I was beginning to state, I would like to share with you some of the comments in *What We Heard*. This was a section of the consultation report about treatments at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre: Yukoners shared with us their concerns about the drug and alcohol programs while incarcerated. Others noted that some inmates have a concurrent disorder of addictions and mental problems. Helping them requires a long-term treatment program to deal with addictions and to build a trusting relationship.

They also told us the addictions programs at WCC should be available to everyone. At WCC, there were limited programs for women. I asked my colleague, the Minister of Justice, what had been done to address these concerns. She advised me that WCC offers some different programs to deal with substance abuse, including the White Bison program, Alcoholics Anonymous, and the elders are also available to provide counselling. She also noted that female offenders have the opportunity to participate in anger, violence and other counselling and that there is a women's-only Alcoholics Anonymous program.

We also know that people who have substance abuse issues also have other medical needs. For people to be ready to deal with their substance abuse issues, they need to be healthy. I'd like to mention the health care at WCC. There are two nurses on staff who are employees of the corrections branch. A doctor is on contract for the correctional centre. A dentist is also on contract.

For mental health services, Whitehorse Correctional Centre has two nurses with forensic mental health experience, a mental health clinician and a psychiatrist on contract. They provide such services as mental health assessment, counselling, and consultation with other service providers. With the completion of the mental health room, Whitehorse Correctional Centre increased its capacity to manage mental health cases.

Clearly, Mr. Speaker, people in need of counselling need to have a long-term, trusting relationship with those providing help. One of the challenges is that people in treatment get shuffled through the system. Because the people at Whitehorse Correctional Centre are there for under two years, and the majority are there for much, much shorter stays, it makes sense for someone who has begun counselling at Whitehorse Correctional Centre to continue to have access to the services, even if he or she has finished his or her sentence. It makes sense to me that if someone has finally established a trusting relationship with a counsellor, that he or she be able to continue to meet with that counsellor. It makes sense to have a treatment centre be a part of the correctional redevelopment. Mr. Speaker, I will come back to this in a moment.

An important part of rehabilitation, and one that people identified for us, was the need to set up people for success. We offer a number of upgrading and academic options — for example, offenders can access courses from the on-site Yukon College campus in general studies, GED preparation and testing, as well as resumé workshops and first aid.

The new treatment and correctional centre will see the implementation of the enhanced direct-supervision model in the operation of the new correctional centre, including human resource development and training for the staff, such as the correctional office living unit training model.

We have money in this year's budget to address these areas. I'd like to note one program, which is the correctional officer career program for women. This is one example of our government working across departments. The advanced education branch has provided \$69,450 through the community training fund to assist Yukon College and the Department of Justice in developing and delivering a pilot program for women interested in exploring a career as a correctional officer.

I understand from talking to my colleagues that we have been working with correctional officers on training them in the new model. I appreciate that we are investing in our staff at WCC by training them in the living unit model.

I know the Minister of Justice feels very strongly about how we care for women in the correctional system, as well as all of my colleagues. I believe she will say much more on this later. I would like to note that this motion calls for the construction of a women's transition living unit to meet the immediate needs of the female inmates.

When we took office, the living conditions for female inmates were not very good, even by WCC standards. Our government, through the leadership of the Minister of Justice, has undertaken major renovations of the existing women's dorm. Beginning this spring, we will start the construction of a women's living unit for low-risk inmates. When the new treatment and correctional centre is built, the women will be returned to the main complex and the building will be transitioned to Health and Social Services for treatment purposes.

We heard through public consultation that Yukoners want corrections to keep people from reoffending by providing more treatment opportunities. We understand that women have different needs than men. We took steps to address those needs. The women's transition living unit will provide low- and me-

dium-risk women who are incarcerated at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre with treatment opportunities. These healing-based treatment options will assist with re-integration of the community after release. It is anticipated that the work on the balance of the facility will be underway by late April, while aiming for substantial completion and move-in by the end of 2009.

Women will be transferred from the transitional women's living unit to the women's living unit upon the completion of the new correctional centre. The transitional women's living unit building will be transferred to Health and Social Services. The transitional women's living unit will then be re-purposed for the treatment options for offenders and for scheduled outside users. Planning for this use is ongoing.

We decided to build the transitional women's living unit at this time to respond to the immediate needs of female inmates. I know that my colleague, the Minister of Justice, has been working on this for some time.

Accommodation issues come up regularly in the population, such as women who can't be kept together for legal reasons and who can't be kept together because of security issues. The new facility will provide improved and more suitable accommodations in a residential setting for eligible low- and medium-security female inmates.

The facility includes six bedrooms, with a capacity for nine people, as well as living and dining spaces and a residential-sized kitchen. This new facility also provides opportunity for gradual implementation of enhanced direct supervision and a more client-focused approach, and the Whitehorse Correctional Centre supervision and program model.

The new correctional centre will have a separate women's living unit, built specifically to meet the female inmates' needs. The transitional women's living unit is a part of the larger correctional infrastructure project, and is a significant action item in the correctional redevelopment strategic plan. Through the planning process for a new correctional centre, it was identified that female inmates need more suitable accommodations, and need to be supervised in an improved environment before the facility is open.

Mr. Speaker, I see by the looks of the members opposite that they'd like me to sit down and we could just vote on this motion and pass it. I'm debating whether I should maybe do that. But I have so much more information. I know the members opposite would like to hear it, so I will proceed.

Even though renovations to the current WCC, through the interim space plan, have provided some relief to the female inmate accommodations, I know our government believes longer term solutions are required.

This department is working hard to provide better services to female inmates. The renovations that have been completed at the centre and transitional women's unit are a testament to that commitment.

With respect to programming that is available for female inmates, I am pleased to tell you that we offer a range of programming for women. Female inmates have the opportunity to participate in Alcoholics Anonymous, elder guidance and educational programs through Yukon College.

We are implementing two culturally relevant substance abuse programs for female inmates at the centre. Gathering Power, which deals with residential schools-related issues, and the White Bison program, will assist women to make the necessary changes in their lives.

Female inmates also have access to individual counselling to assist with addictions, trauma and anger management. They have access to the new healing room, which was officially opened on October 3. Female inmates have also been offered the opportunity to participate in the educational programs through Yukon College.

Mr. Speaker, this means that any certificates they earn are granted by Yukon College, rather than the correctional centre. We want to help set the people up to succeed, and education is one of those tools that can help someone make a better life for herself.

I see now that the opposition is finally paying attention to what I have to say, and it's great to see all of them sitting in their seat, listening to this informational debate.

Elder counselling is also available through the new elders advisory group at the correctional centre. Family violence prevention unit representatives attend the centre. Blood Ties Four Directions and Alcoholics Anonymous also offer programming and counselling. Women also have ready access to spiritual counselling through various church organizations. Individual counselling to assist with addictions, trauma and anger management is available. For those who would like to access mental health counselling, a counsellor is available to meet with female offenders. In addition, mental health nurses and psychiatrists attend the centre weekly. Female offenders have access to the new healing room.

I'd like to talk about the operation of therapeutic courts such as the Community Wellness Court and the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court.

The Yukon substance abuse action plan called for the creation of a therapeutic court. The first session of the Community Wellness Court was held June 4, 2007. The Community Wellness Court is designed to provide treatment and support to offenders living with a drug or alcohol addiction, a mental illness or an intellectual disability and/or an organic brain injury such as fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

As of February 2009, fifty clients have been through the Community Wellness Court. I understand we will be congratulating the first two graduates of this program shortly. What I like about this court is that it provides a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of offenders in order to reduce or eliminate recidivism.

Offenders who choose to go through this court must meet the basic criteria. Conditions such as substance addiction, mental illness, disability or organic brain injury must be a contributing factor to their criminal conduct. Certain types of offences are generally not eligible. These include serious crimes of violence; crimes of a sexual nature; offences where the Crown is seeking a dangerous or long-term or high-risk offender designation; crimes of violence against seniors or children; offences resulting in death; and offences committed primarily for commerce or project. In other words, this is a therapeutic court.

I think of people who have FASD, and I think of challenges they face. I understand that many of our offenders at WCC may have FASD. Work is underway to find a better way to address this issue. We have to help people with FASD in a way they can understand and that will reduce the number of crimes, which will reduce the number of victims and the number of offenders. This court is an important step in that direction.

The offender must plead guilty; sentencing takes place only after the wellness plan is concluded. Close monitoring of engagement and progress with the wellness plan is done by the judge. The wellness plan is tailored to meet the needs of individual clients, following several assessments. The wellness journey can take up to 18 months before sentencing and may include the following: therapeutic counselling and treatment; assistance for clients who may seek employment or housing or other basic needs; medical assistance, including psychiatric services; direct help for clients in making and attending appointments, such as the wellness plan.

Contracts with agencies such as the Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Society Yukon and Many Rivers Counselling Services provide additional direct support for client needs. There's creation of a system of incentives and sanctions, intensive supervision by a probation officer working closely with a client on their wellness journey, and work on building family and community supports. Finding ways to help people heal is the goal of the Community Wellness Court. Helping an offender transition to being a contributing member of society, by having him or her complete his or her treatment program, is how we make communities safer.

Further work is being done to enhance program elements. I would expect that the treatment spaces in the new treatment and correctional centre will be available to the Community Wellness Court for programming.

I'd like to talk about one other therapeutic court, which is the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court. The Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court is continuing to operate in Whitehorse and in Watson Lake, in response to a very high level of domestic violence in that community. The Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court is one way to ensure offenders have access to treatment programs to deal with anger and aggression in intimate relationships.

One of the challenges that victims of domestic abuse face is the fear that if they speak up, the abusive partner may be taken away. The Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court is one way to help address domestic violence without necessarily throwing the abusive partner in jail. It is a way to build a healthier family unit. Because of its success, this court is now a regular sitting of the Yukon Territorial Court and is managed through Court Services.

One of our concerns is that children who witness domestic violence sometimes repeat in their adult relationships the abuse that they witnessed as children. We want to break that generational cycle of abuse. One of the programs that we offer to children of parents in the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court is a program called OWLS, which, just so the members

opposite can understand what that says, it's OWLS, which stands for Our Way of Living Safely.

OWLS, or Our Way of Living Safely, is a name that was chosen for the children-who-witness-domestic-violence program. It is a 12-week program to assist children who witness domestic violence to cope with the experience and learn strategies to stay safe in the home.

The program consists of individual and group counselling sessions. Program referrals are normally made by victim services branch, the family violence protection unit or family and children's services branch. This program is free and open to children aged 4 to 17, whose parents or caregiver was or is a client of the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court.

Domestic violence occurs in the Yukon at a rate three times the national average. Domestic violence can have a lasting effect on children who witness it. Without intervention, children who witness domestic violence are more likely to engage in domestic violence as adults. The program first ran in 2007 with nine children completing the program offering. The goals of the children's program are: to reduce the children's level of anxiety; to break the secret of domestic violence; to help children learn how to protect themselves; to help children experience the group as a positive and safe environment; to strengthen children's level of self-esteem; and to break the cycle of violence.

I think these courts have been successful in addressing the concerns brought forward. I believe that Yukoners appreciate that we are exploring ways to help Yukoners get the help they need.

Mr. Speaker, the goal here is to help people who commit crimes to stop breaking the law. If they are committing crimes because they have FASD or because they have a drug or alcohol addiction, we need to do more than give them a time-out; we have to break the cycle.

These courts are set up to provide a therapeutic alternative. I understand this work is ongoing. By building a new treatment and correctional centre here in Whitehorse, we have not and are not precluding the building of additional treatment and therapeutic facilities. We know that some people really struggle with their addictions in a town setting. Their old social networks make it easier to get back to their bad habits. Finding a place where they can connect with the land can really help.

The five-step FASD action plan calls for the continued implementation of the following points:

(1) the promotion of prevention programs to eliminate alcohol consumption of high-risk parents in order to foster the birth of healthy babies;

(2) early diagnosis of FASD before the age of six;

(3) supporting people and families with FASD through a wide range of services such as professional counselling and foster homes in order to provide a stable, nurturing home environment;

(4) enhancing supported living arrangements for adults with FASD; and

(5) supporting a diagnostic team of professionals trained in personal counselling and social work to provide services to

Yukon schools in order to provide support for FASD students and their families.

This special programs unit with the Department of Education has produced a new publication for use in schools, entitled *Making a Difference — Working with Students who have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders*. The core of the manual is 12 essential elements for dealing with students affected by FASD. The manual addresses FASD and provides practical strategies for helping young people both in the classroom and in the community.

As I mentioned earlier, the Community Wellness Court is another initiative established under the Yukon substance abuse action plan. It is to provide court monitored treatment for offenders with drug or alcohol addictions, symptoms of FASD or mental illness issues. Dealing with people who have FASD by putting them in jail is probably not the most effective way to help make our community safer.

I can think of people who have FASD who need more support beyond their 18th birthday. This is why I'm so pleased with our government's commitment to enhance supportive living arrangements for adults with FASD. I understand that quite a bit of work has been done in this area, and I look forward to learning more about it when the Minister of Justice responds later.

I also understand that, through the territorial health system sustainability initiative, Yukon is leading an overall pan-territorial, mass-media collaboration with the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. The three territories are sharing an investment of \$865,000 to produce four awareness and educational campaigns, one of which is aimed at FASD prevention.

Our government has devoted considerable resources since taking office to deal with this most serious affliction and will continue our implementation plans in this and future budgets.

The substance abuse action plan is a major initiative based on four strategic directions: harm reduction; prevention and education; treatment; and enforcement. Government departments have made major strides to meet commitments in the substance abuse action plan.

For example, initiatives led by the Department of Justice that are now in place include: new SCAN legislation and implementation; a new RCMP street crime reduction team; a new program for children who witness violence, which is Our Way of Living Safely, or OWLS; and the Community Wellness Court, a therapeutic court which held its first session on June 4, 2007. Substance abuse management programs are being offered at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre with more than 15 certified staff members. Work is underway to develop a new community resource directory. A position to support the development of capacity-building plans in the communities has been staffed, and work is underway. Each action from the November 2005 action plan document has been assigned to a lead department; for example, one action falling to the federal government.

Most of the actions in the substance abuse action plan are included in the government's priorities. The Yukon substance abuse action plan identified a number of specific individual activities aimed at achieving the common goal of reducing sub-

stance abuse and addictions. The Yukon substance abuse action plan is a long-term initiative in response to the harms caused by alcohol and other drug abuses. The Yukon government has made significant strides in meeting commitments linked to the Yukon substance abuse action plan.

Mr. Speaker, I won't repeat the highlights from Justice I mentioned earlier, but here are some accomplishments from other departments. The Yukon Liquor Corporation has developed a self-directed Be a Responsible Server training program. It has produced a booklet for parents on discussing alcohol-related issues with their kids. The Youth Directorate has launched a public educational campaign about the dangers and increased risk of addictions from drinking alcohol at an early age. The Women's Directorate partnered with Health and Social Services and Justice on a project to research complex factors affecting Yukon women who are experiencing issues related to substance abuse, current services to women with addictions, barriers to women receiving the services they need and how women and substance abuse is most innovatively and effectively addressed.

Health and Social Services has increased funding to the Outreach van to expand services to six nights a week and has assisted with a replacement van purchase. Health and Social Services has obtained funding to continue youth outreach programs.

\$200,000 funding is to FASSY for the Get a Little Help from my Friends program to help reduce victimization of women with FASD, exploring opportunities with B.C. for creating a 24-hour substance abuse crisis line and working with local pharmacies to restrict access to cold medicines used to produce methamphetamines.

Education — as a new health and career education curriculum implemented in grades 8 to 9 in 2006, and the K to 7 program implemented in 2007-08; training offered to teachers and educational assistants to support children with special needs in the area of FASD; special program units produced a new manual titled, *Making a Difference — Working with Students who have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders* available on the Web site; offering the DARE program, in conjunction with the RCMP, and the pilot program, canines for safer schools, teaching students about alcohol and drug awareness.

Although SCAN and the street crime reduction team are important components of reducing bootlegging, additional discussions with the RCMP and the Yukon Liquor Corporation will begin this year.

There's a social marketing campaign aimed at delaying the age of first use — the focus will be on alcohol specifically.

Work continues at the FPT level on reducing the availability of illicit drugs through increased penalties.

Discussions by Health and Social Services are underway with B.C. to look at protocols and possible uses of the B.C. crisis line as a crisis line service.

As I speak, there is more work underway on implementing the substance abuse action plan. As many members of this Assembly know, the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* uses civil rather than criminal law to address social disorder. This is one more tool in our box to make communities safer. I

looked over some of the comments by the members and I realize the Yukon Party and the NDP understand this. Sadly, the Official Opposition seems to have missed some key elements. So let me clarify — this is not criminal law. We do not put people in jail using this act. This act uses civil law to shut down the places where illegal activities take place.

I know a couple of the members opposite have complained that, because we are not arresting people and putting them in jail, SCAN doesn't work. I use now the analogy of this act being another tool in our public safety tool kit. Complaining about the lack of arrests under this act is like complaining that a hammer doesn't work very well because it doesn't saw wood.

SCAN does a great job of what it was intended to do. Let me say again, it is civil law and emphasizes shutting down places where the illegal activities take place. Since the SCAN office opened on November 29, 2006, until yesterday, March 31, 2009, we have had 315 complaints about 252 properties. This has resulted in 35 evictions and 17 warnings. At another 26 properties, the people have voluntarily ceased their illegal activities.

The general reaction in the communities to SCAN has been overwhelmingly positive. I understand from talking to people here in Whitehorse that SCAN has had a dramatic impact on people's quality of life. The number of complaints received by SCAN indicates that citizens are sending a clear message that these types of activities are not welcome on the streets, in our neighbourhoods and near our children.

In the summer of 2008, SCAN and many others were able to work together to effectively address the adverse impacts of a long-standing drug house in the downtown neighbourhood. We appreciated the cooperation that was shown by family, neighbours and advocates in other government departments during this action. We are very pleased the act has provided a way to respond to concerns of Yukoners about illegal activities that are making their communities and neighbourhoods unsafe. We are confident that this act is helping Yukon communities become safer, one house, one street, one neighbourhood, and one community at a time.

I understand the Yukon is the third jurisdiction in Canada, after Manitoba and Saskatchewan, to pass this legislation. I also understand the Yukon Minister of Justice has written to her colleagues and spoken to them individually about this legislation. Since the Yukon passed our legislation, Nova Scotia has also implemented SCAN, and Newfoundland, Northwest Territories, New Brunswick, Alberta and Ontario are at various phases of exploring SCAN legislation. I understand that we continue to work together with other jurisdictions in implementing SCAN to ensure that it remains responsive and effective in attending to the citizens' needs regards the impact of illegal activities on their homes, neighbourhoods and communities.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about the success of the street crime reduction team. This team is dedicated to street level drug- and alcohol-related crime enforcement and prevention. It consists of six police officers, a criminal analyst, and a communication strategist. As of February 28, 2009, the team has made 224 Criminal Code arrests, executed 74 warrants,

undertaken 324 curfew checks on prolific and priority offenders, taken 105 intoxicated persons into custody and laid 34 charges under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*.

Mr. Speaker, this team is another tool in our kit and they have been busy hammering the drug trade. The street crime reduction team is working to provide a more rapid response time to calls for services and to increase the number of drug-related arrests made. It is also working to decrease the incidence of street level crime and increase the visibility of the RCMP in the community. The RCMP has placed a high focus on communication of its results through the press and other media contacts. This communication is taking place to assist in reducing the fear of crime in communities and neighbourhoods and engaging the public to take ownership and responsibility for community safety.

The street crime reduction team is cooperating with many others, including government departments and community agencies, to develop a coordinated integrated approach to street level crime and to the needs of prolific and priority offenders. The RCMP works with the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, Adult Probation, Victim Services, Alcohol and Drug Services, the City of Whitehorse and the Yukon Liquor Corporation. The RCMP are also involved with the Community Wellness Court.

The Government of Yukon is providing \$1.5 million in funding over the next three years to the RCMP for the street crime reduction team. The RCMP M Division is reallocating approximately \$1 million to support this initiative. The team is part of a larger coordinated effort, developed under the Yukon substance abuse action plan, to help address the criminal and social disorder often associated with substance abuse, which diminishes the quality of life for all Yukoners.

The team is intelligence-led and focuses on prolific and priority drug and alcohol offenders. Prolific offenders are those who commit a high volume of crime. Priority offenders are those who present with complex and challenging conditions and who might need more assistance and specialized response. The team has been in operation since April 1, 2007, and has been highly successful. Clearly this approach is working.

We have a comprehensive strategy that addresses legislation, infrastructure and partnership. It is successful and, as demonstrated through the examples I've just given, it works.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all members to support this motion, and I look forward to a productive debate. I see by the members opposite's enthusiasm that they want to speak to this. We are running low on time; I will sit down and let them continue.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Inverarity: At the beginning of the day today, I thought that I looked forward to having this debate today. I looked forward to discussing the motion, getting up and speaking to the action plan. I thought that we would have a meaningful debate here, but I see, prior to getting into the actual discussion of the motion today — and I'll get to that — that I am compelled to make a few comments in response to the member opposite.

I guess my initial comment was in regard to the continuing discussion that the members opposite have over the previous correctional centre that was being built by members who are no longer sitting in this Legislative Assembly today. I find myself a bit ashamed, frankly, by the comments that are being made because, quite frankly, they're not here to defend themselves. I wasn't sitting in the House at the time, and the kind of rhetoric that I see happening in the Legislative Assembly these days, quite frankly, makes me embarrassed at even being part of it.

I find comments directed toward individuals who again are unable to defend their actions in this forum insulting, degrading and I find that the member opposite has taken it upon himself to bring down the level of debate that we were going to have here today. I was actually looking forward to speaking to a lot of the issues and now I'm not sure if I have to lower myself to the standard that is being displayed here today on such an important issue. But I find that the member — his actions quite frankly, Mr. Speaker, are not becoming.

I feel equally ashamed, quite frankly Mr. Speaker, of these comments that are continually made about past governments. It would be easy for me to stand here and speak about previous Yukon Party governments — the Ostashek government — I could talk about the follies they had in their sittings. What comes to mind at the time are issues around wage rollbacks for employees, hotel fiascos, but nevertheless, I'm not going to go there. They're not here to defend themselves or their actions.

What we are here for today is to debate a motion within the House that has some far-reaching implications to what goes on for the next 40 or 50 years within this Legislative Assembly, within the Yukon, regarding not only inmates but general population people who are faced with drug and alcohol and domestic violence issues.

I'll leave this issue at this moment in time; it's making me upset. I feel the need to bring the issue back to the matter at hand. Prior to moving into the actual debate around the action plan, I have one other comment to make. As you know, in the past, Mr. Speaker, I've been critical of motions that have been tabled in this House, particularly by the Member for Klondike. Along with my colleague for Mount Lorne, I tabled a report on how we could improve motions on select committees in the fall. The motions were designed around trying to make them better and clearer to those individuals who have to execute those motions.

I was quite critical of the member, quite frankly, because they were not presented to the Clerk for prior reading. That was one of the recommendations; it was suggested that they be read prior to the actual tabling in the House, because some of them were very poorly worded. I look at this particular motion, and while there are some interesting items for discussion in here — I think I'm going to read it, and I'm going to read it as I interpret it. It says, "This House urges the Yukon government to proceed with the implementation of a number of priority initiatives identified in the corrections action plan, some of which include..."

Now, I'm going to stop there, Mr. Speaker, because what this House is urging us to actually do by passing this motion is for the government to proceed with these action items. The one

I'd like you to identify is (2), passage and implementation of the new Yukon *Corrections Act, 2009*.

Here again, I'm not really sure, but I don't know how this government can proceed with implementing an act that hasn't been passed by this House. It is only in second reading. There's another example of why I feel this particular motion is poorly written, undefined and leads to ambiguity in the House.

So having addressed these two fundamental issues with regard to decorum and procedure in the House, with respect to topics that, quite frankly, upset me, I think that we can now probably move on and discuss the actual motion itself, bearing in mind the fundamental flaws within the motion. I think it might be best if I just leave that one for now, because I don't know how to deal with it at this point in time.

So let's move on to some of the other items that urge the government to proceed with implementation of some of the action items that they can, in fact, move forward with. I noticed, and I would like to thank at this point — and you'll notice, Mr. Speaker, that I'm not taking cheap shots or trying to degrade individuals who aren't here to defend themselves, but I would like to thank up front — as the member opposite has done — individuals who participated in the drafting of the report. It is very extensive. Although it's three years old at this point in time, I'm not sure if it needs to be upgraded. It is certainly very useful and it is an excellent piece of work that finally deserves some debate within this House, Mr. Speaker.

Again, I would like to thank the corrections consultation team — Sharon Hickey, and co-chair Barbara Joe, Joanne Lewis — a policy analyst — and Brenda Jackson who were instrumental in getting the final report done.

I noticed that most of the motion that we are debating today, here, Mr. Speaker, is going to focus on section 3 of the corrections action plan. I find that it is worth some debate at this point in time. Let's look at the corrections action plan. It is actually divided into three elements: the guiding principles, the key priorities and findings, recommendations and suggested actions.

I think that if we look at the guiding principles — and I'm going to go through some of them here at the moment — partnerships — government cannot do this all by itself. I think that I could recognize this. We live in a community as a whole. We've defined ourselves by who we are; we make up diverse populations. I come from Scottish-Irish descent. We have a significant First Nation population within the Yukon — 25 percent. As such, they play a significant role in the development of the principles about which we were talking and the corrections action plan.

I think this whole exercise in developing the plan would probably have failed had the government not gone in and consulted with First Nations regarding this. I think it's important they did that.

The second guiding principle is continuum of programs and services. Programs and services need to be coordinated to effectively meet the needs of clients. Much comment was made by the Member for Klondike today about programs, the development of programs within the corrections system, and I acknowledge that we need programs. In fact, Mr. Speaker, when I

look at some of the background information regarding the facility that the previous Liberal government was going to do, programming was an integral part of that development, and despite what the members opposite may say, it was a critical component. We recognized the concept of programs.

Here's the issue though, Mr. Speaker: that was seven years ago. Today we still have the same warehouse that the Barr Ryder report discussed as a warehouse in 1995, under a Yukon Party government. So what do we have? We still have the same building today. And while the minister may very well be correct — and I would say she is correct that the new facility needs to have programming within it — I see no budget for programming; I see no development of programming. She has talked extensively about programs that exist today within this facility. One of them, for example, was Alcoholics Anonymous, and she touts it as an excellent program. And it is; no questions asked, Mr. Speaker.

The AA program has got to be one of the premier programs around for people with addictions, and he failed to mention, Mr. Speaker, that they meet only once a week.

The problem I'm trying to identify here is that it's fine — do we need a new correctional facility? Yes we do. Do we need programming that's consistent and will work well within that correctional facility? Yes we do. I believe it. However, the issue here is that they've had seven years and there will be another three to four years before anybody is going to participate in those programs within the new correctional facility. What do we have today? A high recidivism rate that has been identified here. Are they doing anything to really encourage individuals within the facility to get programming? No, we're just warehousing them. The minister talks today — or actually, it was the Premier who talked today — about the correctional facility only housing criminals in it. We know that isn't true, because it will house remanded individuals who are not actually convicted criminals. He said there will be no individuals who have been convicted of major crimes, only minor ones.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: The Member for Southern Lakes, on a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Rouble: I'm sorry, Mr. Speaker. When I hear a member opposite say comments like, "We know that isn't true," I really do have to call attention to the inappropriateness of those types of comments in our Assembly. Making a statement like that is certainly contrary to our Standing Orders. I would ask that you encourage the member opposite to refrain from such inflammatory and unparliamentary language in the future.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: After listening to the Member for Porter South's statements, from the Chair's perspective he was not talking about a specific individual. It is perfectly legitimate for each side or each member in this House to express their opinions on these issues. Other individuals may not agree with that version, but each individual member has the right to express that version. From that perspective, there is no point of order. It

is simply a dispute among members. The Member for Porter Creek South has the floor.

Mr. Inverarity: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Perhaps I could have used the word "misspoke", and that would have solved the problem. I'll try and be better at it in order to avoid any discord in the House.

However, the issue is that there will be individuals in remand, and while they won't be convicted, they will have been accused of major crimes, and that presents a whole new issue that we have to deal with, with regard to remand, and is itself a significant problem.

However, I'm digressing a bit, because the issue here is really the programs and services, not just the programs that are going to come, but the programs that are in place today. If we look at the motion, they want our "authority" — if you want to call it — to implement programs. Well, they're the government; they can do the programming if they really, really truly believe that the programming is going to solve the recidivism rate.

That's the point that I'm trying to make — they need to address both today, the past seven years, and where we go from today until the new correctional facility is finished, and the new programs we're discussing will be implemented within the framework of the new correctional facility. I think that that's important, and they need to recognize that it's not four years from now that needs to be dealt with; it's today that needs to be dealt with.

Perhaps, as a suggestion, I might encourage the minister to look at some space. I'm not sure exactly how it would work, but if it's truly about programming, maybe it's worth looking at transferring some of these individuals who truly want to have help today to a secure facility somewhere else in Whitehorse that would allow them to get regular programming on a regular basis so that the recidivism rate can in fact decrease. I don't see that happening, Mr. Speaker.

Another one of the guiding principles I'd like to touch on is First Nation culture, traditions and practices. Since so many First Nation people are affected by the corrections system, you need to incorporate First Nation cultures, traditions and practices into the corrections system.

I don't know how to say this, Mr. Speaker, because, you know, I'm not a First Nation individual, and as such, it's difficult for me at times to comprehend First Nation culture, First Nation traditions, and First Nation practices. I have to say that in numerous discussions with both the member from Old Crow and the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, they've shed significant light on educating me in terms of these, and how I need to change how I think about some of the corrections facilities and corrections programming and how we deal with such large group of individuals who are in the correctional centre.

When I look at this issue, I recognize inherently that we have to deal with this as non-First Nation individuals within the Yukon. I look forward to many more discussions with members from First Nations. I would like to say that I would very much encourage them to invite me to participate in some of the events that they have so that I can broaden my horizons and

learn more. I grew up in an environment in British Columbia that, quite frankly, was not very kind to First Nation individuals, and when I moved to the Yukon in 1974, and I saw the direction that we were going with land claims, I've had to re-think my whole upbringing with regard to that. I'm proud to say that I think that I have accomplished that. I'm not perfect, but I do try, Mr. Speaker. I think that all members of the community need to recognize that they are in fact an inherent part of the Yukon. First Nation culture, traditions and practices are important to everyone.

Evidence-based practice — programs and services should be founded on evidence-based practices.

I'd really like to ask some questions about this and I think I'm going to leave this particular one for when we get into Committee of the Whole, when we actually debate the *Corrections Act, 2009*. I have to say that I would encourage members to look at this. Obviously it needs to be better worked on.

Innovation, programs and services should be founded on evidence-based practices where known innovation should also be encouraged. I want to talk about innovation at this point. Innovation is where we are and how we got here today.

We inspire people, those people innovate, they come up with new ideas and new ways of doing things, and then they actually initiate what they're doing.

I encourage all individuals within the Justice department — I look at what they started in the previous Liberal government, and they've taken some of our ideas and the department has expanded and broadened them. They've had seven years to do that. That's an encouraging factor, that the department has worked so hard to move forward with an action plan to develop this particular issue.

Community capacity needs to be developed and supported. As I look through this document, I see references to taking inmates and moving them out into the community, becoming more part of the community, from a healing perspective. I think that particular issue is one that deserves some follow-up, some serious looking at. In some instances where an inmate has truly tried to improve and become integrated within the system, they may be very good candidates to move into the community. They may be able to go to healing centres and circle sentencing, for example — things along those lines that are well worth viewing, from an innovation point of view.

I've had a little bit of experience — not from a First Nation perspective or from a community perspective, but in the 1990s I was confronted by an individual and I had an opportunity to go down two roads — two highways, as we might say. One was to throw the book at the individual. I know I was under significant pressure from other individuals — partners — to lay waste in terms of the individual who committed the crime.

But I saw within the individual real talent. He was skilled; he had lots of benefits; he knew his subject matter extensively. The problem was that he was young and made a mistake. I couldn't reconcile the fact that, here we have an individual who truly could go to jail but, if I did that, I would ruin his life — because really it was just a mistake. It cost a lot of money to me personally.

Someone came and presented the concept of circle sentencing and, within those confines, I found a solution to a problem that would otherwise have fallen through the cracks within the system. We sat around with individuals and discussed the implications of what this individual had done.

Today I'm happy to say the individual — in fact, I'm proud to see that individual in the community. He has done a lot of hard work. The course of action I took in this new and innovative form of dealing with crime, back in those days, in the mid-1990s, was quite revolutionary. It wasn't even a First Nation issue at that time. The individual was white just like me, and it proved to be a very successful program.

I encourage innovation within the corrections system, certainly within the act, and certainly within how we deal with individuals. I guess what I'm saying is that we need to look at each one of these individuals through unique eyes. We need to see where they've come from. Yes, there may be individuals who just don't want help, Mr. Speaker, and in those cases, yes, we have a corrections facility for them. But by and large, most people, I think, truly want to do good. I think the members here all want to do good within our constituencies and within the Legislative Assembly. I'm not sure we always accomplish that, but I truly believe that at the heart of it all, we are all looking to be better than we have been. I certainly need to do that.

Healing, accountability and security — a need to balance the requirements for healing, accountability and security.

I noticed when I read this book, Mr. Speaker, that they talked about the healing, they talked about the security, but there was very little reference to the accountability side of the equation. I think that we need to look at all three. We need to balance them on the scales of justice, so to speak, so that not just the individual who has done the offending gets the healing and the direction to go down the right path. We also need the accountability for them to be able to stand up and be responsible for the action that they have taken. While they do mention it within the action plan and within the final report — issues about victim violence and victim services — clearly, I don't feel that it recognizes them to the degree to which it should. I find that there could be more done on the victim services side and a recognition that they have issues that they may never ever get over.

I was going to talk about an individual I know who is still suffering today 15 years after an incident that happened here in Whitehorse, but I think it is too close to the community even today to bring up. It has ruined a life; they will never be the same because of it. Yet, the individual who did it is free today. That is a shame to some degree. The individual did get healed, did become a better citizen, and did all of the right things. The wake of destruction left in his path we still suffer from today. We can see that in the recidivism rates within the system today. We see that within First Nation communities who are suffering from deeds done in the past, Mr. Speaker. So we must pay attention to both the victim and to the person committing the crime.

This brings up prevention. Prevention of crime concerns all sectors of the community and we need to work together to solve the root crime. The member opposite from Klondike

talked earlier today about the SCAN program. You know, I think he's right. I think that the SCAN program has done some pretty good things over the last couple of years. I have to say, I was a little bit sceptical. I still believe in the fact that they shuffled some of these unwanted individuals from one community to another. I know that where I live there are still issues going on in one of the houses in my neighbourhood.

They've come, they've gone, and they've come back. I think there are issues around SCAN and how it directs its attention to individuals who run houses of bad repute — if I may use that term — who own their house. It's very, very difficult for SCAN to deal with those types of individuals, because they're not renting, so you can't evict them.

But overall I would say that the SCAN program is fundamentally working. In talking to my constituents, they seem to be pleased that, whatever the problem is, it's gone — and quite frankly, they don't seem to care too much where it went. But I think we need to deal with that issue here within the justice system, within the law enforcement system and certainly from within the Legislative Assembly.

I'd like to move on to some key priorities that were found within the corrections action plan if I may at this point in time. I think the most significant one is obviously to build a new facility. Construct a new facility for a diverse inmate population with specific needs.

In the last seven days we've been in the House, we've had a number of questions regarding the facility. We've gone from not knowing what the cost is to \$67 million. That doesn't include the million and a half for the women's transition facility, which is going to be turned over to the Minister of Health and Social Services. I'm not sure if it includes the \$5 million or \$6 million that has been spent on fixing up the old correctional centre. I suppose that's money that needed to be spent. I think it's important. We had to spend it. The day I went up and had a tour of the correctional centre, virtually all of the windows in the place were smashed out by the inmates and had to be replaced. That costs money. It was, in my understanding, a protest by the inmates over the facility itself.

I'm glad to see that the minister has acknowledged that the programming is developing, but it has a long way to go. It doesn't address some of the core functions.

Earlier in the week, one of our members tabled the plans for the correctional centre from the previous Liberal government, who are unable to defend themselves. The Premier talked today about the women's centre for it; I see one in ours. A mental health facility; I see one in ours. There is a general spirituality room. I see an elder facility, which is what I think the transition house was going to be. I see all the fundamental functioning. In fact, the government has even admitted that they're going to use our footprint. It would be nice to compare apples to apples, but until we see the actual plans for the facility, I'm not going to dwell on it. I think that the point here is that finally, after seven years, we're moving forward with the actual creation of a correctional facility.

At this point, I'd just like to see what it looks like. I would like to see some plans, and I'd like to see what the costs are going to be. I know the Auditor General has been highly criti-

cal. I sat on the committee that discussed the PAC report. They're just not getting it right.

I don't know, I'm just frustrated. That's really the whole point here. The members opposite want us to stand and ask questions. We kind of got a comment today about — you know, we can ask all the questions we want, but don't expect any answers — if I can paraphrase the Premier.

However, we represent the people. It's our job to ask the questions, to find out if there's a better way to do something. Are the costs realistic? What are we getting for the cost of this facility? If they go ahead and start to lay the foundations on the ground today and decide, four months from now, that they need to change a bathroom, what kinds of implications will that have on the overall budget they have announced in the House?

I'm a little concerned that, without a clear direction and plan for the development of the physical structure, we're looking at another boondoggle.

Every time we get up and ask questions about the new facility, the Minister of Justice talks about programming. I indicated earlier today that I think programming is an important part of it and, yes, the two of them do have to be integrated, both the physical structure and if you want to call it the "soft" side of it — the ability to get inmates into programming — is equally important.

I can see the logic behind having these programs integrated into a facility, but that's four years from now. We haven't even seen what the programming will be, let alone what the corrections facility will be, and we don't know what the cost will be. While I think the holistic approach we're looking at might be worth some merit, it would be nice to be able to actually analyze the programs and see how the programs will be integrated and, more importantly, what we will do to get over that bridge to get to that point in time where we can see a facility that is, in fact, going to reduce the recidivism rate within the Yukon — I think we all want that — that's going to reduce the number of remand individuals within the facility and at least make their stay reasonable.

We still have not addressed the fundamental issue that a lot of the remand individuals don't participate in the programs. There's no incentive for them to participate in the programs and I understand they think they're innocent — and they might very well be — but a lot of them need to look at their situation and see if they can be encouraged to enter these programs, rather than not.

I could dwell for days on this new facility, but I think at this point in time I'm going to move on, Mr. Speaker. There will be others when I'm sure will discuss the facility in greater detail than I. I am not going to belabour it. We have been hammering away at this for a week or so now and we still haven't received any reasonable answers.

Develop and provide facility-based programs and services; provide appropriate inmate programs — well, I've been talking about that, Mr. Speaker, ad nauseam this afternoon. I am sure the minister doesn't want me to go on about it. I think we need to see what those programs are. We need the programs that are in place today to be effective. They need to be continuous. They need to be available seven days a week. If you are an

alcoholic and you're trying to recover, then you need AA programs seven days a week.

Case management plans — create case management plans. I understand these case management plans are going to be developed for both inmates and for corrections officers within the facility from a management point of view. I am glad to see that, Mr. Speaker. I think that as we get into the new facility — if not sooner — why can't we do it sooner? Why aren't case management plans being developed today — certainly for the inmate? I understand the frustration. We get phone calls most weeks from individuals related — when I say related, I'm talking about either those who work at the facility or know somebody who works at the facility — but they are complaining about the facility and they are frustrated as much as the rest of us are. What we end up with is that until the new facility is finished they are going to continue to probably experience that frustration.

However, on the inmates' side of the equation, perhaps there is some room here to introduce case management so that we can start to integrate this into the bigger programming picture that we're leading up to when the facility is finished. Where is the integration plan, the movement from today to tomorrow? I don't see it, Mr. Speaker, and yet we've asked.

Develop human resource plans — well, I have talked a little bit about this — for volunteers. Develop them for staff. That may be something very frustrating to do in light of the kind of facility that they have to work in and the frustration that they have going with in regard to the current facility. Do they have to wait until the centre is finished in order to get that? Can we not move forward today and look at implementing those kinds of programs today? I don't know, Mr. Speaker, but it seems like an innovative idea to me.

Involve First Nations elders, instructors and counsellors in program delivery. I understand that some of that's going on today, Mr. Speaker, but again, in a limited format. The program seems to rest on the fact that they're going to wait until everything is done. Well, I suspect by the time that this is finished, we'll be into another election by then.

Another one of the key priorities is the development and support of community capacity. Develop and support community capacity to deliver correctional programs and services within communities. Identify requirements for providing land-based camps and transition houses. Transition houses, Mr. Speaker — you know, not just with inmates; we need transition houses for individuals from the Sarah Steele Building. They come out from their program, and there's no follow-up place where they can go and they can get the counselling that they need on a daily basis. A halfway house for them — certainly from within the correctional centre, this needs to be looked at.

Provide prevention, early intervention, after-care, follow-up, transition and support. Well, Mr. Speaker, I think that speaks for itself. I'm not going to go on in great detail about the fact that we do need to follow up with what's going on with these inmates. It has to be a holistic approach and they have to be able, once they're in the community, to reintegrate into that. That's not happening today. It sounds like it's not going to be happening until 2011 or 2012.

Provide more services to victims of crime — I touched on this earlier when I was talking about the guiding principles. Here it is under a key priority — finally. We need to look at how we're going to treat the victims. I don't know if any member of the House here has been robbed, but the violation — and it could be just a simple break and enter into the house — that one feels after that is horrendous, let alone other more heinous crimes. We need to provide serious help to victims of crime. It's not happening and we need to do better at it.

Support families when a family member is involved with the corrections system — I think this is equally important. I noticed that in our facility we actually had an area for families and for visitors.

I don't know if it's in the new one. It would be nice to see the plans. I keep harping on it, Mr. Speaker, but I understand the place will be built before we see the plans.

Counselling support and after-care — expand the alcohol and drug treatment facilities. I understand this new facility that's going to be built when the interim women's transition home is finished will be turned over to Health and Social Services. I can only assume that the building that is being built today is being built on a foundation and, as such, is not going to be movable. It looks to me like it's going to be permanently there, placed at the corrections facility, but will be turned over to the Minister of Health and Social Services.

I can tell you that if they look at trying to run programs out of this particular facility as a halfway house or corrections facility, they will likely be getting a fair bit of flack.

Just a cursory overview of a victim of crime who has become alcohol- or drug-dependent going to a corrections centre: you know, they talk to their mother: "Where are you going tonight?" They reply: "Oh, I'm going up to the jail, so I can get help." And mother says, "Well, isn't the guy who did it to you up there?" "Yeah, I really have problems. I'm not even sure I'm going to go."

It doesn't take a big leap here to understand the flaw in this particular concept. I understand, and the minister has stood up and said this doesn't preclude them building other places around the Yukon. Great. I know the Sarah Steele Building — I got a phone call this morning on it. It's in such disrepair that they don't even want to go there. We're spending \$67 million building a corrections facility and we can't get paint.

Expand the range of programs and services for offenders and inmates, especially if they have FASD — FASD is a serious issue in our territory. It needs to be addressed. We need, like for alcohol, real plans to solve real problems on a generational level and I don't see this government doing it.

Ensure inmates with mental health problems receive counselling, practical support and access to in-patient and out-patient services in the Yukon — I don't know. Our facility had mental health facilities built into it, but I see that — well, I don't know, they mentioned that they will; that'll be great.

But these individuals aren't necessarily criminals, Mr. Speaker. They're people with mental health issues.

Earlier today, there was a tribute to Cancer Awareness Month, and one of the comments made was that everybody in the Yukon has probably been touched by cancer. I think it

could be equally said that virtually everyone in the Yukon, if not Canada, has been touched by mental health issues. It's a significant problem that needs significant answers, and it needs to be done sooner than later, Mr. Speaker. But when will we see these programs? When will we get to the point where we're actually going to be able to help Yukoners — 2012, if we're lucky?

I'm not going to dwell on it longer; I think I've been making my points amply clear here this afternoon. There are some real issues that need to be dealt with within this motion and within the action plan. I think some of them are good. The issue isn't where we're going, Mr. Speaker, it's when we are going to get there, and how we are going to get there.

I see no discussion around those issues within this document or within the minister's speech. Although I have to say that some of the suggested actions — provide programs and services based on risk, needs and profile — we talked about that, Mr. Speaker. Use elders, peers, role models and motivational speakers to assist inmates with accountability and healing. Incorporate a system of earned privileges — I'm not quite sure what that means. There has been discussion in the media recently about paying people to take programs. Reducing their sentence might be a concept. I'm not sure I fully agree with that. We need to think about it some more.

Support peacemaking and victim/offender reconciliation — I talked extensively about victims of crime this afternoon. This particular issue in terms of reconciliation worked for me, Mr. Speaker. I was able to sit across to face the individual I needed to discuss problems with and it worked. Not everybody is able to do that, depending on the nature of the crime.

I have to say that this has to be treated with real caution. I think that it can work, but it's more about ensuring that the victim's rights are being met here and less about the offender's. The goal, obviously, is to make the offender realize his wrongdoing and that he will correct his action, but not at the expense of the victim.

After follow-up care is one of those areas of focus and recommendation that needs to be done. There is counselling — broadening the range of available counselling service for inmates and offenders.

So Mr. Speaker, while I think that the action plan in and of itself has some merit and deserves further expansion and planning, I would like to go back to the member's motion and briefly look at a couple. I brought up one particular passage within it that I find to be unworkable at the present moment, considering that we are probably going to be going into Committee of the Whole to discuss the *Yukon Corrections Act, 2009*. I think that for us to actually pass this motion today might be illegal. This doesn't seem to bother the Member for Klondike, who presented the motion, or the House Leader.

Speaker's statement

Speaker: In the honourable member's statement, there was a suggestion that the Member for Klondike would be supporting something that would be illegal, and of course that's out of order.

The honourable member has the floor.

Mr. Inverarity: I realize the error of my ways. I apologize.

However, the issue here is one that deserves some debate this afternoon too. One of the other points is the construction of a new corrections facility — we talked about that; implementation of enhanced direct supervision model and the operation of the new corrections centre, including human resource development, staff training, such as the corrections office living unit training model.

I could go on all day about the issues regarding the particular motion. I think the points I've made today are a good place to start. The place to discuss most of this stuff is actually in Committee of the Whole. As we move through the afternoon, I think other good and valid points will be brought forward.

I'd like to thank the Member for Klondike for his comments earlier today; however, I would like to bring up the initial points I had regarding conduct within the House. I think that they did not need to be said, particularly in light of the fact that what we're trying to do here is develop a better corrections system. We are trying to develop programs that will help these individuals. It doesn't need to be cluttered with rhetoric that is, I personally think, out of order in this particular House.

On that note, Mr. Speaker, I think I am going to allow someone else to talk. I know that we have lots of time left this afternoon in which to bring good, valid points to this. We can see if we can get some answers to some serious questions that I have raised here this afternoon and try to produce one of the best corrections facilities and one of the best corrections programs within North America. I just don't know if we're going to get there.

Thank you.

Hon. Ms. Horne: Mr. Speaker, let me make this explicit: this government has a clear, precise vision for a bright future for Yukon. Mr. Speaker, this government committed to Yukoners to work together to do better. This government committed to provide a better quality of life and to provide safer communities.

Mr. Speaker, this government has done exactly that. There isn't enough time for me to list all the ways this government has made Yukoners' lives better. This government's vision is demonstrated in the scope and comprehensiveness of our strategy. Clearly, this government has thought through our approach.

Correctional centres are extremely expensive to build and will be with us for decades. Why anyone would rush into building a facility of this nature is truly beyond me. We recognize that the way we have been doing corrections for the last 40 years was not working. This catch-and-release approach to corrections needed to be replaced with a clear vision. Therefore, we let the ox cart plans sit on the shelf.

What we did was to embark on a major consultation on corrections reform. I support this motion that calls for us to proceed with the implementation of correctional reform through the ongoing operations of the corrections action plan implementation office. We asked: what do we need to have to have an effective correctional system that actually does correc-

tions? Great effort went into developing the correctional reform package that we are talking about here today.

Mr. Speaker, the approach we are taking is all the stronger because of the extensive consultations that we have done. One of the things that we heard loud and clear is that substance abuse is the biggest driver of crime in our territory. The bulk of the people in our correctional system here in the Yukon are those who struggle with addictions. What was needed was a new approach, one that emphasized treatment and rehabilitation. In our approach, we are emphasizing having the correctional officers working closely with inmates. To do this, we needed to develop a new, modern, sophisticated corrections act.

This brings me to the next point in this motion, which is (2): passage and implementation of the new Yukon *Corrections Act, 2009*, based on principles which provide for the rehabilitation, healing, and reintegration of offenders into society.

Mr. Speaker, I would refer members of this Assembly to my speech the other day, and I would also add that it is my intention to go through the new *Corrections Act, 2009* in more detail when we call it for debate.

I would like to summarize here some of the key points in the new act. The new principle section sets out the main policy objectives. The paramount consideration is the protection of society. Think about that for a minute: protection of society; protection of those principles we hold most dear: freedom, democracy. Also high on this list is collaboration with First Nations, who make up a majority of the inmates held at the correctional centre or on probation. There are new provisions in the act surrounding the ability to enter into agreements with First Nations over a broad range of programs and services for corrections. That's innovation.

In addition, there are objectives calling for specialized programs for women. There is also a section pertaining to staff and their needs and obligations. There is a section calling for fair process for administering discipline within a correctional centre. A new program integration section puts Yukon at the leading edge of corrections legislation in this country.

An updated and modern discipline process is established with adequate appeal provisions and sufficient natural justice elements. An alternative dispute resolution mechanism that will incorporate restorative justice principles is authorized and unique in Canada.

An earned remission system is established under the act and regulations. The act and accompanying regulations define how we are going to conduct corrections. Any building we construct must serve the needs of the act. This motion calls for: (3) the construction of a new correctional centre that will reflect the aforementioned principles and be built in conjunction with a new treatment centre that will provide for the development of more rehabilitation programs and services to offenders separately, as well as those in need.

That is why it is so important that the construction of a new correctional centre will reflect the aforementioned principles and be built in conjunction with a new treatment centre that will provide for the development of more rehabilitation programs and services to offenders separately as well as those in need.

I have said it before and I'll say it again — the facility is a new generation 3 correctional centre that uses an enhanced direct supervision. This means that in every area where inmates reside, staff will be directly on the floor with them. It also allows staff to have direct interaction with inmates. This results in better program delivery that is more available and effective. It also results in better security. Yukoners told us through our extensive consultations that treatment and programming must be priorities. We have listened and we have acted.

The new multi-purpose treatment and correctional facility is part of a much larger package of correctional reform that emphasizes treatment — for example, our Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court and Community Wellness Court. This multi-purpose facility gives these courts options when sentencing to deliver a treatment component, rather than incarceration. As I just mentioned, we are going to use enhanced direct supervision.

I also support this motion in calling for (4) the implementation of the enhanced direct supervision model in the operation of the new correctional centre. This includes human resource development and training for staff, such as the corrections office living unit training model.

I have noticed in each of my visits to the existing facility the improvements we have made. With every visit I see improvements in how the facility is operating. We have made physical changes to make more space available in both the women's and men's dorms. We have added a spirituality room. We are working on implementing the enhanced direct supervision model, which emphasizes having correctional officers actually doing correctional programming, rather than being turnkeys or jailers.

We are providing training to help correctional officers understand what it means to work in a generation 3 facility. We want our correctional staff to understand the opportunity they have to help offenders change. We also recognize that correctional staff need to feel that they are safe.

This motion calls for (5) the construction of a women's transition living unit to meet the immediate needs of female inmates. I absolutely support that. As the Minister of Justice, I am deeply concerned about how we care for women in the correctional system.

The first time I toured the old facility, I was astonished at the living conditions for female inmates. This government has undertaken a major renovation of the existing women's dorm. Beginning this spring, we will start construction of a transitional women's living unit. When the new treatment and correctional centre is built, the women will be returned to the main complex and the building will be transitioned to Health and Social Services for treatment purposes.

I am personally very proud of the correctional officer career program for women. I thank my colleague, the Minister of Education, for funding \$69,450 through the community training fund to assist Yukon College and the Department of Justice in developing and delivering a pilot program for women interested in exploring a career as a correctional officer. We had space in this program for 20 individuals. We have 21 women

registered and in this course — kudos to the Minister of Education.

We need more female correctional officers. This program is one way to help address that need. In talking with my staff, I think that this model is one that we may use for other justice-related careers.

The transitional women's living unit will provide low- and medium-risk women who are incarcerated at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre with treatment opportunities. These healing-based treatment options will assist with reintegration into the community after release. It is anticipated that work on the balance of the facility will be underway in late April, while aiming for substantial completion and move-in by the end of 2009.

Women will be transferred from the transitional women's living unit to the women's living unit upon completion of the new correctional centre in 2011. When the new facility opens, the transitional women's living unit building will be transferred to Health and Social Services. Health and Social Services is in the process of developing a drug and alcohol addiction program that will be run out of this building. The transitional women's living unit will then be re-purposed for treatment options for offenders and for scheduled outside users. Planning for this use is ongoing.

This new facility also provides opportunity for gradual implementation of enhanced direct supervision, a more client-focused approach, and the Whitehorse Correctional Centre's supervision and program model.

The new correctional centre will have a separate women's living unit, built specifically to meet female inmates' unique needs.

The Member for Klondike — as did I in my earlier comments — spoke about the need for treatment. We have a couple of very positive therapeutic courts that we run. This motion calls for the operation of therapeutic courts, such as the Community Wellness Court and the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court. I would like to talk about the operation of therapeutic courts, such as the Community Wellness Court and the Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court. As my colleague mentioned, the Yukon substance abuse action plan called for the creation of a therapeutic court. We set up the Community Wellness Court to provide treatment and support to offenders living with a drug or alcohol addiction, a mental illness or intellectual disability and/or an organic brain injury, such as FASD.

I think back to the discussions we had at the FASD conference last fall. There was an incredibly moving video about three young people — two men and one woman — who have FASD, talking about their experiences in the justice system. I find myself getting emotional thinking about some of their comments. It truly was a travesty of justice.

What I like about this new therapeutic court is that it provides a comprehensive approach to meeting the needs of offenders in order to reduce or eliminate recidivism. Offenders who choose to go through this court must meet the basic criteria. Their conditions, such as substance addiction, mental illness disability, or organic brain injury must be a contributing factor to their criminal conduct. Mr. Deputy Speaker, this is a

therapeutic court. Finding ways to help people with FASD not commit crimes will reduce the number of crimes, which reduces the number of victims and the number of offenders. This court helps put in place the support that they need.

The wellness plan is tailored to the needs of the individual client, following several assessments. This is case management. The wellness journey can take up to 18 months before sentencing, and may include the following: therapeutic counselling and treatment; assistance for the client who may be seeking employment or housing or other basic life needs; medical assistance including psychiatric services; direct help for clients in making and attending appointments as part of the wellness plan; contracts with agencies; the creation of a system of incentives and sanctions; intensive supervision by a probation officer; and working on building family and community supports. I expect that the treatment in the new treatment and correctional centre will be available to the wellness court for programming.

I would like to talk about one other therapeutic court which is the DVTO. It is operating in Whitehorse and in Watson Lake in response to the very high level of domestic violence in these communities. The DVTO is one way to ensure offenders have access to treatment.

Children who witness domestic violence sometimes repeat in their adult relationship the abuse that they witnessed as children. We offer children the OWLS program. Mr. Speaker, I think these courts have been successful in addressing the concerns brought forward.

The seventh point: to work with First Nation governments, communities, NGOs. The new treatment and correctional centre here in Whitehorse is not the final piece of the correctional package. We have not and are not precluding the building of an additional treatment and therapeutic facility. Work is underway with potential partners in this area.

Point (8) is implementation of the five-step FASD plan. The five-step plan calls for the continued implementation, promotion and prevention of FASD, early diagnosis, supporting people and families, enhancing supported living arrangements, supporting a diagnostic team.

I understand from talking to my colleagues that a great deal has been accomplished in this area. Our government has devoted considerable resources since taking office to deal with all serious afflictions and will continue our implementation plans in this and future budgets.

It's interesting to note that in the Sarah Steele Building, under previous governments, there was no treatment centre; it was closed.

It was this government that reopened the Sarah Steele treatment centre. Kudos to this government. We have made significant strides in meeting commitments linked to the substance abuse action plan and we will continue to do so.

I could go on here, Mr. Speaker, with much, much more that we have done connected to the substance abuse action plan. I thank you for allowing me to speak here today. Thank you. Gunilshish.

Mr. Cardiff: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I am pleased to be here this afternoon and be afforded the time to enter into the debate on this important motion. The corrections action plan, how we deal with the inmates and how we deal with corrections are very important. There has been a lot of work and a lot of consultation done over a long period of time. We have been waiting a long time for a new, humane facility — a facility that respects the health and safety of the inmates and the staff, and provides for public safety.

We're glad to see that that's finally moving ahead. We're a little concerned about the fact that it's moving ahead without the appropriate planning being up to date, as far as final designs go. Having worked in the construction industry, Mr. Speaker, like yourself, I can see where there can be the possibility of there being problems similar to what the Auditor General pointed out, such as in the way that the project is managed, carried out and brought through to fruition on time and on budget. So we're going to watch how that plays out.

I do have some concerns about this motion that the Member for Klondike has put on record. It wants the Legislative Assembly to encourage the government to proceed with a number of priority initiatives that are identified in the corrections action plan. One of those is the passage and implementation of the new *Corrections Act, 2009*. We haven't had the opportunity to debate that piece of legislation in the Legislature and we have some concerns about that.

The legislation seems to only cover the operation of the correctional facility. It doesn't talk a lot or provide specifics around what kind of rehabilitation or healing objectives there are. We think that it shows that it gives access to inmates or offenders. It gives them access to specific programming and services. We feel that there should be something in the way of a list of inmates' or offenders' rights to specific programming and services and also to their right to participate in evaluations to see what progress they are making to ensure that they are receiving the appropriate treatment, services and programming.

We have some concerns about programming. We have some concerns in the *Corrections Act, 2009* about just what does a reasonable degree and means of force actually mean in the legislation?

We think that it needs to lay out the type of physical restraint used in accordance with certain guidelines that are in existence. I know that some law enforcement agencies have guidelines for the use of force — I know that the RCMP do — as well as other professions, such as nursing. We also think that there are other areas where it talks about the process for establishing rules, such as what is a breach, the hearings involved, the range of penalties and the review of decisions. All of those are established in regulations. We think that there should be some outline in the legislation that actually protects from abuse not just the inmates, but also the corrections officers. The rules should not only be for the inmates, but for the corrections staff as well.

The scope of practice for corrections officers or other practices and guidelines should be set in legislation and then get a little more detailed when it comes to forming the regulation. So we do have some concerns about that.

I noticed that the minister, on several occasions, both in Question Period and today in her remarks just moments ago, talked about the Sarah Steele Building being shut down by previous governments. The minister needs to check her facts because I was approached by someone today who had actually worked in the treatment and detox facility in the Sarah Steele Building during the period of time that the minister is referencing. So I suggest that the minister check her facts before making those comments in the Legislature. I think it would be prudent for her to do that.

We look at some of the other areas that the Member for Klondike cites as priority initiatives that are identified in the corrections action plan. The construction of a women's transitional living unit to meet the immediate needs of female inmates — we think that that's important. It has been an issue for a long time. There have been improvements made to the existing facility. All I can say is that it's only moderately — and I would put it on the low end of moderately, Mr. Speaker — more humane than it was five or six years ago.

It's still the same building, and while there have been improvements to ventilation and some of the safety things and access to the outdoors recently, I think there's a long way to go. I guess my question about the women's transitional living unit is that it's my understanding that it's the intention of this government to turn it over to the Department of Health and Social Services to be used for another purpose, and I'd like to know why. If there's a need for a women's transitional living unit to meet the needs of women inmates, why are they going to turn it over to the Department of Health and Social Services?

I know my time is limited so I'm going to try to cover off a few of these items and, if there's time, I'll come back to some of the others. One that the Member for Klondike has cited is the continued implementation of the five-step FASD action plan. Maybe the Minister of Health and Social Services will talk a little about this when he has an opportunity later this afternoon to join in this discussion. It would be interesting to know just which steps have actually been implemented.

Prevention programs to eliminate the consumption of alcohol by pregnant women — something that was actually quite shocking came to me the other day. It was kind of a mail-out and thank you. It was a little card. What it said was that the most critical time for children, after conception when they are still in the womb, is the first five weeks.

I don't have first-hand experience with this, but I do have children and I have lots of friends who have children. A lot of women don't even know that they are pregnant for the first five weeks. Ensuring programs that discourage women from drinking if they think they may be pregnant — we need to do more in that area. When it comes to early diagnosis, we need adult diagnosis as well. We need more action.

Currently, it is my understanding that the Child Development Centre does early diagnosis; however, there is nothing being done — or very little being done — within the education system when it comes to early diagnosis of FASD.

What this means, Mr. Speaker, is that the numbers that we see aren't reflective of what is really happening out there. Children and adults are falling through the cracks.

We need to support people and families with FASD with counselling and with foster homes, and we don't believe that we are doing enough. We believe that the government is doing some things in these areas but a lot of it is superficial and a lot of it is inadequate. We need to do more. This is a very important area.

Supported living for adults with FASD — now, these are people who are economically challenged a lot of the time. Some of them are living on the streets. They need affordable housing. They need rental units — and not moldy basement suites. They need good accommodation. It is important to their health. We need to recognize the support for schools and the support for families and students in those schools, and it's a lifelong support. It's not something where you can put support programs in place to grade 6 or 7 and then walk away. You can't walk away at any point because it's a permanent disability. So we need to ensure that more is done in these areas.

One of the other areas we think that the government needs to improve, and that the Member for Klondike wants the government to proceed with as a priority initiative — and we agree — is to begin the implementation of the substance abuse action plan, which emphasizes harm reduction, prevention, education, treatment and enforcement.

Well, one of the things in the Yukon substance abuse action plan that is now four years old that they could take immediate action on is establishing the community harm reduction fund. That was in the Yukon substance abuse action plan. Harm reduction is important. The minister recognizes it. She talks about the need for treatment. She talks about it and the Premier talks about it too: the fact that there is a large number of people in our justice system who have substance abuse problems; they have addictions. And harm reduction is one of the things that was supposed to be a pillar of the substance abuse action plan.

Now, I can go on; there's a whole list of things here around the substance abuse action plan, that we think this government could do. It could increase support for high-risk young women; more public education targeted at youth around substance abuse; improving alcohol and drug education programs in schools; more counselling in schools for children.

We could expand — the minister mentioned corrections officer training. How about training on addictions issues that's offered in communities and available to counsellors? Expanding the outreach of alcohol and drug services to rural Yukon would be another good one. Reducing bootlegging and increasing the inspections on licensed operations. We also think that there needs to be an evaluation of the current treatment programs for incarcerated individuals and we need to expand those programs.

As well, it is mentioned in here as a priority, and we believe there should be access to land-based treatment camps or centres for inmates of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre or offenders who are supervised in the community who have been released.

What does that actually mean? Will only offenders have access to land-based centres? When the government talks about this, are they going to pay for these services or exactly how do they envision that?

The last issue that the Member for Klondike brought up was enhanced enforcement measures through the continued operation of the *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* and the RCMP street crime reduction team. There were a lot of statistics measured or mentioned earlier. When it comes to the RCMP street crime reduction team, it is interesting to note that when you look at the budget and the handout that was provided, it mentions that there is a reduction in the funding. The funding for the street crime reduction team initiative is time limited. So they've reduced it and the funding is time limited for the 2009-10 budget year.

A question we would like answered in that respect — I know the minister is not going to be able to respond; thank you, Mr. Speaker — today, but hopefully she will be able to respond when we get into Committee of the Whole and the Department of Justice. Or maybe one of her colleagues can pass this information on. How do they measure the success of the RCMP street crime reduction team? Is it a pilot project? Because if it's time-limited funding, when does it run out and how is the funding going to be phased out? Or is the minister going to be looking for more funding for this initiative?

In the short time allotted, I managed to cover a few of the areas in the motion that the Member for Klondike has presented.

We do have some concerns. We do think that it is important that the government put an emphasis on the corrections action plan and on moving forward. But we think that there needs to be more emphasis placed in certain areas than what they're actually doing at this moment.

I look forward to hearing what some of the other members have to say this afternoon and to seeing the end of this debate.

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: Before I even get into some of the things that I wanted to in this debate, I do want to speak to a couple of issues brought up by the previous speaker and to give him some information, both that I'm suspicious he doesn't have or some misconceptions that he is struggling under. Talking initially about the RCMP street reduction crime, the team is dedicated to street level drug- and alcohol-related crime enforcement and prevention. It consists of six police officers, a criminal analyst and a communications strategist, and it began, I believe, April 1, 2007.

If we look at the statistics — and I don't have the two-year statistics on that, but certainly up until the end of February of this year, that team has made 224 Criminal Code arrests. They've executed 74 warrants, they've undertaken 324 curfew checks on some of the prolific and priority offenders, they've taken 105 intoxicated persons into custody, laid 34 charges under the *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act*, and executed seven search warrants. So they do continue to provide a more rapid response time to calls for service, and to increase the number of drug-related arrests made. They have been very, very successful in that respect.

It's also working to decrease the incidence of street level crime, and to increase the visibility of the RCMP in the community, and I think they have done a really stellar job of that. The RCMP places a very high focus and priority on communi-

cations of its results through press releases and other media contacts. I think all of us, at least on this side, certainly read those press releases regularly and keep up to date on what they're doing.

The communication is taking place to assist the reducing of the fear of crime in communities and in all neighbourhoods, engaging the public to take ownership and responsibility for community safety. The street crime reduction team is cooperating with many others, including government departments and community agencies, to develop a coordinated and integrated approach to street level crime and to the needs of the prolific and priority offenders.

The RCMP does work with the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. They work with Adult Probation, Victim Services, Alcohol and Drug Services, City of Whitehorse, Yukon Liquor Corporation, and of course beyond the City of Whitehorse they work with all communities. As I see, the Member for Kluane is looking at me to make sure that Haines Junction isn't forgotten there. I know the keen interest that he takes in that.

The RCMP is also involved with the Community Wellness Court.

How is it funded? Well, the Government of Yukon is providing \$1.4 million over three years to the RCMP for the street crime reduction team. M Division is reallocating approximately \$1 million also to support this initiative.

The team is really part of a larger coordinated effort developed under the Yukon substance abuse action plan to help address the crime and social disorder often associated with substance abuse that diminishes the quality of life for all Yukoners.

The street crime reduction team is a special unit. It has been established by M Division, with support by our government, and it is intelligence-led and focuses on, again, the prolific and priority drug and alcohol offenders. This is where there is a high volume of crime, of course. The priority offenders are those who present with complex and challenging conditions, who might need more assistance and specialized response and specialized attention.

The total three-year cost for this initiative, again, is \$2.4 million. The RCMP is reallocating \$1.07 million of its existing budget toward the exercise. That total funding this year is, I believe, in the range of \$494,812 — roughly. So there will be what we refer to as a “wraparound approach” — an inter-agency approach — by all offenders.

Now, the other thing I wanted to bring up because, obviously, the Member for Mount Lorne is working under a couple of misconceptions here and I just wanted to correct the record on fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

He mentioned diagnosis a couple of times, and it would appear from his comments that he's not aware of the fact that a diagnosis of fetal alcohol syndrome or fetal alcohol spectrum disorder is in fact a medical diagnosis. This is not done by the Department of Education; it is not done by the Childhood Development Centre. It is a medical diagnosis. I believe he used the term “superficial” in his discussion. I'm making the assumption that he got wrapped up in his comments there and I would hope certainly that he didn't mean that.

I bring to everyone's attention the project by the Department of Health, which was groundbreaking in the past and unfortunately I don't have the statistics in front of me on that — possibly the Minister of Health and Social Services, when he rises, can give us some information — but we joined a program looking at meconium of newborn infants. Most births occur of course at Whitehorse General so it's a Whitehorse initiative. It was — or is — a project that was done — or is done — in conjunction with Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto and it is a way to get a diagnosis or get a medication at birth, Mr. Speaker, and I think that is about as early as you could hope for.

It is a great project. It has identified some people and allowed us to get on to those cases of FASD a little bit faster.

However, the Department of Education does fund initiatives to support students who are affected by FASD or who are thought to be affected, without a formal diagnosis. These initiatives provide services to learners from the time they enter the public school system, really, through to supported learning at Yukon College. There is coordination, Mr. Speaker, between the Department of Health and Social Services up until the students enter school and then the Department of Education from that point on.

The Department of Education also supports public school children based on identified need. They don't necessarily need that formal diagnosis. That formal diagnosis is, of course, good. It is desirable and it is definitely a goal, but if that diagnosis has not been formally given, the department does respond to need. It may well assess clients to identify appropriate community supports — both now and when they are leaving school, which is a big part of it.

And also, working with the coordinator of the preschool fetal alcohol spectrum disorder diagnostic team — and there is a diagnostic team in place trying to identify and get a formal diagnosis of these students, and that does include a local physician; it would have to — which was formed to include the Department of Education's special programs consultants to address the referral of school-aged youth. The funding for FASD initiatives, in the years from 2003 to 2008-09, has been in the range — without giving statistics, which the Member for Kluane seems to not appreciate at the best of times — has ranged from \$198,000 to \$253,300 in total for the work on that.

I see the Member for Kluane nodding in approval, so I won't go into detail on that.

Schools receive a non-fetal alcohol spectrum disorder training and support — and there are school-based teams along with parents and caregivers and, as they develop, implement and evaluate the FASD plans, they use the best practices from the Yukon and from all other jurisdictions.

Teaching strategies focusing on developing social and communication skills are a big part of this. They support and service everything from behavioural support, sensory integration, as well as programming assistance in areas of language development and gross and fine motor coordination. Efforts are focused on individual needs, again, as identified in individual learning plans.

There is ongoing service on FASD offered in all public schools. Teachers are supported to attend conferences both in

the Yukon and outside the territory on FASD and to share this information with their colleagues. A variety of teaching resource material is available in schools and teachers have access to additional materials through the department's learning resources centre.

New materials are continually identified and made available within the department and with the Department of Health and Social Services. There is a manual, *Making a Difference — Working with Students who have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders*, which was written by Deb Evenson, a consultant and FASD specialist from Alaska who has now very unfortunately left the territory, with input from a wide-variety of other people.

Parents and or legal guardians must agree to any referral for assessment and there must be a suspected and/or a confirmed use of alcohol prenatally.

To be considered for assessment, youth must be between the ages of five and 18 years of age and demonstrating significant delays in one or more areas.

The youth FASD diagnostic and support team is a unique opportunity to blend a variety of expertise with that of medical practitioners, again, who are the ones who would make that diagnosis, as well as Health and Social Services and community partners. With the addition of the medical doctor to that team, that is when the diagnosis can be made. It is a medical diagnosis.

It is estimated that up to 10 FASD assessments can take place each year, in conjunction with the regular ongoing support to school responsibilities by the consultants to the department. At this point in time, I understand from the Minister of Education that there is not a waiting list for referrals to the team. Again, I refer back to the meconium diagnosis project through Whitehorse General Hospital. This would allow a diagnosis without having to go through a long and involved process on that.

So this gives sort of an overview of some of the programs that are there and will hopefully correct some of the misconceptions that have been placed on the floor — in all good faith, I'm sure, but I just wanted to make sure that people were aware of the fact that FASD is in fact a medical diagnosis. It is not just something that is pulled out of the air.

The Yukon government heard through public consultations that Yukoners wanted corrections to keep people from re-offending by providing more treatment opportunities. We keep using the term "recidivism" and I hope most people understand that's simply the revolving door, if somebody goes through, gets out, and they tend to go right back in again. How many people return after they finish their sentence? That is the definition of recidivism.

The transitional women's living unit will provide low- and medium-risk women who are incarcerated at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre with treatment opportunities. These healing-based treatment options will assist with reintegration into the community after release and hopefully cut down that recidivism rate or the probability — or possibility, depending on how you look at it — of coming back into the correctional system.

Design of the transitional women's living unit is complete; that's done. Work on-site to date for this new facility includes the installation of foundations and under-slab services.

It's anticipated that work on the balance of the facility will be underway late April — and I'm sure anybody looking out at the fact that it seems to be still snowing out there — that might be a little bit delayed, but anyway we're hoping for late April, and substantial completion and move-in by the end of 2009. Women will be transferred from the transitional women's living unit to the women's living unit upon the completion of the new correctional centre in 2011.

Now, the transitional women's living unit will then be re-purposed for treatment options for offenders and for scheduled outside users. Planning for this is ongoing.

What is the transitional women's living unit? This is a term that keeps getting bantered around, and I'm sure there are those who are not really totally sure what that is. It's a part of the larger corrections infrastructure project, and a significant action item in the correctional redevelopment strategic plan. The transitional women's living unit is being constructed at this time to respond to the immediate needs of female inmates. The female population of Whitehorse Correctional Centre is increasing, interestingly enough, and sadly enough, Mr. Speaker, but it still remains a relatively small and very diverse population.

Accommodation issues come up regularly in this population, such as women who can't be kept together for legal reasons, women who can't be kept together because they don't get along, and women who can't be kept together because of a variety of security issues.

This new facility will provide improved and more suitable accommodation in a residential setting for eligible low- to medium-security female inmates. The facility includes six bedrooms. There will be a capacity for nine persons. Living and dining room space will be provided, and a residential-sized kitchen. The new facility also provides opportunity for gradual implementation of enhanced direct supervision, a more client-focused approach at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre's supervision and program model.

Certainly, everyone involved with the project and people who work within that facility are very, very pleased at changing the whole way that we will look at supervising and working with the residents. There is a wide variety of ways you can do it; there is a wide variety of ways that you shouldn't do it. I've heard nothing but good things. I don't hear good things from the members opposite, but I'm certain that members opposite will come to understand, as the project develops and they come to an understanding of why we're making these changes and why all of Yukon is making these changes.

Upon completion, as I mentioned, of the new corrections centre, the building will be converted to meet other program needs. The new correctional centre will have a separate women's living unit built specifically to meet those unique needs. The current construction estimate for the transition women's living unit is about \$1.3 million. The government is committing \$719,000 in this 2009-10 budget toward completion of the new facility and I am sure that the minister will be

more than pleased to have line-by-line debate — which I know the Leader of the Official Opposition is very anxious to get to.

It is expected the project will remain well within the construction estimates.

I could go on, Mr. Speaker, about a wide variety of things — more on that transitional unit, the Community Wellness Court, the substance abuse action plan. There are just so many things that have been done in street crime reduction. There is such a wide variety of projects and initiatives by this government that have come out of the consultation. I would vote every single time for delays as opposed to doing it wrong.

I think all of us have to shake our heads. We are told in Question Period of the person sentenced to a term who would go to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, but wants better programming and wants a more severe sentence. I read this morning that this individual has now filed an appeal for a harsh sentence.

Let's all try to get on the same page on this, Mr. Speaker. The consultation was very extensive. I think we have to listen to that consultation and not just sort of wing it as we go. Thank you.

Mr. Mitchell: It is my pleasure to rise today to speak to Motion No. 691 from the Member for Klondike. Before I get into the 10 clauses of this motion, I just want to register that I was somewhat surprised that this would be the motion that the Member for Klondike called today as part of his two motions. The first one was very logical — Motion No. 702 — because it was time-sensitive for a united front from this Assembly to provide support for the Premier and the Health and Social Services minister to make the case for continuing the enhanced strategic investment in health care systems for the territories.

I would have thought perhaps that the other motion we would have been debating today from the Member for Klondike, being time-sensitive, would have been the motion that he gave notice of last week to urge the Government of Canada not to reduce the funding for the CBC northern service, considering that one is also time-sensitive. I looked forward to the debate on that motion. I looked forward to hearing all the support that the members opposite on the government side were going to provide for the good work done by the CBC and perhaps get that unanimous support from this Assembly to make that case with Canada, because that is time-sensitive. However, perhaps that was just a placeholder motion, trying to look like there was concern, but the concern was —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

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

Hon. Mr. Cathers: The Leader of the Official Opposition is imputing unavowed motives to the Member for Klondike and I believe that is in contravention of Standing Order 19(g). I would ask you to consider this point and I believe he should be called to order.

Speaker: The Leader of the Official Opposition, on the point of order.

Mr. Mitchell: On the point of order, there was certainly no intent to impute motive, but rather to ask the question as to why this wasn't being called and suggesting — I don't see where in the Standing Orders I've accused anyone of anything, but I can rephrase it if the member opposite would prefer. I'm happy to do so.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: From the Chair's perspective, there is no point of order; however, prior to the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources standing up, I was going to interrupt the member and remind him to talk about the motion. If the honourable member would be kind enough to do that, we can carry on.

The honourable member has the floor.

Mr. Mitchell: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Certainly, I will get on to the motion.

This motion has 10 clauses — 10 subclauses — and we only have 20 minutes each to speak to it. Obviously, if I were to distribute my time evenly, that would be two minutes per clause and we probably wouldn't accomplish much. Other members have spoken to several of those items, so I won't speak to all of them. I would like to speak to a few of them today, however. One that I would speak to, because the Minister of Economic Development was speaking to it following comments made by the Member for Mount Lorne, was the continued implementation of the five-step FASD action plan. I noticed that the Minister of Economic Development was offering to correct information on the record, provided by the Member for Mount Lorne, regarding who does a diagnosis, that they are medical diagnoses done by doctors and not educators.

Of course, the minister is correct, but I am sure he's aware that teachers on a regular basis do identify students to be referred as possible candidates for a formal diagnosis. They do that on a regular basis as resources allow. The minister mentioned that resources allow for only up to 10 medical diagnoses per year. I think that is what the member is alluding to. As the minister has pointed out, on a regular basis we have educators who, without a formal diagnosis, still try to get the appropriate help for students — be it learning assistance, the Reading Recovery program, Wilson Reading or other programs based on their needs.

In terms of (8), the continued implementation of the five-step FASD action plan, I can certainly support that. It is important. As a spouse of an educator, I know how much fetal alcohol spectrum disorder impacts on the educational opportunities and the uptake of them for a portion of the young students in Yukon. Anything we can do with education to get people to quit drinking when they are or even may be pregnant would be beneficial.

What we can do after the fact is provide continued support. From experts in the field and from dealing with FASSY over the years, that really means lifelong support, because this is not like some diseases where there is a cure. Rather, it is a syndrome or disorder that one must live with and accommodate on a lifelong basis.

The implementation of correctional reform through the ongoing operations of the corrections action plan implementation

office, item 1 — well, the corrections action plan is certainly a very thorough document, and there are priorities, as identified in Appendix 1. The guiding principles of the consultation were: develop partnerships; provide a continuum of programs and services; incorporate Yukon First Nations culture, traditions and practices; use evidence-based practice; encourage and support innovation; develop community capacity; focus on healing, accountability and security; and provide prevention programs.

Those are good objectives. Certainly under priorities, building a new facility is a top priority. Developing and providing facility-based programs and services — it says that facility-based programs and services should support accountability, healing and rehabilitation in the following ways: by providing appropriate inmate programs, for example, drug and alcohol counselling; educational and vocational programs; First Nations cultural and spiritual programs; cognitive skills, life skills, et cetera; creating case management plans which start at admission and are based on a comprehensive assessment of inmate needs and risks and include transition plans; developing a human resource plan for staff and volunteer recruitment, training and development; and involving First Nation elders, instructors and counsellors in program and service delivery.

Now, before members opposite get concerned, I certainly don't plan to read the report out loud. I just wanted to outline some of the items that have been addressed in it. Clearly, despite the — I'm trying to think of one of the terms that is allowed — spirited debate that goes back and forth in this Assembly, Mr. Speaker, I think members on both sides of this House actually agree that we're not doing a good enough job and we can do better, certainly when it comes to corrections.

I find ironic all of the debate and the sort of framing and buzzwords. We've heard "warehouse" and "stalls" from the Premier this week. We've heard "warehouse" repeated again and again, attached to the term "Liberal warehouse". It's kind of ironic, because if you go back and look in the mid-1990s, members of various parties were accusing the government of the day of warehousing people in the existing facility. When the Liberals came forward with their proposed new correctional facility — which I believe was started under the NDP in their time in office — they were accused of building a Cadillac facility. One member who was sitting at the time with the Yukon Party caucus said he heard it described as the "Hotel Ritz". So the description has really changed from the "Hotel Ritz" to a "warehouse". I find it to be quite extraordinary how the positioning can change quite so dramatically. I'm going to come back to that in a minute.

Item (2), passage and implementation of the new *Yukon Corrections Act, 2009* based on principles that provide for the rehabilitation, healing and reintegration of offenders into society.

I can certainly agree with the fact that we should be dealing with the rehabilitation, healing and reintegration of offenders back into society — I agree with those principles — but I find it somewhat disconcerting that the government backbencher, or private member, in his motion, would seek support from all sides of this Assembly for passage and implementation

of a particular piece of legislation that we have yet to have the opportunity to debate other than during brief second reading speeches.

I think there will be quite a lot of debate around that act and I am personally concerned that we see a pattern of motions on private members' day that urge us to pass legislation that we have not yet had the opportunity to debate. That is a difficult thing to endorse. If we endorse it, does that then mean that there is no point in debating it when it comes up for debate? I think there is quite a lot in that bill that requires examination, questioning, answers and debate. I do have a problem with that particular item.

Construction of the new correctional centre, built in conjunction with the new treatment centre: well, we have had a lot of debate in Question Period over the past week or so about that issue. In the time I have remaining — and I'm not sure what that time is, Mr. Speaker — I would like to focus on that.

We have asked questions over the last week or so and we haven't gotten answers. We have had responses and we have heard a lot of discussion about what happened seven, eight and 10 years ago and so forth, but we haven't had responses. It took two days just to get an actual amount to pass the lips of the Minister of Justice as to how much they were estimating this facility would cost.

When we have asked questions, as I did today, about what programs are being envisioned for this facility, because this is one of those cases where form should follow function — we should determine what we want to achieve, what kind of programming, and make sure that we have designed a space to do it — we didn't get any answers at all from the Minister of Justice. She simply went back to telling us how bad the previous design was for the facility.

Again, I'm using these "warehouse" terms.

We've seen some of the things — and they're listed here in this motion, in terms of rehabilitation, healing and reintegration of offenders — we've seen in the action plan about involvement of First Nations, about First Nation cultural and spiritual programs. I find it quite extraordinary, Mr. Speaker, because this motion says, "the construction of a new correctional centre, built in conjunction with a new treatment centre."

I'm looking at a set of plans from DGBK and Kobayashi & Zedda Design Group that date back to the former government. And in looking at these plans — in fact, these are the plans that my colleague, the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, filed in this Assembly last week — these plans were so elaborate, actually, in terms of what they offered, they were so inclusive that there is a place for an elders store. There are chapels. There's an eight-sided spirituality centre. There is a special women's unit, a mental health unit, a gym, obviously a health care facility, a place for visitation, a place for general population.

There are all kinds of things in this facility and, in fact, we understand that the footprint for the new facility is going to look quite a lot like this facility. These plans were so impressive that when the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin filed them to make the case that this was not a warehouse; that this was, in fact, a facility purposely designed to address the 21st century, and not, as the Premier said, going back to the 1900s.

One of our major news outlets ran the story and thought these were the plans for the new facility. They said, “Oh, we don’t know what the Liberals’ concerns are. This is a beautiful facility.” They said, “This facility has all of these wonderful features.” They were shocked when they realized that this was, in fact, the old facility. I think this discussion should really be put to rest.

She said something — for example, she said in paragraph 50: In the 10 projects that we looked at, we did not find any documented project plans that clearly set out a strategy and course of action for completing a project, including proposed quality control and quality assurance processes, work schedule, cost plan and project team organization. We observed the cost estimates prepared by consultants prior to construction tendering were often significantly lower than the bid prices received. In six cases, the program department had to seek Management Board approval to increase the target cost. In five cases, we observed changes in scope and design imposed by client departments during project delivery, resulting in both cost increases and delays. In some cases, the problems were beyond the department’s control.

Elsewhere, Mr. Speaker, she gives the sad legacy of the Watson Lake multi-level care facility where it says the roles and responsibilities for project management staff and the client department were not clearly defined for the multi-level care facilities projects in Watson Lake and Dawson City. Later she says that ended when, in December 2004, the department recommended that it decline the assignment for these two projects. In June 2005, the Minister of Highways and Public Works, on behalf of the department, declined responsibility for the projects.

This report is full of examples where it says that the departments didn’t conduct the required review of completed projects to evaluate whether it followed appropriate procedures, observed economy and efficiency and so forth.

My time is limited, Mr. Speaker, but I think the point I’m making is when we hear the minister say in the Assembly this week that they don’t have the final plans, but they’re moving forward.

The Premier rises to the occasion by saying that there’s nothing wrong with that; that’s what change orders are about. Are we familiar with change orders?

Well, we’re all too familiar with change orders under this government’s watch. Change orders are expensive. Anyone who has ever had anything built knows that when a change order comes into place, you can throw away the budget because then you’re in trouble.

Mr. Speaker, I have to say that I can’t support the motion as it’s currently worded — although I think there are a lot of good things in the motion — because when it says the construction of a new correctional centre built in conjunction with a new treatment centre in subclause (3) — what we’ve heard to date would require us on this side to issue a blank cheque — maybe \$67 million, maybe \$70 million, \$75 million. There will be change orders. We don’t know.

Amendment proposed

Mr. Mitchell: I want to improve the motion. I move THAT Motion No. 691 be amended by inserting the following after the term “treatment centre” in clause 3: “once plans are completed and final costs are known”.

Speaker: The amendment to Motion No. 691 is in order. It has been moved by the Leader of the Official Opposition:

THAT Motion No. 691 be amended by inserting the following after the term “treatment centre” in clause 3: “once plans are completed and final costs are known”.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, I think that I would just like to speak to this briefly. Obviously, I don’t have a lot of time. There has been a lot of debate over the last week about costs — change orders and such.

There has been talk of other facilities, and millions of dollars spent. We’ve seen the Auditor General’s reports, but I think I can’t say it as well as the Minister of Economic Development said about half an hour ago. I obviously don’t have *Hansard* yet, but I did take notes. The Minister of Economic Development said, and I quote: I would vote every single time for delay rather than doing it wrong.

I can’t say it any better than the Minister of Economic Development said it. We hate to see any delays, although there has been seven years of delay under this government. As the Minister of Economic Development said, it’s better to delay than to do it wrong. Mr. Speaker, I have to say that to do it without final plans, to rely, as the Premier says, on change orders, to rush forward now and then find out, as in Watson Lake, that we have to hire consultants later to figure out how to fix the building, would be doing it wrong.

I know that the Minister of Economic Development — because he just said so — would vote with me for this amendment, because he said: I would vote every single time for delays rather than doing it wrong. It’s not a big delay, Mr. Speaker; we’re only asking, with this amendment, to delay a little while for once plans are completed and final costs are known.

I think that’s about the end of my time, so I thank you.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: I do have a note that when the member refers to “delaying”, they certainly did delay in all of the hours of debate this afternoon, actually getting around to popping an amendment on the floor, considering the very extensive amount of time that the Member for Porter Creek South spent on the issue. It is unfortunate that rather than choosing to —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: Order please. On a point of order, Leader of the Official Opposition.

Mr. Mitchell: I believe that under our Standing Orders, all members have the right to address an issue without being accused by other members. It comes under item 19(g), imputing false or unavowed motives to another member. It is close to that to suggest that we were delaying bringing this

forward. This is my amendment during my time. I feel that I am entitled to bring forward what I should in my time.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: From the Chair's perspective, there is no point of order. This is simply a dispute among members.

The time being 5:30 p.m., the House now stands adjourned until 1:00 pm. tomorrow.

Debate on Motion No. 691, and the amendment, accordingly adjourned

The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.