

**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Thursday, December 17, 2009 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

Speaker's statement

Speaker: Before we proceed with the Order Paper the Chair will make a statement regarding the point of personal privilege offered by the Leader of the Official Opposition on Tuesday. Upon reviewing the Blues, it appears to the Chair that some of the member's comments constituted an explanation for a statement he made in the House on Monday.

The Chair would take this opportunity to remind members of our practices regarding points of personal privilege. *House of Commons Procedure and Practice*, 2nd Edition, at page 631, describes a point of personal privilege as an opportunity, granted to a member by the Chair "to explain a matter of a personal nature although there is no question before the House." A point of personal privilege "is an indulgence granted by the Chair. There is no connection to a question of privilege, and one Speaker noted, 'There is no legal authority, procedural or otherwise, historic or precedential, that allows this.' Consequently, such occasions are not meant to be used for general debate, and members have been cautioned to confine their remarks to the point they wish to make."

Therefore, a member speaking on a point of personal privilege to correct a comment he or she made in this House should simply provide the House with the correction without offering an explanation as to why they said what they said. The member should not say anything that might incite debate because there is no opportunity for other members to respond.

DAILY ROUTINE

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

Tributes.

Introduction of visitors.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: It gives me great pleasure today to introduce to the House the delegation from Xian and the Province of Shaanxi, our sister province: Mr. Zhang Haitao, who is the deputy director of Foreign Affairs Office of Shaanxi Provincial People's Government; Mr. Wu Xincheng, vice-president of Shaanxi Provincial People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries; and three directors of that association, Mr. Yuan Jingxu, Mr. Fan Genke and Mr. Li Linfeng.

I'd like all members of the House to give them a welcome to our Legislature today.

Speaker: Is there any other introduction of visitors?
Returns or documents for tabling.

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Mr. Hart: I have for tabling a statement of revenues and expenditures for health care and insurance programs for 2008-09. I also have for tabling the Yukon health status report for 2009.

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: I have for tabling today the annual report of the Yukon Liquor Corporation.

Mr. McRobb: I have documents for tabling.

Speaker: Are there any further 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. McRobb: I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to provide complete details of the financing of the Carmacks-Stewart transmission line and Mayo B projects.

I also give notice of two written questions.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Canada to review the practices of air carriers and airport operating authorities to provide better service to the public by:

(1) reviewing the conditions of non-refundable airfares with the intent of removing all or some of the conditions around the refundability of airfares;

(2) removing the non-endorsement and non-transferable clauses of non-refundable airfares so that other members of the family or friends can use any residual airfare from cancelled tickets;

(3) encouraging air carriers to offer interline options for connecting passengers and baggage specifically when these tickets are issued via the web through e-ticketing;

(4) working with air carriers and airport operating authorities to eliminate the double charging of airport improvement fees caused by e-ticketing;

(5) working with all the involved parties to reduce user fees charged by government bodies, agencies and airport operating authorities;

(6) reviewing all non-profit airport operating authorities to ensure that they are not exceeding their mandates;

(7) exercising more control over the Canadian Aeronautics Board and Transport Canada to ensure the rights of passengers are paramount;

(8) ensuring that air carriers refund the taxes, airport improvement fees and fuel surcharges portion of non-refundable airfares; and

(9) ensuring that air carriers put passengers, their customers, first when dealing with service complaints.

I also give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the City of Whitehorse to adopt a “Snow Angels” program aimed at encouraging residents to reach out and help their neighbours, especially those in need, with shovelling snow.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I would ask the indulgence of the House to join the government side in making welcome Yukon’s Senator, Mr. Dan Lang.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any further notices of motion?

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Yukon government to immediately convene the Yukon collaborative practice initiative in order to create an active role for nurse practitioners in full-spectrum health care within a collaborative health care delivery system.

I give notice of the following motion:

THAT it is the opinion of this House that the boycott by federal Conservative MPs of the federal special committee studying the Afghan detainees held by Canadian troops resulted in a lack of quorum so the committee could not meet officially and insults elected members and committee officials, as well as the parliamentary process itself, and should be denounced and reversed by the Prime Minister immediately in the strongest possible manner.

I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House calls on the Yukon government to follow their own energy strategy and develop and implement demand management programs and incentives to promote energy efficiency and conservation.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Canada and the Yukon government to reach an agreement to replace the territorial health access fund with a successor agreement that supports the sustainability of Yukon’s health care system and continues to fund successful initiatives currently supported by the territorial health access fund including:

- (1) the 811 Yukon Healthline;
- (2) the family physician incentive programs for new graduates;
- (3) the medical education bursary;
- (4) the nursing education bursary;
- (5) the health professions education bursary;
- (6) assisting existing family practices in expanding to provide space for new physicians;
- (7) the satellite specialist clinic;
- (8) the diabetes collaborative and the chronic disease collaborative;
- (9) initiatives encouraging collaborative practice;
- (10) the palliative care program;

(11) mental health services in communities and through the telehealth network; and,

(12) other initiatives under the health human resource strategy that support the development of local health care capacity and improve health care outcomes for Yukon citizens.

Speaker: Are there any further notices of motion?

Is there a statement by a minister?

This then brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Climate change

Mr. Elias: The Yukon’s Minister of Environment is in Copenhagen right now as part of Canada’s delegation. It is disappointing to hear Canada being criticized every single day for avoiding effective targets to curb greenhouse gas emissions. It is also disappointing, Mr. Speaker, to hear Yukon’s Environment minister reporting back from Copenhagen about all the photo opportunities she’s having with celebrities on the Home and Garden Television Network.

The minister is in Copenhagen and she’s supposed to be representing the views of Yukoners. Instead, we keep hearing the same old line — Yukon will simply accept whatever Canada says. I want to know why the Yukon Party government is listening to the federal Conservatives on this issue instead of Yukoners.

Hon. Mr. Fentie: The work and efforts by many — including Yukon’s Minister of Environment — are extremely important not only to the Yukon and to Canada, but to the global community itself. That is indeed why they’re all in Copenhagen dedicated and committed to the common purpose of dealing with climate change. As far as our federal government, the Yukon government — as a territory — has presented to our federal government our *Climate Change Action Plan*, our strategy. Our minister will be there in Copenhagen, for example, making representations on what we are doing and enhancing our understanding, our knowledge base for climate change. In adapting to climate change, it is this territory’s leadership that ensures that our national strategy — which includes adaptation these days, reducing our greenhouse gas emissions, of course — leads Yukon actions in response to climate change and indeed, continues to articulate Yukon’s action plan, as we deal with the global phenomenon and do our part as a member of the global community.

Mr. Elias: That’s not enough. The Yukon Party Minister of Environment is proving that Copenhagen may be an excellent photo opportunity, but the real agenda there is climate change. The Canadian Prime Minister —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: On a point of order.

Hon. Ms. Horne: Point of order, under 19(i), the member opposite is using insulting language toward our Minister of Tourism, who is female, making it seem like it’s more important to her to be in photo ops.

Mr. McRobb: On the point of order, 19(i) does not identify this, nor does this reference fall within 19(i), nor does it breach our Standing Orders.

Speaker's ruling

Speaker: The Chair is going to give a peculiar ruling here, as it is reminiscent of a former member of this House who was charged by a member of accepting a ride on a Challenger jet. It was demeaning to a female member at that point in time, and I think those types of allegations are the same at this point in time. The Member for Vuntut Gwitchin has the floor.

Mr. Elias: The Canadian Prime Minister doesn't want to set real targets, and that means bad news for the Yukon. Believe me, I know. The federal Environment minister made it clear to the provinces and territories to toe the line. Our Minister of Environment has no plan for sending a clear message about Yukon and what Yukoners want in response to our changing climate. Why is this government blindly following the federal Conservatives on this climate change issue?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Well, we much prefer to follow a national government that actually has a commitment to a plan, including targets for emission reductions. Let me remind the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin that for years Canada was subjected to rhetoric from the federal Liberal government regarding targets for climate change emission reductions, and all that ever happened in this country is our emissions increased.

I can categorically say that the government side would much prefer to follow a national government and support a national government that has real commitment and dedication to targets of emissions reduction.

Mr. Elias: Just the other day, our Premier said he sent his best to Copenhagen. What he should do is get on his feet and say something of value and that it's okay for this territory's Environment minister to disagree with the federal Conservative government in this country. He also said this very morning that the Yukon Party government will not deflect from its purpose.

Meanwhile, the Yukon Environment minister is skirting the issues, dodging the questions and tries to sell Yukoners on the idea that this Yukon Party government is actually committed to doing something about climate change. This is the way 34,000 Yukoners are being represented on the world stage.

Yukoners want some real leadership from this government. Why is this government not representing Yukoners at Copenhagen?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: This is really quite something. I guess then the member is also referring to his colleague, the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, who is representing Yukon in Copenhagen, and he must also be referring to the member of the Third Party, who is representing Yukon at Copenhagen. Surely the member is somewhat confused and has made a mistake in his questioning.

Furthermore, let us focus in on fact: the Yukon government and the Yukon Territory must also do its part. That's why we've established a Yukon Research Centre of Excellence. We've actually done something tangible, not just talked about it, like the former federal Liberals and now what we're hearing today in the House.

We are establishing climate change research study areas. We're doing research on permafrost, even in consort with universities like Laval University.

Mr. Speaker, this Yukon Party government, along with our national government, is actually working on climate change instead of talking about it.

Question re: Mayo B project

Mr. McRobb: Mr. Speaker, the odds on favourite for the biggest Yukon story of the year has got to be the Premier's interference into the operations of our publicly owned electrical utility and his secret, parallel negotiating process to sell out Yukon's energy future. It's unfortunate for Yukoners this story hasn't yet ended and probably won't until this government is thrown out of office.

The Premier and his Yukon Party colleagues have chosen to continue the negotiations and the latest evidence reveals that financing for Mayo B is still unknown. Yesterday we asked the Premier to identify the "mystery investor" whose name was blacked out within the Canada agreement on the Pelly-Stewart transmission line. The Premier was elusive and indicated the mystery investor might be similar to the Minto mine. For the record, can he now tell us the identity of that mystery investor?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Mr. Speaker, it's a marvel how the Member for Kluane, from day to day, flip-flops when it comes to access to information, and indeed, protection of privacy. I know the member ignores the protection-of-privacy aspect of that legislation. That's why the member Googles government employees who choose to exercise their right of freedom of speech and state their case and position.

The member says it's an unknown on how we're investing in Mayo B. The member has in receipt a contribution agreement with Canada. Canada has \$71 million invested and the member knows full well that this agreement includes 50-cent dollars by the Energy Corporation. This government is more than comfortable to allow the Energy Corporation to do its work, and that's exactly what they're doing.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, I'm late for my next blacking out of somebody's name.

Mr. McRobb: The document is blacked out and the guessing game continues. Ratepayers and taxpayers want to be assured they won't be left holding the bag on the most expensive project in YEC's history. What's more, the project must be completed and operational within 15 months, so there's no time to waste. We need an answer now.

Let's review the options. Perhaps the Premier's mystery investor is the hopeful Western Copper mine, which would be in close proximity to the operating Capstone mine, but the Pelly-Stewart line has nothing to do with Western Copper. Electricity for this potential industrial customer will be fed via an extension on the existing Minto spur line. Can the Premier confirm that the mystery investor is, in fact, not Western Copper?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I'll just let the Member for Kluane continue to dig, as the member and the Official Opposition immerse themselves deeper and deeper in their story. What we'll stick to is doing our job. That's why, in today's Yukon, we have an increased capacity for renewable energy — in this

case, hydro — and that's why we have invested in the third wheel at Aishihik. That's why we've completed the first phase of the Mayo B project. In doing so, we've allowed for a large customer to be connected to our main grid and to use hydro instead of diesel fuel to produce electricity. Indeed, there is a cost to those hook-ups. We'll leave the Energy Corporation to deal with that.

We're quite comfortable with the progress we're making, not only in developing our infrastructure for renewable energy, but reducing — dare I say — thousands of tonnes of carbon output in this territory, which reflects back to the previous question: what are we doing in Yukon? We are doing our job.

Mr. McRobb: Well, this is like playing Pin the Tail on the Donkey. I guess we'll keep guessing until we get a heehaw out of this government. The only other potential industrial customer on the radar screen is Alexco — the owner of the former United Keno Hill properties — but we can rule out that option because of the unique circumstances. Further, Yukon Energy Corporation said today there is no industrial investor.

Let's return to the Premier's tabled evidence — the document with the identity of the mystery investor blacked out. It identifies the source of nearly \$18 million of capital funding into Mayo B coming from Yukon Energy Corporation, or ratepayers, and the Na Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation.

Let's all listen carefully for an actual answer to this final question to the Premier. Approximately how much will the Na Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation be investing into either Mayo B or the power line and would it be in the form of a loan or an investment?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Given the government side has the tail, one can only wonder where the donkey is.

We'll allow out of due respect for another order of government — in this case, Na Cho Nyäk Dun — to make our own determinations. What we've provided for is an opportunity along with the federal government so that the First Nation has an option and an opportunity to invest.

Let me repeat for the member opposite: there is a portion of the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* that is very critical; it's called "protection of privacy." We honour that. We are very much committed to that act. The members opposite just voted for all the amendments to that act, Mr. Speaker, but now we're wondering if they are indeed committed to what they voted for, which is very progressive legislation in the Yukon.

Finally, the investment in Mayo B continues, as the first phase has been completed. Great progress has been made in Yukon's energy infrastructure, so too will we continue to work on completing the second phase on behalf of Yukoners and our publicly owned utility.

Question re: Economic vision

Mr. Hardy: Mr. Speaker, Merry Christmas to everybody in here. We forget sometimes at this time of year where we're at and what's really on people's minds — the people who are struggling in our society who may not have any income or very little income.

So my question isn't really about the economy. This year the Yukon government tabled the biggest budget in the history

of the territory. With additions to the supplementary budget that will be passed today, the Yukon will be spending well over \$1 billion in this fiscal year. Like his federal counterparts, the Premier has talked a lot about a stimulus budget. Stimulus is really about creating jobs and getting workers, who would have been unemployed, spending money back into our economy. But official unemployment in Yukon is up to 7.4 percent, one percentage higher than a month ago and 2.5 percent higher than a year ago. That is 400 more Yukoners who are unemployed. I don't think it is a Merry Christmas.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I will get to the question. This begs the question: how effective has the Premier's stimulus budget been in terms of creating new jobs in Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Yes, merry Christmas to the members of the House and indeed the member of the Third Party. It is the festive season. Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the member looks thoroughly at statistics, because there is a corresponding issue here that the member should reflect upon. Our unemployment rate also includes an increase in the number of people who have entered the labour force, and in many cases that is people coming to the Yukon looking for work. That is how effective our stimulus budget is. Unlike in the past where there was an exodus of our skilled people and our young people, the Yukon is now a place where individuals in this country are actually looking to, to find work.

Mr. Hardy: In a booming economy that often doesn't hold true. Again, I wanted to place emphasis around those who are in need. We often forget that in this Chamber, although I think everybody's heart is in the right place. The idea of the government stimulating the economy through target spending during recessions is no new concept. Spending on infrastructure like roads and social housing is universally accepted as what responsible governments need to do, but the effectiveness of a stimulus plan requires good data and thorough review. It requires a vision as well. But issues of employment equity need to be factored into the equation. Groups that historically have faced barriers to employment — the poor, First Nations, youth, the disabled, rural Yukoners — may be shut out if stimulus does not have any equity targets. What has been the performance of Yukon's stimulus plan in creating jobs for historically marginalized segments of our population?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: A merry Christmas to the Leader of the NDP. The member opposite has just discussed some different equity groups in Yukon society, and he wanted to know what steps are being taken to address some of those issues. I would like to share with the member opposite some of the announcements that came out of the Yukon labour market strategy and out of the labour market agreement that Yukon now provides for Yukoners, in which there are specific programs for women, people with disabilities, younger workers, older workers, and the very groups to which he has been referring. These are ways that we can work with these people to provide assistance, training, capacity building and skills development to allow them to participate in the economic opportunities that we are seeing throughout the territory.

Mr. Hardy: We think there are tremendous opportunities for economic development in the Yukon, and I hope that's

something we can look forward to. We have environmental opportunities; we live in one of the few untouched places in the world. That is a great asset. We have energy opportunities; our Crown corporations have been so important in building this territory and generating our common wealth; we could do much more to harness the water, wind and solar energy potential of the Yukon and get communities off diesel and create new green jobs, ones that will never be connected to a grid.

We have dynamic people in the Yukon; we have opportunities to invest in our creative industries. How do we unleash this potential? We've accomplished a lot this sitting through the collaboration and cooperation of members on both sides of the Legislative Assembly. We did that on landlord/tenant issues, on legislative renewal, on the anti-poverty summit, just to name three, but we need to work together.

Does the Premier agree, and can we look at holding an economic summit for all Yukoners in the new year to come up with a long-term economic vision?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Actually, there was an economic summit in this territory and it culminated in an election in 2002. The vision and plan that was laid out before Yukoners then is still underway, and it is providing great results in this territory.

I listed some of the evidence of that the other day. When we do comparisons between what was in 2002 under the former Liberal government and where we're at today, they are quite stark in terms of the realities that we have now experienced. Our population is the highest on record. People are moving into the territory because we have an economy. Our labour force has increased by well over 2,000 individuals. People are moving into the territory because we have an economy.

There are 3,000 more Yukoners employed today than when we came into office in 2002. That's because we have an economy. Our unemployment rate is one of the best in the country. The cash flow in this territory has increased dramatically, which allows for increased spending, helping small business, retailers and others. We're talking multi-millions of dollars. We have an economy and we've got to continue to work on it, not have another summit.

Question re: Economic vision

Mr. Hardy: It's a shame, Mr. Speaker, that the minister doesn't agree with that. Politics can be extremely frustrating and seem almost futile at times for many members of this House. Just that response is very frustrating. We all got into politics because we wanted to make a difference and contribute to building a better Yukon for as many people as possible, despite endless hours of debate, budgets and bills getting passed without even a single comma or decimal point being changed.

But we also saw unprecedented cooperation in this House in this sitting. So, in the spirit of the holiday season, I would like to commend and congratulate every member in this House for the work that we have been able to accomplish — the positive work we've done.

We did once do an economic summit under an NDP government, many, many years ago, that involved all people of this territory. That was many years ago. It was a great document.

It's time to do another one. Why won't the minister consider this?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: It would be wrong to suggest that we don't consider things. All matters have been considered, especially where we've been. And that's the point. I don't at all dispute the member's view of what the NDP did in the past, but what I have to say is that it did not work that well. We were in double-digit unemployment figures, we had an exodus of our population and, by the way, we had very little private sector investment.

Today, under the leadership of our Minister of Economic Development, we are experiencing literally hundreds of millions of dollars of private sector investment and, in this case, offshore investment coming into the territory. That's the point. We have worked with Yukoners. We have consulted with Yukoners. We have taken their suggestions. We've put them into practice. The Yukon has an economy. The Yukon is growing. Our prosperity is growing. Our quality of life has improved. That is what we've accomplished.

Mr. Hardy: I would like to correct the record on what the Premier just said about the fact that the economic summit didn't work. When you involve all people of this territory it does work because you allow their voices to be heard. Now, this sitting we created more select committees than ever before in our history to look into creating badly needed and long overdue legislative changes. We have select committees on legislative renewal, the *Landlord and Tenant Act*, off-road vehicles, and it just goes on and on. We've done a tremendous amount of work. We have created a special committee to looking into how we can bring credit unions back to the Yukon. We have passed a motion to amend the *Motor Vehicles Act* to prohibit the use of handheld electronic devices while driving or operating a motor vehicle on the highway — that was very good. The Member for Vuntut Gwitchin was part of that.

We have proven the skeptics wrong — that we can work together, Mr. Speaker. In the spirit of the holiday season, will this government commit to working more closely with the opposition parties in developing the next budget?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: The member opposite knows full well, and we have stated in this House, that upon the problems we faced with the global financial meltdown, this government established a deputy committee that has engaged on an ongoing basis with Yukoners across this territory, with chambers of commerce, with the tourism industry and others. This is the work we're doing. This is our summit and these are the results we're getting — improvement.

The Yukon has fared fairly well during this global turbulence and we continue to progress. We don't dispute the member's view at all, Mr. Speaker. However, what we're trying to impress upon the member is we are doing that work. We are doing that work with Yukoners and that's why the Yukon Territory today is indeed successful.

Mr. Hardy: Mr. Speaker, I am a Yukoner. I am not part of that process. I would like to see a summit in which all the MLAs in here can participate, in which municipal governments and First Nation governments can participate together, not apart and not piecemeal. It is time we come together on all

these issues and not bits and pieces, Mr. Speaker. We can use our time more wisely in this sitting. For the most part in this Chamber, we have behaved honourably and responsibly and we've shown a very skeptical public and media that we can work together to get things done. But we need to go further.

This is only the beginning. We can look at developing a process that allows the opposition parties a much greater role in developing a Yukon budget; we can change the way voting happens to better reflect the wishes of the people; we can work together on legislation — we have proven that; and we can advance the legislative renewal process before the next election.

Will the minister please consider bringing everybody in the territory together to talk about the new vision, the new future of Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: I appreciate the comments coming from the Leader of the NDP, especially his comments about how we have worked together on motion debate and on legislation. Indeed, this Assembly did pass a motion to look at a labour market framework strategy, and that is the work this government has been doing. The labour market framework strategy working groups have included, and include, employers, the federal government, Yukon First Nation governments, non-government organizations and government departments.

The areas they're looking at — that they have been working at since this past spring with regular monthly meetings, where different partners are coming together to address the issues — are a comprehensive skills and trades training strategy, an immigration strategy, a recruitment and retention strategy and labour market information strategy.

This Assembly did discuss this issue, this topic, and did identify a strategy for including Yukoners. That was the creation of the labour market framework. It was endorsed in the last budget and the Department of Education and the important stakeholders I mentioned have been working for the last year with regular meetings to address the specific strategies the member is talking about. We're working very inclusively, and as a result of receiving direction from this very Assembly.

Question re: Mayo B project

Mr. Mitchell: The Premier promised Yukoners open and accountable government. Yukoners saw that promise in action when the Premier was questioned about his secretive handling and mishandling of energy matters. On the first day of the sitting, the Premier was asked for consultants' contracts worth hundreds of thousands of dollars for work done toward privatizing Yukon Energy. He refused, and blamed ATIPP officials, saying that "This is not something the government did. The decision and choice about what is released and what is not done is done through due process that has no involvement of elected people."

It must have been hard for the Premier to say that there was something outside his control. It is the last day of the sitting, so I'll offer him a Christmas mulligan. Will the Premier finally be open and accountable, and provide those contracts?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: First off, the member is in no position to be offering mulligans, and in fact, even in the worst case of the game of golf, the member has used up any and all mulli-

gans that may be due and forthcoming by any standard of the game.

Let me point out to the member opposite that they have been and continue to be entirely wrong, but that's their business and we'll let Yukoners pass judgement on the Official Opposition. In the meantime, the government will continue to build Yukon's future — whether it be in our energy infrastructure, whether it be in our highways, schools, hospitals, in training Yukoners, in educating Yukoners, and taking care of Yukoners' health and needs. As a government, for the last seven years we've been doing this, we will continue to do the good work that Yukoners have elected us to do.

Mr. Mitchell: We'll see what the score card says when the Premier finally signs his card and turns it in.

The Premier's secretiveness on energy matters started on the first day of the sitting and it has continued all the way through. Last month, the Premier generously declared that at this very moment we are looking at the release of those confidentiality agreements relating to the privatization talks with ATCO. It has been a month and a half and it's clear the Premier has no intention of producing those documents. When the Premier was asked for other documents he said he would table them in due course. The library formed of those documents has been sparse to say the least.

The same day he promised the confidentiality agreement, he said, quote: "We the government side feel strongly that the Yukon public deserves the facts. The Yukon Energy Corporation employees deserve the facts." Mr. Speaker, it's time to provide those facts. Will the Premier finally provide the confidentiality agreements and other documents he promised?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Mr. Speaker, you know, we've provided an inordinate amount of material for the Official Opposition and in not one case can we say that the Official Opposition has understood or gotten the facts straight. For the member's benefit, there have never been privatization talks with respect to the Energy Corporation in this territory, and under this government's watch, there never will be. Have there been talks about partnership? Yes, and we have formed partnerships.

When is the last time a Liberal government in this territory brought in \$71 million of investment for energy infrastructure in the form of a partnership with another order of government — in this case, the Government of Canada? The evidence speaks for itself. The members opposite are indeed struggling, and I understand they're sensitive because they have been wrong on all counts.

Mr. Mitchell: Well, this is indeed the last question of the sitting, so I will wish the Speaker and all members a merry Christmas before I hear the Premier's final list of responses.

We are here on the last day of the sitting and it looks like Yukoners will have to wait until 2010 before they get any straight answers from the Premier, if even then.

On November 3, the Premier said, "We'll bring the Yukon Energy Corporation before the Assembly as witnesses, as we always do each and every year." But then the Premier had every reason not to call the chair and president of Yukon Energy Corporation. "They were too new," he said. "They weren't

ready,” he said. He blamed the officials for not appearing before he even invited them.

Mr. Speaker, the chair, the Premier’s long-time friend from Watson Lake, has been acting chair for six months. Before that he served as a board member for years. Similarly, the president of Yukon Energy Corporation has been in that position for over half a decade. Why didn’t the Premier think these experienced officials were ready to answer questions in this Assembly? Why won’t this Premier be accountable to Yukoners?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Mr. Speaker, I think the issue goes back to what the member did the other day when he stood up and actually corrected the record. I know it is going to take a long time — should the member want to continue with that very open and accountable trend for Yukoners — to correct all the statements; but we will leave that choice up to the member opposite.

The Official Opposition indeed has members on the Standing Committee to Major Government Boards and Committees. Mr. Speaker, the member knows full well that recently new members and a new chair were appointed to the Yukon Development Corporation.

The board of that corporation has new members and a new chair. How can the member say that the chair — and the member said that the chair is a friend of mine — what kind of nonsense is this, Mr. Speaker? Openness and accountability rests with the Official Opposition. The government has no problem with the issue. We’ve been very open, very accountable, doing our work as we were elected to do.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Mr. Nordick: Mr. Speaker, I move that the Speaker do now leave the Chair and that the House resolve into Committee of the Whole.

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

Motion agreed to

Speaker leaves the Chair

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Chair (Mr. Nordick): Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 17, *Second Appropriation Act, 2009-10*. Do members wish a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Chair: Committee of the Whole recess for 15 minutes.

Recess

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

Bill No. 17 — *Second Appropriation Act, 2009-10* — continued

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 17, *Second Appropriation Act, 2009-10*. We will now continue with Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services. Mr. Mitchell, you have about 18 minutes remaining.

Department of Health and Social Services — *continued*

Mr. Mitchell: It has been an interesting couple of days debating health with this minister. When we left off yesterday, we were discussing the need for residential treatment programs for mental health patients. It was a need identified by many health care workers including the Yukon Medical Association and the Yukon Registered Nurses Association. The minister said, “Currently we do ship out all of our patients. We don’t have the facilities here and we’re not big enough.” He went on to say, “In addition to the infrastructure that would be required, first of all, getting the staff for this type of facility would be very difficult. In addition, we probably wouldn’t generate enough clients for the staff of that facility to maintain their accreditation.

And then he said, “would be difficult,” but he used more words than that to say it.

From our perspective, that’s not an acceptable answer. We’re talking about Yukoners, and we believe they deserve better. We work hard to address the needs of Yukoners who are suffering with cancer, people with diabetes, Yukoners with heart disease. Why are we pretending that mental health issues don’t exist or are too few in numbers and then shipping people out? We’ve learned a lot of things over the past few days, and some of there are, to say the least, rather disturbing. For example, the Health and Social Services minister doesn’t really know how much it’s going to cost to renovate and reopen the Thomson Centre as an extended care facility.

This government has been in office for seven full years. The centre was closed when they arrived. That means they’ve had seven years to figure this out. After seven years, what do we know? We know that the Thomson Centre has serious deficiencies. We know it has an inferior ventilation system. We know there were serious leaks in the roof for many years. We know there have been reports of mould in the building.

We know it is unsafe in its current condition for patient care. We know it has numerous building code issues, including — and this list is not exhaustive — doorways that are too small for wheelchair use, a lack of lifting mechanisms for patient care and for the safety of the caregivers, inadequate patient call systems, problems with ventilation, and many more. We now know that the government is estimating it will cost somewhere between \$5 million and \$6 million — somewhere in the neighborhood of \$5 million to \$6 million to remedy enough of these problems to open the first pod of 19 patient beds.

We know it will cost millions of dollars more to open the next pod and to complete the renovations of the building, but we don’t know how many millions, and neither does the Health minister. This is after seven years of the Yukon Party being in office, and three Health ministers, plus, for one short period of time, an acting minister — this is where the government has

arrived. Let's look at the Watson Lake hospital. What do we know there? We know the government promised to build a multi-level health care centre in Watson Lake back in 2005, for a cost of \$5.2 million.

We know the government and the MLA for Watson Lake were so eager to get this built that there was no needs-assessment study done to determine what the greatest need was in Watson Lake. There was just a political decision made to get going and build something. As a result of this great urgency, we know millions of dollars of work was sole sourced to a local contractor. We know the project fell years behind schedule. We know it was passed around like a hot potato from Highways and Public Works to Health, back to Highways and Public Works, and now to the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

Mr. Chair, this project has been punted more frequently than a football at an Argos game and yet it still stands incomplete. We know the Auditor General of Canada cited this project in her investigation into the Department of Highways and Public Works as an example of this government's disastrous approach to project management. We know that after four or five years of failure to complete this project, the government determined that the greater need in Watson Lake was to replace its aging cottage hospital.

We know that the government then decided to try to convert this still unused shell into a hospital, although it was never designed or built for this purpose. According to the numbers the minister provided yesterday, we know the government has spent \$4.8 million to date on this bumbling exercise. We know the government has engaged two different consulting firms — one, a local architectural firm; another, an outside firm — to determine the possibility, feasibility and cost of converting this building into a hospital. We know this is going to be very expensive because there are numerous repairs and changes that will need to be made for it to serve as a hospital — bringing the foundation up to seismic standards for a hospital, jackhammering out portions of the cement pad to change the routing of water and sewer pipes to relocate a kitchen, changing the need to create some form of access for EMS vehicles to the hospital — many changes. We know that this is going to be very expensive and we know that millions of dollars were poorly spent to get to this point — a point where, after \$4.8 million, we have a building that serves no current function in the provision of health care. We know that it may cost as much as another \$25 million to accomplish turning this building into a fully functioning hospital.

We know that the minister has no idea how much more this will cost Yukon taxpayers, because he has told us he doesn't know. We are certain the Auditor General will be examining this fiasco in greater detail in the coming year, as she works on her audit of the Department of Health and Social Services.

Passing this hot potato back and forth between two departments and the Yukon Hospital Corporation isn't going to impress the Auditor General, and she is the auditor of all the departments, as well as the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

Let's move on to the Dawson City health care facility/hospital. This, too, was promised in 2005 as a \$5.2-million

multi-level care facility. This, too, was a political promise made by the former MLA for Klondike. What do we know about this project?

We know hundreds of thousands of dollars were put into design and planning for this facility. We know the former MLA for Klondike was so hands-on in redesigning this facility that the current Health minister, who is the former Highways and Public Works minister, along with the architects who had been engaged to design the project, threw their hands up and walked away. We actually feel sorry for the current Health minister because none of the early problems with this project were of his making.

We know that more recently the decision was made to turn this, too, into a full-scale cottage hospital. The decision was also made to turn this project over the Yukon Hospital Corporation. We know the Yukon Medical Association, in their submission to the health care review, said they were not consulted over this decision and they did not approve of this decision-making process.

Why wouldn't the government, in the normal course of events, think it was not important to consult with the organization that represents the doctors before deciding to change the way health care is administered in the second and third largest communities in Yukon? Wouldn't that have been a logical and crucial step in the process? Apparently not. What else do we know? We know all the money spent in the early years on design and the money spent hiring an architect was completely wasted since the building that was planned then will never be built.

We also know that due to the delays, the aging McDonald Lodge has been in use for several more years, and thousands of dollars have been spent trying to patch up an aging facility — more in the current supplementary budget. It's a facility that will then be demolished in two or three years when its replacement is built.

We know that it will cost up to \$25 million to build the new Dawson hospital. We know the government has no idea what that facility is really going to cost either. How do we know that? Because we've repeatedly asked what it's going to cost, and that question has never been answered. So we have to presume that if the minister doesn't answer the question, it means he doesn't have the answers. That's some four or five years after this process has started, and that's after \$4.8 million has been spent in Watson Lake. We certainly know that the Auditor General of Canada, in the report of her audit into Highways and Public Works, was very critical of the way in which this government manages large projects — very critical of the estimation, of the process, of the planning and of the execution. Yet, it would appear that the government has yet again embarked upon a process where it's making decisions to go forward and build major projects without knowing what the final costs are going to be, what the final designs are going to look like, whether or not projects that have been converted from one purpose to another are functionally well suited to be used in terms of the start that was previously made and how much it will cost to make them functionally acceptable.

What else did we learn over the last couple of days? Mr. Chair, we also learned that nurses working at Whitehorse General Hospital are still critical of the process that has gone on for too many years of hiring nurses for term positions, laying them off, then hiring other nurses, then going back at a future date and rehiring the first nurses, rather than creating permanent positions that build continuity and maintain morale in the hospital.

Some other things that we heard at the hospital were that there has been an unfilled position for a maternity nurse since last summer. Now the government is looking Outside to fill that position. We've also heard that there are concerns about the working conditions for the nurses working up at the Correctional Centre.

Mr. Chair, we've also talked about poverty. We are seven years into this government's mandate — seven years — and we have yet to create a poverty strategy. There is some positive news, which is that the minister is committed and has indeed put personnel in place to work on a poverty strategy or a "social inclusion strategy", as he prefers to call it. Yesterday we learned the dates in late February — I don't have the dates right in front of me, but I think the minister may have said the 24th and 25th of February, and I see the minister is nodding — that a conference on social inclusion and poverty will be held. I want to say that that is a positive. There are many organizations that work with people who are suffering at the lower end of our economic scale. We wish this had started sooner, but we also recognize that this was not this minister's portfolio for many of the years of this government being in office. I will give the minister credit for responding to this urgent need since he has taken on the position. I think it's important that the minister has moved forward on this; we will support this from the Official Opposition; we will support the process. If there's an opportunity to attend, as MLAs, we look forward to an invitation to do so, because we think this is very important.

So, that's a positive. Although it's going to be another 18 months in the making, the minister has committed to having a draft ready for the fall of 2010. I'm hoping that when there's a draft ready, the minister will be proactive in trying to put in place some of the clear recommendations we hope will come from this process for improvements for people who are struggling to make a go of it, even in the Yukon that averages the second highest wage, I believe, in all of Canada.

As in any jurisdiction, there are always some people who are less fortunate, and in many cases it is not due to a lack of initiative on their part, but rather is a circumstance of ill health, difficult family life, poor education and other reasons. We know there are many determinants of poverty.

We also would like to encourage the minister again to reconsider his position on continuing stable support. We're not saying "sole support", but continuing financial support for the Whitehorse Food Bank. We recognize that the minister's department has put a lot of money into establishing the food bank and we will commend him for that. We know from the food drive that's currently underway that the need is great. We know that Yukoners are very generous and have been coming forward from across the territory to make donations — and cer-

tainly in the capital city — but we would encourage the minister to rethink his position on providing stable support to the food bank. I will leave that as a question. Will the minister at least reconsider doing so on an ongoing basis?

We have a lot of other questions, Mr. Chair, but seeing as how the time is short and I think my time is up — I am not sure but the Minister of Highways and Public Works says he wants to get into the act as well — so I will let the minister respond.

Hon. Mr. Hart: I thank the member opposite for the opportunity to speak. As he well knows, I usually don't get up and carry on for too great of a period of time. Today I feel obligated to do so because the member opposite has done just that. I am going to ramble on here for awhile and bore everybody to death with responding to the questions that I have already answered in the past on many occasions and many times.

The member opposite has brought up the issue with regard to — and he likes to quote the Blues, so I, too, will quote the Blues. We had a discussion with regard to dealing with mental health issues and facilities for those mental health patients throughout the Yukon. I did indicate that yes, it was difficult in our process.

I also indicated that it wasn't just the infrastructure alone that was important; it was dealing with the importance of finding the specialized staff for this particular venue. I also indicated there are many other issues in the Yukon — health and medical issues — and that we don't have the facilities, infrastructure or expertise and/or numbers with which to provide the services to many local citizens. However, we do provide the citizens the ability to be referred out to either Alberta or British Columbia. I might add, because of our reciprocal agreement with both of those provinces, we have a very good relationship there and many of our patients are more than well-treated when they are shipped to either one of those locations.

Now, with regard to what the member opposite was discussing on many occasions here, we did sort of rumble over the Watson Lake thing a few times. I've indicated previously in the Blues with regard to the Watson Lake facility, yes, there were consultants' reports done on the facility. I don't think I tried to hide the fact that there was anything done with regard to that facility.

I did indicate, though, that the consultant's report did advise the Hospital Corporation that the current facility could be utilized as a hospital, and that certain mitigation matters had to be taken into consideration for that to occur. I also recall advising the member opposite, with regard to the request for proposals and dealing with the new planning for this new hospital, that the mitigation aspects will be looked at, and those specific requirements will be identified and costed. They'll be brought forth, and it will be discussed and reviewed by the Hospital Corporation and its board, and reviewed on just what the procedure will be to enact and implement a new hospital in Watson Lake. I look forward to seeing that information and getting a preference on just what will be there.

I don't have specific numbers in front of me for the Watson Lake hospital preliminary costs, but I do know that we were advised —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Chair: Ms. Horne, on a point of order.

Hon. Ms. Horne: Mr. Chair, there does not appear to be a quorum.

Quorum count

Chair: Pursuant to Standing Order 3(4), there doesn't appear to be a quorum. The Chair will ring the bells for four minutes.

Bells

Chair: Order please. I have shut off the bells and I will now do a count.

Having done a count, the Chair sees there are nine members present. A quorum is present. We will now proceed with debate.

Hon. Mr. Hart: With regard to the Watson Lake situation, we are following the recommendations put forth by the consultants with regard to that facility. The consultants have presented their work to the hospital board. The board has accepted that work and we are moving forward based on the results of the consultant work from Vancouver as well as the consultant work that was done here from Whitehorse. We anticipate that the work to be completed will enable the citizens of Watson Lake to have a fully operational cottage hospital in their town. We look forward to the facility taking place and providing improved services for the citizens of Watson Lake.

With regard to the facility in Dawson City, we had discussions with the Medical Association with regard to providing services in Dawson City. We have also had consultation with the nurses in that facility in addition to the existing physicians who are already located in Dawson City.

We have had substantial work completed and done again by a consulting firm to assess the footprint required for this particular facility in Dawson City. Again, the work was done, an assessment was performed and it was deemed that we could look at putting that footprint adjacent to the current health facility and, in the future, look at tearing down the current health facility and replacing it with the replacement for McDonald Lodge once the hospital is completed. That is something we've indicated we will do in the phased-in process in dealing with the situation in Dawson City.

I'm been very up front with the member opposite on all of these issues. As I've stated many times, I'm sure that if we could go through the Blues, in every instance a lot of these discussions have taken place before. I will say that we are really looking forward to improving our overall services for mental health services. I've indicated we're doing a review. I've also indicated that, in some cases, we are just not in a position to handle all the difficulties we face with that particular issue, just like we are on many other issues.

It's not just simply providing the infrastructure; it's really important that we provide — yes. So that's the issue with regard to dealing with that.

On the nurses, again I'll just try to reiterate what I discussed with the member opposite with regard to nurses. On the nurses, the government controls the regional nursing program

throughout the Yukon, all those facilities throughout the Yukon — those positions have been filled and have been filled for some time by permanent positions. In addition, we do have casual nurses who do provide assistance as backup, so we are covered in that particular area.

I also stated to the member opposite that with regard to the issues, there are services available through the collective agreements, through dealing with the union, with grievances and with particular actual jobsite issues. I don't think it's incumbent upon this government to get involved in the day-to-day situation with regard to that facility.

I also stated to the member opposite that I would relay his concerns with regard to the nurses at the Whitehorse General Hospital relating to the issue of the hiring of part-time versus full-time, but I want to assure the member opposite that our regional nurses are hired on a full-time basis and for the first time in almost 10 years, I believe, we've actually filled all those positions.

With regard to the Thomson Centre, I look forward to working with the Thomson Centre. This facility has incurred many issues ever since it was built and it has had an accumulation of many problems throughout its lifespan. I will say that, with the moving or the construction of the new Copper Ridge Place that took place in the late 1990s, they took all the equipment and facilities out of Thomson Centre and moved them up to Copper Ridge Place. That basically left the Thomson Centre empty and not occupying its space as a continuing care facility.

Because of that particular issue, Mr. Chair, it has been necessary for us to have a look at the assessment with regard to utilizing the Thomson Centre as a continuing care facility. We will have to bring it up to code in order to meet the accreditation code for continuing care to ensure that those patients we put into the Thomson Centre when it is brought up to code are covered and protected. It's something that we must do in order to put people into those facilities. We are looking forward to doing that, as I said. Also, I think I used the word "feverishly." Our officials are working feverishly on compiling the information required for the additional equipment and services required to provide the services for continuing care in the Thomson Centre. In addition, our officials are working with the Property Management Agency to ensure that we take into consideration the amount of repairs necessary for the actual operational aspects of the Thomson Centre. That's the deal with the heating and dealing with the fire, as well as providing the structural requirements for the carrying cages from the bed to the washroom, increasing the washroom size so that they can accommodate the new clients, because in addition to the doors not being sufficiently wide enough for wheelchairs, the counters are also too high.

Now, after seven years, we've been accused of not doing much when it comes to a poverty strategy. I will say, though, I'm very proud of this government for actually raising social assistance rates after 20 years. After 20 years, Mr. Chair, we are increasing the social assistance rates and providing those less fortunate with an income that will bring those individuals up to the current status. In addition, we're also looking at put-

ting those individuals on an annual increase through a CPI and enhancing all of the facilities for those individuals.

I might add I was very happy that, last year at this time, I made an adjustment in the meal allowance for our less fortunate, to increase that meal allowance so they could take advantage of that increase over into the new year, commencing January of this year.

We're basically looking at an increase of \$75,000 in our social assistance plan for 2009-10. We're also looking at an increase of \$9,000 in the consumer price index for the Yukon senior income supplement, as well as an increase of \$26,000 for the pioneer grant. Again, those are items I previously mentioned in my previous days here in the House.

From the Yukon Party, we've provided well over 100 changes to improve the lot for marginal people within the Yukon — over 100; over 100 changes to improve services for them.

Those are just some of the things that we've done with regard to providing increased services for those individuals in the Yukon who are marginalized.

I think that this government has done a tremendous amount in our period of time. We have seen the need. We have acted and we have provided the increase. Not only that but we have also put the CPI on the minimum wage. We also did the work to ensure the assessment is done on employment standards and that those wages again were looked at. Again, that was done by this government and enhanced and improved based on the employment board's recommendation.

Yes, not only did we help the marginalized people, we also helped those people who were working in the labour field and trades, ensuring that those individuals are receiving adequate remuneration for the work that they perform. I'm very happy. I am also very pleased that the member opposite discussed our conference with regard to the social inclusion process to take place in February of next year.

I will state to the member opposite that he has been sent an invitation, so we will be looking forward to seeing him in attendance at that process also. So I'm very happy to see that we're making some headway on that particular process.

I'd like to thank my officials for really putting forth the work and effort to ensure that this conference can take place as quickly as it has, based on, again, a recommendation by this House, covered by this House and supported for this conference to take place on social inclusion. So I'm very much looking forward to that and the results of same and ensuring that basically all stakeholders give some input into that situation.

Now, the member opposite also talked about the food bank. Again, this is a discussion I've had many times with the member opposite on the food bank. No jurisdiction in Canada provides direct funding to food banks, although I will say that we did provide a substantial amount of assistance to the food bank initially for their start-up, initially for their makeup and also provided a breakdown and assistance.

We did provide a one-time financial assistance to help them get started, but it was based on the fact that they could be self-sustaining. We will work with the association wherever possible to try to ease the transition and to ensure that all indi-

viduals in the Yukon who need that service can obtain it. I look forward to everyone in the Yukon participating in that process. I know that I personally have also provided assistance to the food bank in getting out the information, so that they can get the participation of everyone in the Yukon to assist those in great need.

I didn't make my 20 minutes, Mr. Chair, I'm sorry.

Chair: Is there any further general debate? We will now proceed line by line in Vote 15, Department of Health and Social Services.

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

On Policy, Planning and Administration

Policy, Planning and Administration in the amount of \$128,000 agreed to

On Family and Children's Services

Family and Children's Services in the amount of \$834,000 agreed to

On Social Services

Social Services in the amount of \$795,000 agreed to

On Continuing Care

Mr. Mitchell: Can we get a breakdown?

Hon. Mr. Hart: We're looking at approximately \$418,000 for Copper Ridge Place and Macaulay Lodge as well as the home care program. We're looking at \$100,000 for increases in office costs — rental space for Faro, Ross River, Pelly and Carmacks. We're also looking at \$271,000 for pharmacy costs and \$175,000 for repairs and maintenance.

Continuing Care in the amount of \$964,000 agreed to

On Health Services

Mr. Mitchell: Could the minister give me a breakdown?

Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Hart: You'll have to bear with me. This is broken down into many areas. We're looking at, basically, personnel cost of \$22,000. We're also looking at the territorial health access fund for \$228,000. We're looking tri-territorial operational secretariat requirements of \$306,000. We're looking at a pan-territorial oral health initiative for \$121,000. We're looking at a revote of \$6,000. We're looking at community health receiving funds from Health Canada to develop and operate a toll-free tobacco quit line, which was \$63,000. Community nursing requires \$24,000 for materials for the human papilloma virus immunization trust fund. We're also looking at \$15,000 for a Health Canada fund to develop the operation of a toll-free tobacco quit line. The aboriginal health trust fund is a two-year grant from Health Canada. This is for \$246,000. We're looking at the territorial health access fund requiring \$432,000 to complete projects.

We're also looking at \$516,000 to complete projects from 2009-10 in the last year of the funding agreement, as well as relocation of \$92,000 from the territorial health access fund to transfer to the pan-territorial oral health program operations of \$92,000.

Mr. Mitchell: Is the funding that is being used to work toward developing opportunities to provide increased services for mental health patients within this portion of the budget?

Hon. Mr. Hart: Yes, some of them are. The funding under the revotes for THAF is for that particular purpose.

Mr. Mitchell: Does the minister know how much money is budgeted for that particular purpose?

Hon. Mr. Hart: We don't have a specific breakdown but we could provide the member opposite with it.

***Health Services in the amount of \$1,887,000 agreed to
On Yukon Hospital Services***

Mr. Mitchell: Could we have a breakdown please, Mr. Chair?

Hon. Mr. Hart: This one is basically a revote for \$19,000 for the First Nation health program and just a little over \$3 million is required to fund year 2 of a three-year operating contribution agreement for the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

Yukon Hospital Services in the amount of \$3,072,000 agreed to

On Regional Services

Mr. Elias: Could I get a breakdown, please?

Hon. Mr. Hart: We are looking at a reallocation of \$18,000 for personnel costs within the department and a net decrease of \$26,000. We are also looking at an increase of \$9,000 that is required to reflect the consumer price indexing for the social assistance regional program.

Regional Services underexpenditure in the amount of \$17,000 cleared

Total O&M Expenditures in the amount of \$7,663,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

On Policy, Planning and Administration

On Office Furniture and Operational Equipment

Office Furniture and Operational Equipment in the amount of \$22,000 agreed to

On Systems Development

Systems Development in the amount of \$64,000 agreed to

On Family and Children's Services

On Foster Home Equipment

Foster Home Equipment underexpenditure in the amount of \$16,000 cleared

On Child Care Services Development

Mr. Mitchell: A breakdown, please.

Hon. Mr. Hart: This is basically revoted funds — a request from the childcare capital development contribution budget. These funds were part of \$1.3 million received from the Government of Canada for childcare spaces with daycare.

Child Care Services Development in the amount of \$50,000 agreed to

On Young Offender Facilities — Renovations

Mr. Mitchell: A breakdown, please.

Hon. Mr. Hart: We're looking at \$28,000 for a new ventilation system; \$35,000 for design of a safe room; \$100,000 for a mechanical system; \$10,000 for an alarm panel, as well as \$11,000 for yard work and landscaping.

Young Offender Facilities — Renovations in the amount of \$184,000 agreed to

On Residential Services — Renovations

Residential Services — Renovations in the amount of \$14,000 agreed to

On Residential Services — Children's Receiving Home Replacement

Mr. Mitchell: Can we get a breakdown? And is the total amount of money expected to be needed to complete the facility?

Hon. Mr. Hart: The total amount of monies to be spent on this facility is \$1,339,000. We're looking at \$340,000, with the project to be completed in the summer of 2010.

Mr. Mitchell: Can the minister just let us know how many children the new receiving home will be able to accommodate at one time, if he has those numbers?

Hon. Mr. Hart: Thank you, Mr. Chair — eight.

Residential Services — Children's Receiving Home Replacement in the amount of \$340,000 agreed to

On Social Services

On Social Services — Renovations

Social Services — Renovations in the amount of \$36,000 agreed to

On Social Services — Operational Equipment

Social Services — Operational Equipment underexpenditure in the amount of \$6,000 cleared

On Mental Health/Alcohol and Drug Services — Purpose Built Space - Planning

Mr. Mitchell: If we could get a breakdown and an explanation. Is this part of — the minister had previously told us that they were working toward more of a joint process with mental health and alcohol and drug services. Perhaps the minister could just explain.

Hon. Mr. Hart: That's correct. We're looking at providing \$6,000 for the completion of the mental health/alcohol and drug services, basically for a purpose-built space and planning.

Mental Health/Alcohol and Drug Services — Purpose Built Space - Planning in the amount of \$6,000 agreed to

On Continuing Care

On Copper Ridge Place — Renovations

Mr. Mitchell: I'd like a breakdown of that and, specifically, I think the minister referred earlier in the sitting to some issues that had arisen having to do with roof drainage and water permeability. Does that relate to this?

Hon. Mr. Hart: I'll provide the member opposite with a breakdown. We're looking at \$96,000 in heating and ventilation and air conditioning, as well as \$27,000 for the roof canopies, and we're looking at a further \$2,000 for the garden and landscaping.

Copper Ridge Place — Renovations in the amount of \$125,000 agreed to

On Macaulay Lodge — Renovations

Macaulay Lodge — Renovations in the amount of \$14,000 agreed to

On McDonald Lodge — Renovations

Mr. Mitchell: Just a breakdown please, Mr. Chair.

Hon. Mr. Hart: This money is to provide the completion of the tub room renovations to work into and provide services for those members.

McDonald Lodge — Renovations in the amount of \$50,000 agreed to

On McDonald Lodge — Replacement Planning

McDonald Lodge — Replacement Planning in the amount of \$54,000 agreed to

On Health Services

On Community Nursing — Renovations

Mr. Mitchell: A breakdown please, Mr. Chair.

Hon. Mr. Hart: We're looking at \$7,000 for repairs at the Beaver Creek Health Centre; we're looking at \$20,000 for the Carcross Health Centre for painting; we're also looking at \$120,000 for the facility condition report on all community nursing stations. We're looking at \$265,000 for the Faro Health Centre basically for new boilers, a ventilation system and an emergency generator; Haines Junction, we're looking at ambulance ramp paving of \$68,000; and in Old Crow, we're looking at fuel tank replacement and lighting upgrades of \$124,000.

Community Nursing — Renovations in the amount of \$604,000 agreed to

On Community Nursing — Northern Strategy – Telehealth

Community Nursing — Northern Strategy – Telehealth in the amount of \$109,000 agreed to

On Community Nursing — Watson Lake Health Centre – Assessment

Mr. Mitchell: A breakdown please, because there have been so many different contracts on this facility. I just want to be clear in my mind what this one is.

Hon. Mr. Hart: This \$2.5-million reduction in the design and planning budget for the new hospital in Watson Lake is due to the facility being transferred.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Chair: Order please. We were actually on Watson Lake Health Centre – Assessment, \$144,000, Mr. Hart.

Hon. Mr. Hart: Okay. The requested funding provides for the completion of a feasibility study to assess the status of the Watson Lake Health Centre that began in 2008-09 and was unable to be completed until year-end.

Mr. Mitchell: Can the minister explain — this is additional money being paid by the Department of Health to assess the facility, but it was our understanding that the decision was already made, based on the assessment to transfer the facility to the Yukon Hospital Corporation. So, why is it not the Yukon Hospital Corporation that is budgeting for assessment of this facility?

Hon. Mr. Hart: This was a revote from 2008-09.

Community Nursing — Watson Lake Health Centre – Assessment in the amount of \$144,000 agreed to

On Watson Lake Health Centre

Mr. Mitchell: Well, the minister was previously on his feet about to give us a breakdown. So, I'll ask for it. And just a clarification: is this and the line following about the Dawson City Health Centre — so I don't have to rise again — the last of the adjustments to the budget, reflecting the transfer of responsibility and the fact that we're not spending money any further for the Government of Yukon on these projects?

Hon. Mr. Hart: To answer the question, yes, these are the two entries — one to Watson Lake, and one for Dawson City.

Watson Lake Health Centre underexpenditure in the amount of \$2,500,000 cleared

On Dawson City Health Centre

Dawson City Health Centre underexpenditure in the amount of \$1,000,000 cleared

Total of Other Capital Expenditures in the amount of nil cleared

Total Capital Expenditures underexpenditure in the amount of \$1,706,000 cleared

On Revenues

Revenues cleared

On Recoveries

Recoveries cleared

Department of Health and Social Services agreed to

Chair: Committee of the Whole will now proceed to Vote 55, Department of Highways and Public Works. Do members wish a brief recess?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

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

Recess

Chair: Order please. Committee of the Whole will now come to order. The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 17, *Second Appropriation Act, 2009-10*. We will now proceed with Vote 55, Department of Highways and Public Works.

Department of Highways and Public Works

Hon. Mr. Lang: In my opening remarks this afternoon, I wish the department and all the individuals within the department a very happy holiday period and all the best in the new year. I would like to thank the individuals who work in the Department of Highways and Public Works for the job they do over the year that touches every community in the territory.

It is important for us in the House here to understand not only the professionalism of our staff in the territory but also the hard work they do not only on the roads and the systems but invariably in our smaller communities throughout the territory. You will see a great presence of those individuals volunteering, whether it is in the fire department, EMS or community functions. Our Department of Highways and Public Works is very involved in all our communities. Again, a big thank you from me as the minister, and I certainly appreciate the staff who are with me today. Without staff, we in the House here on the government side would be less efficient in our decision-making capabilities. It certainly makes my job a lot easier if I have the calibre of staff that I have in Highways and Public Works.

Today we are going to talk in our opening remarks on the supplementary budget for the Department of Highways and Public Works for 2009-10.

Highways and Public Works supports government program delivery through procurement, financial administration and project management services. The department services include the development and maintenance of buildings, transportation, information systems, French language services, procurement services and fleet management, which are all critical for delivery of public services.

Overall, the department's O&M expenditures will increase by approximately \$1.8 million. The capital expenditures will increase by approximately \$11.8 million. Revenues through capital recoveries and O&M recoveries will increase by approximately \$3.9 million.

The highlights of the 2009-10 supplementary O&M expenditures include the following: an increase of \$69,000 in corporate services for a revote of funds to complete a contract regulation and procurement review. This review has been ongoing and will modernize the government's procurement processes. There will be an increase of \$159,000 for O&M costs of ensuring mobile telecommunication capabilities in southeast remote sites — SERS.

The transportation division will see an O&M increase of \$1.6 million due to emergency washout repairs on various highways. The washout repairs were required for the Klondike Highway, North Canol, Freegold Road, Hunker Granville Road, Mount Nansen Road, Campbell Highway, Bonanza Creek Road and various other locations throughout the territory.

Highlights of the 2009-10 supplementary capital expenditures include the following: corporate computer equipment and systems — a revote of \$522,000 for the purchase of a new core operating environment for our network infrastructure; a revote for \$462,000 for project work on phase 3 of the geomatic Yukon high-resolution mapping project; a revote for \$108,000 toward the human resource management system, called the HRMS; telecommunications — revote of \$245,000 to continue project work to dismantle and remove old MDMRS equipment located at southeast Yukon sites; \$415,000 for the supply and installation of two southeastern remote sites;

Transportation facilities and equipment — an increase of \$238,000 due to a revote to continue work on projects not completed by year-end on miscellaneous projects such as replacement of the grader station power generator, retrofit towers and cable for the Pelly barge ferry, work on potable water wells at Destruction Bay and the Teslin highway maintenance camps.

Environmental rehabilitation — there is an increase of \$140,000 for a revote to continue work on the oil/water separator project at Swift River maintenance camp and site remediation at the Whitehorse grader station.

Highway construction planning and engineering — there is an increase of \$179,000 for additional design initiatives to upgrade the Upper Liard bridge and pre-engineering and design work for kilometre 388 to kilometre 430 on the Klondike Highway.

The Alaska Highway construction — a revote of approximately \$1.7 million to continue work on the Slims River bridge at kilometre 1705 on the Alaska Highway. This is part of the Shakwak project and is 100-percent, third party recoverable.

An increase of \$74,000 is to complete bridge deck replacements on the Teslin River, M'Clintock River and Lewes River bridges and Alaska Highway construction which was funded under the Canadian strategic infrastructure fund.

There is an increase of \$26,000 for the completion of various highway intersection improvements funded by the Yukon government.

The Klondike Highway — there is an increase of \$234,000 for the reconstruction and resurfacing of Front Street in Dawson City.

Campbell Highway — an increase of \$353,000 to complete reconstruction projects awarded but not completed by year-end, funded under the Building Canada fund. There is a revote of \$450,000 to cover increased costs of Starr Creek culvert replacement.

Various secondary Yukon roads — there is \$812,000 for various road upgrades and reconstruction on the following roads: the Freegold Road, Burma Road, Gentian Lane, Dawson Gold Field Road, Nahanni Range Road, South McQuesten Road, and the Kusawa Lake Road. These projects are 50-percent recoverable under the infrastructure stimulus fund.

Covering airports, there's a revote of approximately \$1.3 million cost increase for the Erik Nielsen Whitehorse International Airport terminal expansion project. There's a revote of \$949,000 for projects not completed by year-end, which includes the following: the Whitehorse airport parking improvements, baggage handling system improvements, water and sewer design work and completion of the airport security system. Work also includes design work to replace the Faro Air terminal building.

Under property management, there's a revote increase of \$110,000 to complete work on the Tombstone Visitor Reception Centre. Further details of the revotes and recoveries for Highways and Public Works can be reviewed in Committee when we review this line by line.

Mr. Chair, again, I'd like to thank the department for all their hard work and, as you can see, it's a fairly busy department throughout the territory and a very important department. In my short term as the Minister of Highways and Public Works, I've grown to appreciate the amount of work that the individuals do in the field and certainly compliment the work that they do. There's not a community in the Yukon that isn't touched by the Department of Highways and Public Works, so again, a job well done and I look forward to questions from the members opposite.

Mr. Inverarity: First of all, as we all like to do — and I certainly appreciate all the officials who have come in today to help us out, so to speak. I know we are getting down to the witching hour here in the final day of the Legislature. I am looking forward, actually, to trying to get through this Vote 55 as quickly as we possibly can. I know we have, at last count, another six departments and something like four more bills that we have to debate this afternoon. Hopefully we can push through this one and get on with it.

I have to say that my experiences with department officials goes back a long way actually. I find that they have always been extremely helpful. Even when I have had difficulties out

on the highway, they have stopped and offered assistance to make sure things have been okay. I have thought that was very good, because if they are doing it for people with Yukon licence plates, then I am sure they are doing it with people who have foreign licence plates. It is always reassuring to know that our tourists are probably getting looked after, especially if they're out, for example, on the South Campbell Highway.

It's a long stretch with virtually no services out there. The Highways and Public Works people who go up and down the road there are on the lookout for people with difficulties. I really do honestly appreciate the efforts the department goes through. Certainly the other departments — EMS, fire, roads and the services that are going on throughout all the communities — are very important to virtually every Yukoner who is out there. I know when I'm following behind a snowplow on a snowy road, it's reassuring when the vehicle is in front of me, clearing the way — things are good.

I'm going to get right into the questions here; I'm not going to talk for long in my preamble. I think the department knows I appreciate the hard work they do. I've been following along since I was elected an MLA, with the Auditor General's report of a couple of years ago, and I sat on the Public Accounts Committee at that time. It was good to really get in-depth into the department. I really found I had an affinity for it. I know that safety on highways is paramount, in my mind, to the officials and the hardworking staff who work there.

Another thing I'd like to thank the department for is the briefing they gave us earlier.

I think it was about a month ago we had the briefing and it was much appreciated. In particular, I liked the document that is handed out that goes through a lot of the revotes and broke it down into revotes — capital recoveries, total O&M — it goes a long way, actually in making our afternoon go quickly. There are a couple of things I'm going to be asking about.

At that departmental hearing, we did put in a request for some follow-up documents that we had asked for at the time. I think the first one was a list of the bridges that are on all the Yukon roads that were actually being maintained by the department. We actually had asked a funny question. It was this: which bridges on Yukon roads are not maintained by the department? There was a reason behind that. We had an inquiry from someone who had an issue with one of the bridges and they were told that the department didn't maintain that one. Now I don't know which one it was, unfortunately. So that was the purpose behind asking for that list of bridges that were both maintained by the department and then specifically those on Yukon roads that were not being maintained. I think the particular one in mind was up on the North Canol, but I might be wrong. So I don't know if you have that list available now or not.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I guess, in answering the member opposite on his question about the bridges in the territory, I can list them off. If we start at Watson Lake, we're looking at Upper Liard, Albert Creek, Little Rancheria, Big Creek, Lower Rancheria, Upper Rancheria — of course, Partridge Creek — Morley River, Nisutlin Bay, Deadman Creek, Johnson's Crossing, Seaforth Creek, McClintock River, Lewes River, Takhini

River, Aishihik River, Jarvis Creek, Slims River, is it? — Duke River, Burwash, Donjek, Edith Creek, Koidern — there are two Koiderns — one and two — of course the White River, Beaver Creek, Summit Creek, Nares Lake, Takhini River and Fox Creek.

Then, of course, there's Yukon River, Tatchun Creek, McCabe Creek, Pelly River, Crooked Creek, Stewart River, Moose Creek, McQuesten River, Clear Creek, Flat Creek, Klondike River, Five Mile Creek, Goat Creek, Blanchard River, Takhanne River, Kathleen River, Dezadeash River No. 1, No. 2, Frances River, Tuchitua River, Money Creek, Big Campbell, Hoole River, Lapie River, Drury Creek, Bearfeed Creek, Klondike River, Lower Blackstone, Engineer Creek, Ogilvie, Eagle River, Evelyn Creek, Rose River No. 1 and the Lapie River No. 2. So those are our bridge structures that we have throughout the territory if we take it from the B.C. border into Northwest Territories. I have to apologize if I missed some. These are just bridges and we aren't talking culverts. We would probably have a list of culverts, too, if it were necessary. The department is responsible for roughly 5,000 kilometres of road and, in the winter, I think that number shrinks to about 3,600 kilometres of maintained roads. My staff has prepared a package for the opposition that includes all of the information requested.

The department is awaiting data on one outstanding question and then all of them will be brought forward. We will then forward the questions and answers, which include a list of roads and branch maintenance things. I think the questions will be answered from the department. They're just waiting for a little information to be fed back to them, but I'm sure that in the new year that will be in front of the opposition.

Mr. Inverarity: I guess I should have clarified in my question that it was okay to submit that list of bridges with the other answers that we were looking for. The package that's being prepared for me by the department, I'll wait for with bated breath. I'll just list the other things that we're looking for in that package, just so that we're not missing anything. We talked about the bridges and the ones that weren't being maintained by the department. The same basic question is that I'm looking for the roads that exist out there.

I understand that virtually all the "ought" roads like the Casino Trail and some of the mining roads are actually considered roads within the Yukon. Are there any roads that are not within the government's responsibility, for example, the private roads? When I say "private roads", I'm not talking driveways here. I'm looking at perhaps a mining road or something along those lines, if that's included in the list of things.

We had also asked for a breakdown of expenses for all the highway maintenance camps again this year; hopefully that will be in the package that will be coming to us. We had also asked for a breakdown of the rural road upgrade program. If the minister has some information on that now, perhaps the minister could just tell us a bit about it — what's happening with the rural road upgrade program and then he could provide the summary details with the package that's coming.

Hon. Mr. Lang: We can give what we have and what we manage. There isn't anything available on roads that we don't maintain. It's not something we do.

Certainly, there are roads out there, whether they are driveways or whether they are access to summer spots — they're there, but we have a list and we manage what we manage. There are some roads in our system — in our 5,000 kilometres — that we maintain in the summer and don't in the winter. But as far as giving the member a list, we'll give a list of the roads we do maintain and the roads we maintain on a seasonal basis. But as far as other roads, we don't have that information.

If we were looking at infrastructure funding projects, which are cost-divided evenly between the federal and Yukon governments, there is going to be some work on the Burma Road. That's a \$150,000 commitment. The Dawson Goldfields road upgrades, which is really important — \$100,000. The Freegold Road upgrade is another need because of the pressure the road is getting, now that the exploration dollars are being spent in that area. There is going to be a \$200,000 investment. Gentian Lane reconstruction — that is closer to the City of Whitehorse. That's an investment of \$120,000.

Kusawa Lake Road reconstruction, which is ongoing work — we're committing \$42,000 to that to upgrade sections of it to make it more accessible, not only to tourists, but to Yukoners as a whole, because Kusawa is a very popular camping spot, we know, not only for our travelling public, but for the people who live in and around the City of Whitehorse.

South McQuesten Road upgrade — that's a \$100,000 investment. That again is another commitment we've made because of pressures we have from the growing investment we have in the territory, whether it's outfitters using the road or other interested parties. We are committing \$100,000 to that.

The Top of the World Highway upgrades — in itself, that is a big investment, but again, it's another access to Alaska and we're putting a \$1.5-million commitment into that road.

The Nahanni Range Road upgrades — another road that is being used by Yukoners and as access to Canada Tungsten — are a \$100,000 investment.

The Nordenskiöld bridge rehabilitation is a project we committed to do last year, Mr. Chair. We had an issue there of flooding and of course the bridge that was there had many, many years on it. It was one of the infrastructures that we as a government felt should be replaced very quickly because of the age of the structure and also the situation we found ourselves in last year. That, again, is a \$2.3-million commitment.

Dead Man Creek bridge, which is just north of Teslin — it's a rehab. That's an investment of \$1.2 million. Those are all ongoing investments. Alberta Creek bridge rehab — that's another \$1.2 million. That creek is just north of Watson Lake. It's just north of Upper Liard. We not only have a fair number of bridges that we have to maintain, but we have to upgrade those bridges over the life of the bridge. So, it is a management issue. You can see that we've committed our resources for the next year on exactly that — investing in the bridges and getting the bridges in the Yukon into a rotation, so we're better equipped in a timely fashion to maintain the bridges throughout the terri-

tory as the need arises. I hope that addressed the member opposite's question.

Mr. Inverarity: A couple of points were brought up in the last answer. The question was really regarding rural roads and, while I appreciate the response on the bridges, that's very good. He did mention one bridge, the Nordenskiöld bridge in the Carmacks area. I was wondering if the minister could also give us a bit of an idea about the timing and what will be happening with the Carmacks bypass — it does affect that bridge area, I believe. The member from Carmacks is always interested in that and isn't here to ask that question himself. Perhaps the minister could just give us an update.

Along the same lines, if I could just throw in another bridge and then we can move on to something else after this. Recently I've had an opportunity to drive the North Klondike Highway a little bit and I've noticed the bridge at Fox Creek, just past Laberge on the northbound lane, there are some significant potholes in that bridge, to the point where I'm surprised we haven't — I'm not aware of any accidents, but it has been very awkward when I hit it. Are there any plans?

I know in the past years there has been some discussion about upgrading the Fox Creek bridge and I haven't seen any work being done on there, so I'd also be curious about that.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the opportunity to address the member opposite. The bypass in Carmacks is an opportunity that has been there for many years and that opportunity is that once the business case is made — in other words, once the pressure on the Carmacks highway gets to a point that the government of the day would put that bypass in — we monitor that on a yearly basis to see just where we're at with that. We understand that the Freegold Road, with the investments that are going into that area, now are getting more and more pressured. Once we get commitments from industry on where they're going to go, then there's going to be some decisions made on the bypass. That didn't negate the fact that the Nordenskiöld bridge had to be replaced. The Nordenskiöld bridge is about the Carmacks community and of course they have a subdivision across there and First Nation investments across there, so it had to be replaced.

The Nordenskiöld bridge is a commitment we had to make.

As far as the Fox Creek situation and whether the deck has holes in it — thank you for bringing it to our attention. We have capable people in the department. In the short term, we will move forward in the maintenance end of things. Those kinds of minor things on bridges are done on a daily basis. Of course, hopefully, those kinds of issues have been resolved by now. On top of that, we do have regular inspections on those major investments — the territorial government. So we just don't leave it to the local or to the area superintendent or foreman to make those kinds of decisions. On a yearly basis, we have people who go out and make sure that this kind of infrastructure is being taken care of. Of course, that's where we get the lists of priorities that we put together as a government to prioritize where we as a government put the resources to maintain or upgrade these bridges — understanding that, as I read off to the member opposite, and when you look at the list of

bridges we have, it's an amazing number of bridges and an amazing responsibility for the department.

Certainly, we will never get to the point where we're ahead of it, because, in fact, the number of bridges we have are in the hundreds. We work as diligently as we can to bring the bridges up to the standard that we have today, and keep them maintained. But, as we go through, we have situations — lifespans on bridges. You know, bridges have a lifespan. As they reach that lifespan, we as a government, now through devolution and through responsibility, are going to have to replace some of these structures — an example is the Nordenskiöld River bridge. That bridge was time-expired, and certainly the flood brought it to our attention in a big way. So, I'd like to thank the member opposite for your comments, and I look forward to more comments.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Chair: Mr. Fentie, on a point of order.

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I would ask the indulgence of the House to join me in making welcome the Minister of Finance for the Government of Canada, Mr. Jim Flaherty, and his staff. Welcome.

Applause

Mr. Inverarity: Welcome. I appreciate your coming here today. I look forward to the meetings tomorrow that are going to be happening, and I think they'll all be fruitful. So, welcome to the Yukon.

I'll touch on the Fox Creek bridge issue and I'll make a couple of points. First, the matter came to my attention about a month or a month and a half ago when I was driving up. Then about two weeks ago, I was driving up again and the problem was still there. I haven't been on the highway since then, so hopefully it has been taken care of and the matter will be looked into. Quite frankly, it's unsafe at the moment.

The next item I'd like to speak to is a question that we actually asked the Justice staff about in the briefing we had there. They couldn't answer the question, so we asked Highways and Public Works the same sort of question and they were unable to answer. It revolves around the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. It was a matter of what items were deleted from the budget in order to bring in the construction project within the budget constraints — if there were any deletions. This question wasn't answered by either department; it sort of got bounced back and forth. I'm not sure if we asked it under the Justice debate, but I'll ask the minister responsible for the construction of the project whether any of the contracts were amended in order to bring the facility in under \$67 million, I think it is.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Certainly, there was a budget committed to when the package was put together. Again, through the stellar work of the Department of Public Works, we were committed to bring it in with those figures in mind. I don't have a list of how they did that. I do know there were negotiations and there were dealings that were going on, but I, myself, was in that. They were successful — that we have that correction and treatment centre and, of course, the flex building being

built at the moment. I can report to the member opposite the project is on time and it's on budget. We look forward to the completion of the package. It looks like it will be on time. I think the structure itself will be ready to be occupied in late fall next year. In the new year, I think it will be occupied. There is a 30-day or a two-month period of time of transferring from the old correctional centre into the new establishment.

I can't say any more about that. I can't answer the question but I can say to you that there was a project proposed but there was a budget figure that we had available to complete the budget and, of course, Property Management went to work with the project managers and they brought it in to the figure that was acceptable to us in the government and, of course, acceptable to us on the budget line. Obviously there was to-and-fro in the dealings, I imagine, but at the end of the day we are going to have a fabulous infrastructure that is not only going to include corrections but is going to be a treatment centre. There is also going to be a flex building that will work as a transition home for situations for inmates or a medical centre or whatever the Justice department or corrections decides to utilize it as.

Also in that there is going to be the cost of tearing down the old building. The building itself will not only have to be vacated but will have to be dismantled; that is a process that will have to be done. Of course there is landscaping and things like that, that will have to be finished. The project is one of the bigger projects the government has ever done and, as I go up and do tours of it on a monthly basis, it is very impressive and in arguing about the investment, I think the investment is well spent.

I'm certainly pleased with the contractor and, of course, the partnership between Dominion and Kwanlin Dun. They've done a fabulous job not only on the construction end of it, but the management of the financing, so we find ourselves on budget and on time — in fact, a little ahead of time — and certainly look forward to when we as a community can go and cut the ribbon on the new treatment centre and the corrections facility itself.

Mr. Inverarity: I can appreciate the minister wasn't part and parcel to the actual negotiations of the contract; however, if I understand the minister correctly, there were negotiations to bring the tender that was put forth down to within the budgeted amount. I would assume that all of the tenders that were brought in were obviously over \$67 million, or whatever the figure was that was suggested.

You enter into negotiation with the lowest bidder. My concerns are again — could the department put together a list of those items? My concern obviously is, you know, that there are going to be toilets that were maybe not pulled out of the final plan, or there is going to be something other — I'm being a bit facetious here, but dirt floors, fences around the property and that kind of thing that were not pulled out, and that might then have to be added under a new contract, which would then actually re-boost the overall cost of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

As I indicated, I appreciate that the minister wasn't part of it, but those negotiations did happen and, obviously, things

were taken out from the original tender quote. I think it would be important for the public to know what those items were that were pulled out. What I'm looking for, in terms of my question, is an assurance from the minister that the department will provide that information to us.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Again, I can only supply what we have. Of course, this was a meeting between the government — Property Management and, by the way, Justice. This was a negotiation between them, and the contractor, and also the engineer, Dominion Construction, which is doing the overview of the project. So as far as reading the member opposite lists of things that we eliminated, I think that would be folly. I don't think that happened.

I think we had a budget and we sat down with the individuals and worked toward that budget to see what size and things like that we could get the corrections and the treatment centre, and the transition home or the flex building, inside that budget.

In saying that, I have a few notes here. No functional program components were deleted from the project; in other words, there was none of that. The design was reconfigured to improve efficiency as well as facility operations — for example, two of the male living units now have three-cell tiers and two units still have two tiers. Those are all the things that were managed between us. By the way, we're overseeing this for the Department of Justice, so they were a big part of this because they're the ones who will be responsible for operating and maintaining this.

We have the expertise on the ground to work on construction sites; we have the engineers on staff; we also have a very capable contractor and partnership there. It has proven to be very successful. I remind the member opposite again we're on time and we're certainly on budget.

So, as we move forward, I don't think we sacrificed anything in the eyes of the Department of Justice — in turn, ourselves as Property Management — in any way with the decisions we made on the size and the scope of the facility. The facility has still three parts to it — there's a treatment component to it, and then there's corrections, and there's also the flex or transition home, which will be used inside for the overall operation of the facility.

As far as what we gave up, I don't think we gave up anything. I think this will be a real compliment to the Justice department. They worked very, very hard on this, and I'd like to thank all of them. It is a team that works on things like this. If you are part of that team, it's pretty consuming. It's time consuming. Also, to get it right is time consuming. So, I really have to say a thank you to the team in the Justice department who are doing this on a daily basis.

Of course, the minister herself, who has been working on this file — it started seven years ago, when the first Justice minister in our government — the Member for McIntyre-Takhini — insisted that we not continue with the Liberal plan of building another box; that we go out and look at justice review, look at getting ideas, again, from the community and participate in getting a modern justice component to the facility that we see today.

I was at the opening of the flex building or the transition home or whatever they're going to call it. It is now serving the women who are incarcerated. That is now where they are staying. Certainly that's a vast improvement over the facility we had there in the last four or five years. But again, I'd like to thank the Minister of Justice and the Member for McIntyre-Takhini for the hard work they did, but also the department, Mr. Chair. They've done a lot of work to make sure that this thing will come out, will be an effective facility and address some of the issues we have in the justice system.

Now, I'm not the Minister of Justice, but I do know, now that I've been working with Highways and Public Works on this building, that they've done a lot of work and are also changing the whole style of management in the facility — according to the Justice minister in her remarks here in the last couple of weeks.

They are actually changing the system as we speak so once we get into this new facility we will have the staff in place and we will also have the training in place. We will move to a whole new management tool for managing inmates in the correction institute and also the treatment centre itself will be utilized. The transition home reflects building that is now finished.

I hope that addresses the member opposite. The department didn't at any point shortlist anything on the list. You only have to go and look at the transition home to see the high standard of construction and the product that is there today. It certainly is a compliment to the department on their vision and how they see Yukon going forward as far as how our correctional building or establishment and also our treatment centre are going to be.

I look forward to this. This is going to be an interesting chapter in Yukon's history — this absolutely new stellar building with all the new programs, the individuals on the ground trained.

I look forward as we move on in our mandate here to do other improvements in the justice system so that we can modernize and not only give Yukoners the safety part of it — you know, the incarceration, which is important in some respects, but it's also very important that we move away from just incarcerating people into treatment. How do we take people from treatment back into the community, into society and how does that work? There's lots of work to be done in the future here, but if it's any example of how the department is moving this thing forward, it is going to be an interesting couple of years as this thing gets finished and they move forward with other ideas on how we can modernize our justice system.

Mr. Inverarity: I find it interesting that the minister can assure us that all the good things were left in the building, in the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, but he doesn't actually know what was done or what was taken out. There must have been some original document that was prepared — original tender or original agreement — in order to start from a negotiating point.

The second point — we have about an hour, I guess, left here today, and we started off pretty well. I don't want the debate to deteriorate too much, so I'm just asking that if the member actually wants to go back and look at past lives, I'd be

more than prepared to go down to that level, but I'm not particularly interested in it. I think my questions are valid questions and I would like to keep our discussion here at that level. You know, it's a week before Christmas, and I'm feeling pretty good today, so I'll let it go by. In fact, I'll even change the topic. Let's move on.

A substantial amount of money has been made available for the infrastructure projects through the Building Canada fund. My question is pretty simple: what is the status of the Building Canada fund? What plans are in place to actually maximize the amount of the funding that's available? How much has been spent to date? Some general information — I'm kind of curious. It's too bad the Minister of Finance, Mr. Flaherty, isn't here at the moment. It would have been nice to actually get to this while he was here. He might have enjoyed the debate a little bit.

I'll just leave that question on the floor and I'm looking forward to another little bit of debate over the next hour — let's have some fun.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Going back to the last question we had, the member opposite has to be aware that we're just managing this for the Justice department. We're managing the investment the Justice department has put on the ground. We're building a conceptual corrections treatment centre. The transition situation is what came out of the discussion in the Department of Justice. We're just the government department that manages those things. In turn, people have to realize in the discussion that we're not planning the thing, we're not going to manage it. All we're going to do is work with the department to make sure the department realizes what they've invested in and working with them in a positive way.

As the Minister of Highways and Public Works, I can report to the House here today that we're on budget and we're on time as far as that investment for the Department of Justice is concerned.

Again, I have to thank the department. I have to thank the contractors on the site there and I have to really commend Dominion and Kwanlin Dun for their partnership, because they made it happen. There are many Yukoners working on-site and many subcontractors working there.

It is again a work in progress. We will oversee it until such time as it is finished. I look forward in the spring to bringing the House up to date again on where we are at time wise and, of course, we're very conscious of the budget as we move forward.

As far as the Building Canada fund is concerned, Mr. Chair, Community Services takes the lead on it. All the communities, First Nations and ourselves have put together lists of projects or a 10-year plan that our municipalities and our government see as a priority. There is infrastructure, there is green energy, there is solid waste, and there is waste water. They are limited to what they can invest in but the list has been put together and it is now in the hands of the federal government. They have it and they have to give us a green light on these projects.

So, for the member opposite, I look forward to having all those issues resolved early in the new year, because it's impor-

tant that we get these projects out for next spring. I look forward to the federal government doing their work and getting it back into our hands as quickly as possible.

Mr. Inverarity: Thanks very much. Just one final comment on the correctional centre — the reason why we were actually asking this minister is that we had been referred to the Department of Highways and Public Works from the Department of Justice. So it kind of calls into question as to who is leading what — where — in this regard. That's why we did bring it up. The department officials of the Department of Justice said, "Talk to the Department of Highways," so we're kind of left in a bit of limbo there as to where to get this information. We'll just continue along that.

I'd like to move on to another topic. I appreciate the comments made about the Building Canada fund and I'm going to leave the correctional institute behind us for awhile. I may be wrong on this, so correct me if I am, but regarding the COR certification program that the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board has been promoting, is the Department of Highways and Public Works actually the lead on getting the government to be COR-certified, or am I wrong on that, and who is?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I hate to go back to the corrections question of the member opposite — to be fair to Justice, we are managing the project. So, we are managing the project for Justice. It is a Justice project, per se, but we are responsible for the overview of the contract itself. So, when Justice says that Highways and Public Works are the individuals that an individual should talk to, that's right. We have the responsibility of building the building, managing the budget with them and moving forward on the investment. But it is under the Department of Justice.

As far as COR certification is concerned, we're certainly involved with all the contractors in the territory, and also our own department. But all other departments are responsible for their own COR certification, so it is a multi-departmental responsibility.

We take on the added responsibility of working with contractors and Outside contractors. In other words, we make sure that people have COR certification in the territory and if there are contractors coming from outside the territory, they must have either COR certification or an equal program. Some jurisdictions have a different program and it's called a different name, but in fact it's the same as COR programs. We're responsible for that management and also working with our own contractors to make sure that they themselves are getting COR-certified so they can participate in Yukon opportunities.

Mr. Inverarity: I have a few brief questions and I'll tackle them one at a time here because they are sort of unrelated to each other. Can we get an updated status on the replacement of the — it used to be MDMRS but it's now MRS, I believe. I know a lot of the equipment in the towers are being pulled out of service as we speak. I'm kind of curious as to what's going to happen with the old equipment. That goes to an e-waste issue that I was familiar with awhile ago — and perhaps a timeline for the implementation of the new system. Are there any black holes out there that might not be covered — for

example, the North Canol Highway or any of the other distant places we have in the territory? A general question.

Hon. Mr. Lang: The MRS project is currently on schedule and on budget — another good-news story for Yukoners. I'm told by my capable staff that the project should be completed. The installation has been phased over a period of time, but this spring or early summer should be the completion of the MRS.

Cellphone services are expanded. Our investment in expansion projects is as follows: Lake Laberge and Carmacks sites were completed in August 2009. We did an investment of the Ibex Valley and Watson Lake sites, which is an improvement, and scheduled to be completed in December — that's this month — 2009. The City of Dawson will get an expanded system; we're working on that now. We're working with DOT on a site and hopefully looking at this spring having that up and running.

In Dawson City, we're also going to invest in call forward, so that's another component that's going to be put together for the City of Dawson. We will have an enhanced cellphone service in all these communities. So the MRS project is on schedule and on budget, and we're looking at this spring for completion.

Mr. Inverarity: The minister mentioned call forwarding on the cell system. Is this in relation to Northwestel's cell system or the MRS? Are they two different things, in terms of talking, one, about cellphone service in Dawson City and then talking about the MRS system in Dawson City? Is the cellphone related to just the regular phone service in Dawson?

Hon. Mr. Lang: No, the investment will be on the telephone system in Dawson City. They don't have that available at the moment, so we're looking forward to enhancing the Dawson City system, so they have that available.

Mr. Inverarity: What other services are you looking at investing in, in terms of the cellphone service in Dawson and in any other communities?

Hon. Mr. Lang: We certainly look at enhancing the system as we move forward and grow into it. When we came to power in 2002, there was very little cellphone communication in the territory. Now we have enhanced it to involve most communities. Some communities are still out of the service but we are looking forward to investing as we move forward. The improvements we made on the cellphone system — as we all know, a lot of these communities, location-wise, have a bit of a management issue because of where they are situated.

The Yukon government, in partnership with Latitude Wireless, expanded the phone coverage to Lake Laberge, Carmacks, Ibex Valley, Dawson City and the Watson Lake area. This just expands what they already had so we cover more area. Let's say, for example, Dawson City, without that Australian hill component or location — once we put a new tower up or a new facility there, we will be able to get a lot more coverage in that area because of the nature of where Dawson City is. Carmacks had the same issue. We have to maximize the capability of the cellphone system and we have to get it into an area that can maximize the use in the area. Of course, as a government we continue to improve the quality of life for all Yukoners by

helping local businesses to improve the cellular service throughout the territory.

The issue about cellular service is it's something that is a very necessary thing, especially for the younger generation who, by the way, are going away from a fixed telephone system and are working with cellphones exclusively. So it's something that we as a government and we as a society will demand. An increased service area will benefit the travelling public. Of course, it's a safety issue, too, Mr. Chair, by making service more readily available and permitting a greater degree of personal safety. Again, it's a safety issue.

Implementation of the new cellular coverage will allow individuals to access emergency service throughout the territory and bring a faster response from emergency-service providers to help with vehicle breakdowns and fire, theft and personal security issues. This again is very important and it goes back to safety. The new mobile MRS project — the member opposite talked about MRS — will be used by law-enforcement agencies, emergency services, health officers and transportation services. That includes us as government and, of course, we have to, in partnership with the RCMP, be a user on this system. The project remains on time and on budget.

This system will be more efficient in meeting our current and future needs. The issue we had with the older system was that it was obsolete. It was obsolete not so much on a communication level, but on parts. We were finding it impossible to get the parts we needed to maintain the system, so the decision was made to modernize it and, in turn, upgrade our communication system. But the old system was time-expired completely, because we were looking all over the western world for parts for it and it was obsolete. So that was one of the triggers on the decision.

This system will be more efficient in meeting our current and future needs. Completion is targeted, again, as I said, for the 2010-11 fiscal year. I am told that this summer could be a date or a time when this thing would be up and running. This project will contribute to the welfare of Yukon for years to come. This is an investment on the ground that would probably have a 20- or 30-year lifespan. Certainly look forward to that kind of an upgrade, because as our population grows and as people move around, we have to be aware of the communication issues that are out there. The new communication system will enhance protection and, again, public safety across the territory.

Again, it is the kind of thing that was badly needed because of the issue of the old system. Of course one of the main users of this is the RCMP, from a security point of view. They have different demands because of the nature of what they do and where they go. We certainly are aware that what happens to an individual if he's on the Dempster Highway and what happens to the RCMP — all of these areas have to be accessible for security and for the police. All of those issues had to be addressed in this decision. This decision was not an easy decision because of the complexity of the decision and the nature of what we were doing. Working with my colleagues and the individuals in the department, we were well aware that this decision was a big decision because of the investment. The invest-

ment itself is large and also the many systems that are out there. Also, we're working with our partners, the RCMP, and the needs that are out there. What does an individual RCMP need and how do we service that part of the commitment? I believe it took a couple of years to come up with a final decision on the economics of it, but also of what we needed and where it was needed and what we could do as a jurisdiction in the sense of participating in the installation itself.

I know that in southeast Yukon some remote sites were put in and it alleviated a bit of the pressure. Certainly, in the long run, this is going to be a massive improvement for us as a government, for our individual emergency ambulances and EMO and all these other users and, of course, for the RCMP, which, by the way, was one of the driving forces behind changing or modernizing our system, because they were concerned about the age and reliability of the old system. So I look forward to this thing being finished and moving forward. But this is a big improvement to communication in the territory.

Mr. Inverarity: Thanks very much for that on the MRS system. I know a lot of people out there in radioland will be curious as to the development of the MRS system. Actually, the original question was actually discussing cellphone service in Dawson City. It was around an issue the minister brought forward, which was, I believe, an enhancement on the call forwarding feature, which the government was going to pay for, for the cellphone service in Dawson.

The question was whether there were other enhancements to the cellphone service in Dawson City and perhaps in other communities that the government is funding for these system upgrades. While we are at it, what is the actual arrangement with Latitude or with Bell or with Northwestel with regard to these cellphone service upgrades? Is it a 50:50 arrangement? What portion are we contributing to these particular upgrades? What are the upgrades besides call forwarding? How much are we contributing? What other things can the member fill us in on with regard to the arrangement with the telecos?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Latitude is an arm of Northwestel and it is a service provider for cellphones in the territory. We entered into an agreement with them many years ago — I think two or three years ago — but I could get that to you in the new year and the exact involvement we have as a government.

The member obviously knows this: we have a very small population, so there is a bit of an obligation for the service provider in the sense of what the costs are to them. We understood that and entered into an agreement with Latitude to supply the service. As we add on to it, of course, there's a cost to that. The other aspect you were talking about in Dawson City was the importance about expanding the service in Dawson. Dawson was very limited in reception of cellphone, because of the situation Dawson is in on the Yukon River there. So, to maximize the return on the investment, we looked at an improved service by looking at moving the tower or moving the antenna to a more appropriate place to maximize — Rock Creek, for example, didn't have access to cellphone and of course, the Klondike Fire Department is out there. So, it was very spotty.

It's interesting, though, when you drive down the Klondike Highway or go through our system, every once in a while

you'll pick up cellphone communications, so it's where you're at. It's where you're at in the nature of receiving the service. The call-forward service is for the City of Dawson. It is an investment this government is going to make. It is a one-time investment so that improvement would be added to the service. Again, I don't know what that cost would be, but I could give that to you in the new year in a Cabinet submission as we move forward on this.

The call-forward service certainly improves — we all appreciate call forwarding and Dawson City requested it. I've been working with the mayor and council. The last mayor and council were very aware of it and requested some assistance. The MLA for Klondike has also voiced his concern. If we can accommodate the City of Dawson on that in a small way, we would certainly do that. It is something that would be done next summer. Cellphone improvements: the department is proposing putting the antenna on Australian Hill.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Hon. Mr. Lang: Yes, it's a location, but we have to work with DOT because there is some question about the tight spot Dawson finds itself in.

I've been corrected, Mr. Chair. It is call display, not call forward, so we can talk about that now, Mr. Chair. I'm sorry I misspoke on that, so I stand corrected and, as we move forward, we'll continue to call it call display.

We have to work with DOT because of the airport and, again, we're finding ourselves running out of sites to put this thing on, but in saying that we're getting a positive response from DOT, but they have to do their due diligence because, as you know, Dawson City is going to be receiving jet service over the next period of time and that changes the demands on the airport.

We look forward to that, but again we have to be careful of what we put in line-of-sight there because it could reflect on Air North as it services that area of the Klondike.

Again, it is call display in the City of Dawson and I look forward to other questions from the member opposite.

Mr. Inverarity: Well, actually the question was whether the services are being implemented besides call forwarding, so it's nice to actually see that we're getting call display. I'm assuming that call forwarding is already in place and it isn't necessarily an upgrade. I don't want to dwell on this, as we are going to be running out of time here. I do want to just ask one other question regarding the G3 upgrade to the cellphone service. I know it has been done within Whitehorse and it allows a lot more applications and, in particular, the use of the iPhone and things along those lines — the European standard. I know that Bell has been marketing the G3 standard across Canada and I would just like to know whether or not, as part of the upgrade that is going to be going on in Dawson and in other communities around the Yukon, they will also be getting G3 upgrade. They may, in fact, have it now but I don't believe it's available outside of Whitehorse. I may stand corrected on that, but if the member could let us know?

Hon. Mr. Lang: To be honest, Mr. Chair, I can't answer that question. It is probably something that we as a department or Latitude is looking at, as we modernize these fea-

tures that would improve our communities cellphone service in all our communities. The technology changes very quickly, so we look forward to eventually having all our communities on cellphone and, of course, our highway corridors, which will benefit the travelling public.

I will definitely get back to the member opposite on that improvement to tell him if, in fact, Latitude is contemplating that. And if they are, is there a cost? I don't know.

Mr. Inverarity: I appreciate not having to ask for that information. I'll be looking forward to it, along with the other stuff the department is going to be providing. I know it's a lot of work and I do appreciate it when I do get these briefing notes back. The department has to go to a lot of trouble at times.

I'm going to move on from cellphones at this point. It would have been nice to have spent two or three days at this, but we'll try to push through as best as we can here this afternoon.

Could the minister provide us with an update on the construction of the sewage treatment plant in Dawson City?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Again, this is another project that Highways and Public Works is doing, but in conjunction with Community Services.

This was a commitment that this government made during the City of Dawson's issue with Department of Fisheries and Oceans and some of the decisions were made in the city itself. We certainly are in the process of moving forward on that commitment. This is a very large project for the City of Dawson and I certainly look forward to it being finalized so that Dawson can move on and they can solve their issue with solid waste and the Yukon River. It's currently on schedule, and of course, it's on budget at this moment, so that's good news for Yukoners.

The Yukon government is working with the City of Dawson. The City of Dawson is a partner in this. A contract between the Yukon government and Corix Water Systems Inc. was signed on June 30, 2009. There is substantial Yukon and Dawson content in contracts, significant employment benefits, Yukon subcontractors, Han Construction — a local construction company is one of the contractors — EBA engineering, Dorward Engineering, Ben's Electric and Keith Plumbing and Heating are all part and parcel of this Corix proposal. There was a public information session held May 20 to 21, and the groundbreaking ceremony was held on July 7, 2009. This was a public meeting in the City of Dawson.

An MOU was signed by the City of Dawson and the Yukon government on August 5, 2009. A test hole was drilled by Corix in mid-August. A YESAA application was submitted. The contaminated site was cleaned up successfully — in other words, where this site is used to be the parade ground for the Northwest Mounted Police. It was part and parcel of their complex in downtown Dawson and later on it was taken over by the Yukon government and utilized as an equipment or Yukon highways maintenance yard, so all the decontamination on that site — not the complete site — has been done. Monthly meetings continue with Environment Canada, so they're very much aware of what the government is doing in partnership with the

City of Dawson. Corix has been commissioned to do detailed design and a cost analysis for the use of biofuels in the wastewater treatment plant.

This is a good-news story in the sense that we're utilizing a concept and we as the government are overseeing this for the Department of Community Services, but we're looking at a waste water, a biofuel component to this process so we can add to Dawson City's facility in the sense that we can work with the local sawmill and get secondary product from them.

That would be part and parcel of this whole system. That would in turn heat the domestic hot water — no, not the hot water — the drinking water or the City of Dawson's water. Plus we could — as we move forward and look at the planning of this — we're looking at heating some of the buildings around there, which would be the swimming pool and other buildings that we could utilize with this biofuel. This again is part and parcel of this construction job. Again, that has been very favourably seen by the City of Dawson itself. But also it looks very positive for the project. So it's a project that's on time and on budget. We look forward to them doing the work that they have to do to get this thing finalized.

Mr. Inverarity: Just while we're on Dawson City — and this is probably the last question I'll be asking regarding it — could the minister give us an update on the total cost of re-surfacing Front Street in Dawson City and how that project is progressing?

Hon. Mr. Lang: The upgrade of Front Street in Dawson City and the actual paving of the road was an interesting project with respect to what we used as a product. It is a bit of an experiment to see what effect it will have on the permafrost.

In reminding the House, Front Street in Dawson is part of the Klondike Highway. It is maintained by the Department of Highways and Public Works, of course, because at the other end of it, we have the ferry. But it is part and parcel of the Department of Highways and Public Works' responsibility. It does not belong to the City of Dawson.

This project involved intensive preparation of the road surface and the application of two layers of asphalt. The project was successfully completed by mid-September. The purpose of the light-coloured pavement is to minimize solar heat absorption and minimize destabilization of the underlying permafrost. The clear-mix asphalt also provides for a gravel road appearance.

In other words, it fits into the historical part of Dawson City, which is important, too, because of the nature of the community itself. I mean, it is a national historic site in many respects and this product played well into that.

The final cost of this project will be approximately 10 percent higher than originally estimated as a direct result of the successful contractor's bid. In other words, we saw a 10-percent increase. The effect of the light-coloured pavement will be monitored through a cooperative research institute with the Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre. So in other words, it's not just something we walk away from; this is going to be monitored and there is a monitoring process in place and embedded in this investment so that the Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre can monitor the effects of this pavement.

As we all know, we have an issue on the Alaska Highway with the pavement and the shelf life of that road. So, this is going to be an interesting study. We've invested the money. Look at the upgrades of the road, the drainage, and all of the investment there, and then it is actually capped with this innovative product which, by the way, came from France.

It has been used in Europe on specific permafrost systems but this is the first place in North America that has utilized this product as a substitute for pavement. It is going to be interesting. The investment was somewhere around \$3.7 million but I think the money was well spent and, as we move forward, hopefully working with Yukon Cold Climate Innovation Centre, we can maybe address some of our other issues, which is north Alaska Highway and some of our other permafrost sites, of which we have many. Of course, with global warming, we seem to be having more issues on the highway system. This is a tool we'll use as we move forward and manage the highways as they are today and into the future.

Mr. Inverarity: Just while we are talking about the Klondike Highway, we will move down a little bit and perhaps I can roll two questions into one here as we are kind of getting there. The Member for Mayo-Tatchun is always interested in when we are going to paint the bridge at Pelly Crossing. I understand that it needs a little bit of work done on it. Are there any plans to do it this summer?

The member was interested in the bridge work at Pelly Crossing and was kind of curious if that's going to be done soon. Just along the same lines, are there any plans to widen the north Klondike Highway from here to Dawson?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I read off the long list of bridges that we're responsible for and we maintain. I reminded the member opposite of the obligation of the Department of Highways and Public Works and Public Works to not only maintain, but replace, as time goes on. One of the parts of the maintenance program is repainting these bridges. There's a rotation system and, as far as I know, the Pelly bridge is looking at a 2010 or 2011 repainting. This is all dependent on a budget and I certainly wouldn't want to stand up here and say to the member opposite that it's going to be done, but I look forward to maybe debating this in the spring budget, and these are some of the things that will come out of it.

As far as the facilities we have in the form of bridges and culverts, we as a department had a very tough spring. Of course, we had the issue in Carmacks, where the Nisutlin bridge was almost lost. We had a lot of pressure on our department on the gold roads. A lot of these side roads that we have and maintain on a seasonal basis took a real beating. Certainly, that is one of the reasons in this supplementary that we were looking at more resources.

We as a department spent almost \$1.6 million just getting these roads back into usable shape for the summer season. With respect to that, a lot of these roads will have to be worked on again in the upcoming season to get them into the shape they were in two years ago. So it's an ongoing management issue. Certainly, I'd like to thank the department again for the work they did, because this was a very wet spring and we had a lot of water damage. Of course, with that came washed out roads and

a questionable bridge and approaches, and all of the things we maintain or upgrade on a regular basis.

So I look forward to the coming year, and I look forward to the budget cycle that's going to come out.

Certainly, we're working with the Minister of Finance and the department to prioritize where we would like to see some investment. So, again, optimistically, I can say to the member opposite that the Pelly bridge is on our radar screen, and it looks like a great candidate for the upcoming year. But, again, we'll have to work with the Department of Finance and see where we stand as a department, understanding the pressures we have throughout the territory, whether it's health care, education — all the investments we make in the territory. We certainly don't skimp on Highways and Public Works. We invest in them on a monthly basis and a yearly basis. You only have to look at the Campbell Highway and see the investments we as a government made there. That road is now getting upgraded. Now, it's not done and it's going to take more resources, but, it's certainly a vast improvement from what it was three years ago. So I look forward to that road being finished.

This is the third year of a three-year program. As we move forward on the Campbell Highway — and I'm sure the member opposite would be interested in a breakdown on the Campbell Highway, which is interesting — again, it's an example of the work we're doing. By the way, I would like to thank the Finance minister for the resources to do this kind of work, because on the Campbell Highway alone, transportation, engineering and reconstruction of kilometre 10 to 12 was completed on schedule.

Reconstruction of the Tom Creek multi-plate culvert was completed. Reconstruction of kilometre 31 to 42 was substantially completed; remainder of crushed gravel surface will be placed in the spring. Reconstruction of kilometre 17 to 114 was completed. A BST surface was placed from kilometre 12 to 17. Revegetation of the right-of-way was completed from kilometre 12 to 217 and from 107 to 114. Design is ongoing for remaining sections. Overall costs are within the budget allocated. So in other words, these are more projects on time and on budget. This is the kind of work our department does.

In addressing the member opposite on the Klondike Highway and the department's plans for either widening or doing whatever on that highway, we are committed to do the engineering to see just what the opportunities are to do exactly what the member opposite is speaking about. That has to be done before any commitment is made to take on an investment like that. That would be a fairly large investment, Mr. Chair. That would be in the millions and millions of dollars. I'm not saying that it's not needed, but we certainly have to monitor the road, the pressure on the road and also get the engineering done, which we're committed to do to make sure that at such a time when that decision is triggered, we will have the engineering on file or on the shelf so we can go to work and go and do the good work that we have to do to bring it out into a bidding process. And there's YESAA and all the steps that we have to take to move forward on that size of a job.

It is not something that we plan to do in the near future, but we are committed to go to work on the engineering to put to that together, which is the first step in a very long process.

Mr. Inverarity: I have to say that the discussion of the north Klondike Highway is always of interest to me. I did drive it at the end of last April. I went up to the Tourism Industry Association's annual general meeting and I think we ended up going across five different portages over the highway. I think some of the water was like this deep on the highway. I have to say it was a rare experience to see the washouts that were caused by the spring flooding. My compliments and my thanks to the Department of Highways and Public Works for the excellent job they did in controlling the traffic over that period of time. I have to say, there were times when half of the highway was washed out and there were 10-foot drops. It was quite an experience to have at the time.

Hopefully, this summer we won't have the kinds of incidences that we had at the Clear Creek area, that the washouts or flooding, if there is any this spring, will be controlled and managed. It was a pretty harried time both going up and coming back trying to get control. I was lucky I had a four-wheel drive with me at the time.

Again, my thanks to the departmental officials all of those highway crews who were out there 24 hours a day, seven days a week trying to control the traffic. I know a few vehicles did flip over. The one I saw — I think the individual just didn't know how to drive on a road that had that much water on it and it was more, I think, the driver's fault. He should have just slowed down and that would have made life a lot better.

I'm going to move on to the Shakwak project, but before I get to that — recently in the newspapers there has been some discussions about a local contractor who has done a lot of work for the government, particularly I think up the highway, but I think throughout the territory. That individual has recently gone into receivership. My concern here is, do we owe that individual any money? Is that money being withheld for the courts and/or do they owe us any money? Are we listed as creditors or whatever in regard to that particular action? I'm just kind of curious as to where we stand with regard to that whole issue. I won't go into details or names at this time. I think the member knows.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Addressing the member opposite and the situation that the contractor finds himself in, I would like to say that the corporation itself has been a great corporate citizen for many, many years. He has employed hundreds of people and it's a sad day when something like this happens, not only from a government point of view but from a personal point of view. The corporation was doing for Highways and Public Works. He has completed the project. There's a little bit to do. There is some holdback, but not very much. He certainly doesn't owe us anything. There's no obligation on his part.

That being said, we were talking about the Shakwak project. In fact, the corporation was doing work on the Campbell Highway. The individual, for years, worked on Shakwak projects — or the corporation did — but, in fact, the last contract he had with this government was on the Campbell Highway.

That is virtually completed, except for some surfacing that has to be done in the next season, and there is a very small holdback. So the job that has to be completed is virtually finished. It's just the nature of when it ended. Hopefully, it will be finalized in the spring. Of course, the individual or the corporation will receive whatever is due him or the corporation.

The Shakwak project funding is interesting because it has been very lucrative for us to upgrade our highway system, especially north of Haines Junction. I have to thank the American government and, in turn, the American people for their commitment to the upgrading of the roads between Haines and the Alaska/B.C. border. You only have to drive them to see the amount of resources that were put in place by the American people, understanding that the Americans utilize the road and it is certainly an important corridor for them, so it wasn't without its benefit to the American people. But, again, as a small jurisdiction, we couldn't have done the work they've done on that highway system to improve it the way they did. But it is coming to an end.

The most recent transportation funding legislation passed by the United States Congress — that is where the resources come from — is entitled *Safe Accountable Flexible Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users*, included \$150 million for the Shakwak funding. Shakwak funding expired on September 30, 2009. Legislation was extended for one month. Approximately \$10 million is left in previously approved funding. The Yukon government will continue to ensure that U.S. legislators are well-informed of the long-term need for Shakwak funding. In other words, we are working with the American government and the State of Alaska, Mr. Chair, as they are a big part of this too. They are onside. It is a matter of us getting to Washington and putting our Ottawa representation in Washington, DC as this new transportation request goes forward.

The status of the current projects — there is a BST surface on grade reconstruction of Sheep Mountain that was completed this summer. That was a contract that was finished a year ago. Now we have it BST'd. Paving of 22 kilometres of Haines Road from Dezadeash toward Haines Junction was completed — another investment. Of course, the big investment is the Slims River bridge replacement was complete.

Of course the big investment was that the Slims River bridge replacement was complete. The Slims River bridge replacement project was completed this fall and opened to traffic in October 2009. The project was 100-percent funded by the Shakwak agreement. The new bridge has a walkway on one side connecting Silver City to Congdon Creek recreational trail, which was constructed as part of the Shakwak project.

The Shakwak permafrost test section project has engineers and scientists studying the effect of construction operations and climate change. Again, we go back to the Dawson City issue, Mr. Chair. This is an issue in that part of the highway system — the climate change on permafrost stability with the goal of developing adaptive methods to address permafrost degradation in ice-rich areas on the north Alaska Highway. It will be important to ensure that the monitoring phase is well managed. In other words, we are managing that and we have quite an inter-

est, not only from the American side of the border, but also from universities and ourselves to see just exactly what permafrost does over a period of time. The investment there — you only have to drive by there to see the extensive work that has been done on the site itself to monitor. It's quite impressive.

Additional paving will be done on the Haines Road under the Shakwak project as well as rehabilitation of culverts affected by the permafrost action between Burwash Landing and Beaver Creek. And, by the way, this looks like it will be an ongoing maintenance issue. This is something that we as a government have to be aware of because, as the Shakwak funding dries up or is not continued or is not extended for some reason, these responsibilities will fall on the Highways and Public Works department to maintain.

Another 10 kilometres of the Atlin Road will be reconstructed and is another piece of highway that's in the territory and an important road system that goes into northern B.C. and into the community of Atlin.

Application of BST to the last remaining gravel section of the Campbell Highway between Faro and Carmacks — that was an issue that was brought forward by the member from Faro. Of course, the member from Carmacks was concerned about this too. But that process is going. There was a bit of lag time as we put the gravel reserves together to do the job.

The Atlin Road, from kilometre 1 to 41 — this project involved the reconstruction of kilometre 612, which was completed in late October. Some additional work was required due to poor ground conditions; however, the final cost of the project should be within estimated budgets. So that's good news for the Atlin Road.

The M'Clintock River bridge is at kilometre 1381. This project was completed ahead of schedule and under budget. The resulting improvements are substantial. You only have to go over that bridge to see the difference today from what it was two or three years ago. It's wider, it seems to fit the road better and the engineering is just so much better on that section.

The Shakwak Slims River bridge at kilometre 1705 — the new bridge is complete and open to traffic. The centre pier of the old bridge is another responsibility we have in managing these Shakwak projects. We have to put a business plan and a construction plan together of how we'll get rid of the old bridge and also the superstructure like the piers and the concrete that's there. That is all an obligation of part of the contracts. The centre pier of the old bridge and the detour bridge will be removed over the winter. We work on these obviously in the winter because we can get on the ground and do the work that has to be done. The approaches to the new bridge will receive a BST service next summer. Those are the kinds of things that we're doing.

I have some interesting statistics here. As I said, we maintain 5,000 kilometres — I stand corrected, we maintain 4,850 kilometres. Two hundred and forty kilometres of road are paved. There are 1,987 kilometres covered with BST; 2,617 kilometres are gravel. On average, 700 kilometres of highway right-of-ways receive vegetation control each year. That's a large management tool we have as a government — how we keep our ditches and our site-lines in place. We commit to do

700 kilometres a year, managing the vegetation control. Approximately 180,000 cubic metres of resurfacing gravel has been crushed for use on the Dempster since 2005. Again, the Dempster Highway is a corridor we use to get to Inuvik and get to the opportunities that that part of the Yukon offers.

The transportation maintenance branch supports a Yukon multi-modal transportation system by maintaining roads to a level that ensures safe and efficient use. The branch manages right-of-ways and other lands and assets required for transportation purposes. So, in other words, what the department does has many, many facets. As I said in my intro, I have to thank the department for the work they do.

The Dempster Highway resurfacing will be done by TMB for the sixth consecutive year in 2010. That again goes back to the management of the 180,000 cubic metres of resurfaced gravel that we've been managing and working on. That involves crushing; that involves access to the resource which sometimes, on the Dempster Highway, can be a little bit trying because of the nature of where you're at and you're looking for a gravel source. It's not as easy to find as you would think.

Then of course we look at the BST — we'll continue with 89.7 kilometres scheduled for replacement in 2010. That's 90 kilometres of rehabilitation for BST — that's another commitment. Work on the north Alaska Highway will continue in 2010 with 25 kilometres scheduled for rehabilitation — again, another commitment that this government has made.

Again, back to vegetation control — we're doing 700 kilometres of highway right-of-way in 2010. Another big investment we've made and it's an investment on our side roads like the North Canol. It's very important that we invest in the vegetation part of it because, if you've been on the North or the South Canol, it becomes a management issue and, by the way, very much of a safety issue for the traveling public. The North Canol has got investors. The mining community is looking there.

First Nations utilize that for harvesting for subsistence harvesting. The big game hunting industry uses that for access to their areas. It surprisingly gets a lot of use over the summer period and we are very conscious of that. The department works and puts the money where they can, but the North Canol does need some vegetation control. I am sure the department will be looking at that.

In closing my remarks this afternoon, Mr. Chair, again, I would like to thank the department, I would like to thank the opposition for their hard work and the questions we had today. We suffer from lack of time. A department this big and the investment Yukoners make in it deserves more time here in the House. We invest a lot of Yukoners' money in our road system and the department touches not only our highway system, but they are involved in all of our communities. You only have to go to our communities and go to a curling game —

Termination of sitting as per Standing Order 76(1)

Chair: Order please. The time has reached 5:00 p.m. on this, the 28th day of the 2009 fall sitting. Standing Order 76(1) states: "On the day that the Assembly has reached the maximum number of days allocated for that Sitting pursuant to Standing Order 75, the Chair of the Committee of the Whole, if

the Assembly is in Committee of the Whole at the time, shall interrupt the proceedings at 5:00 p.m. and, with respect to each Government Bill before Committee that the Government House Leader directs to be called, shall:

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

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

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

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

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

The Chair would now ask the Acting Government House Leader to indicate whether Bill No. 17, Bill No. 75, Bill No. 76, Bill No. 78 and Bill No. 79, the government bills now before Committee of the Whole, should be called.

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Chair, the government directs that Bill No. 17, Bill No. 75, Bill No. 76, Bill No. 78 and Bill No. 79 be called at this time.

Bill No. 17 — Second Appropriation Act, 2009-10 — continued

Chair: The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 17, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2009-10*. The Chair will now recognize Mr. Fentie as the sponsor of Bill No. 17 for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I move that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 17, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2009-10*, be deemed to be read and carried.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Fentie that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 17, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2009-10*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

On Operation and Maintenance Expenditures

Total Operation and Maintenance Expenditures in the amount of \$24,965,000 agreed to

On Capital Expenditures

Total Capital Expenditures in the amount of \$43,662,000 agreed to

Clauses 1 and 2 agreed to

Schedules A and B agreed to

Title agreed to

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Mr. Chair, I move that Bill No. 17, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2009-10*, be reported without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Fentie that Bill No. 17, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2009-10*, be reported without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

Bill No. 75 — Second Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009

Chair: Committee of the Whole will now deal with Bill No. 75, entitled *Second Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009*. The Chair will now recognize Ms. Horne as the sponsor of Bill No. 75 for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

Hon. Ms. Horne: I move that all clauses and the title of Bill No. 75, entitled *Second Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009*, be deemed to be read and carried.

Chair: It has been moved by Ms. Horne that all clauses, schedules and the title of Bill No. 75, entitled *Second Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

Clauses 1 to 35 agreed to

Title agreed to

Hon. Ms. Horne: Mr. Chair, I move that Bill No. 75, entitled *Second Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009*, be reported without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by Ms. Horne that Bill No. 75 be reported without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

Bill No. 76 — Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act

Chair: Committee will now deal with Bill No. 76, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*. The Chair will now recognize Mr. Lang as the sponsor of Bill No. 76 for the purpose of moving a motion, pursuing to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

Hon. Mr. Lang: I'm falling asleep here. I move that all clauses and the title of Bill No. 76, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be deemed to be read and carried.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Lang that all clauses and the title of Bill No.76, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

Clauses 1 to 6 agreed to

Title agreed to

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chair, I move that Bill No. 76, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be reported without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Lang that Bill No.76, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be reported without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

Bill No. 78 — Act to Amend the Elections Act

Chair: The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 78, entitled *Act to Amend the Elections Act*. The Chair will now recognize Mr. Fentie as the sponsor of Bill No. 78 for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Mr. Chair, I move that all clauses and the title of Bill No. 78, *Act to Amend the Elections Act*, be deemed to be read and carried.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Fentie that all clauses and the title of Bill No. 78, entitled *Act to Amend the Elections Act*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to
Clauses 1 to 46 agreed to
Title agreed to

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Mr. Chair, I move that Bill No. 78, entitled *Act to Amend the Elections Act*, be reported without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Fentie that Bill No. 78, entitled *Act to Amend the Elections Act*, be reported without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

Bill No. 79 — Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act

Chair: The Committee will now deal with Bill No. 79, entitled *Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act*. The Chair will now recognize Mr. Lang as the sponsor of Bill No. 79 for the purpose of moving a motion pursuant to Standing Order 76(1)(b).

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chair, I move that all clauses and the title of Bill No. 79, entitled *Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act*, be deemed to be read and carried.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Lang that all clauses and the title of Bill No. 79, entitled *Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act*, be deemed to be read and carried. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to
Clauses 1 to 36 agreed to
Title agreed to

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Chair, I move that you report Bill No. 79 without amendment.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Lang that Bill No. 79 be reported without amendment. As no debate or amendment is permitted, I shall now put the question. Are you agreed?

Motion agreed to

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

Speaker resumes the Chair

Termination of sitting as per Standing Order 76(2)

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

Chair's report

Mr. Nordick: Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 17, entitled *Second Appropriation Act 2009-10*, and directed me to report it without amendment.

Committee of the Whole has also considered Bill No. 75, entitled *Second Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009*, and directed me to report it without amendment.

Committee of the Whole has also considered Bill No. 76, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, and directed me to report it without amendment.

Committee of the Whole has also considered Bill No. 78, entitled *Act to Amend the Elections Act*, and directed me to report it without amendment.

Committee of the Whole has also considered Bill No. 79, entitled *Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act*, and directed me to report it without amendment.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

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

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

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

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

I shall, therefore, ask the Acting Government House Leader to indicate whether Bill No. 17, Bill No. 75, Bill No. 76, Bill No. 78 and Bill No. 79, the government bills now standing at third reading, should be called.

Mr. Nordick: Mr. Chair, the government directs that Bill No. 17, Bill No. 75, Bill No. 76, Bill No. 78 and Bill No. 79 be called for third reading at this time.

GOVERNMENT BILLS**Bill No. 17: Third Reading**

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 17, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Fentie.

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I move that Bill No. 17, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2009-10*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 17, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2009-10*, be now read a third time and do pass.

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

Some Hon. Members: Division.

Division

Speaker: Division has been called.

Bells

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please poll the House.

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Hart: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Agree.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Agree.

Hon. Ms. Horne: Agree.

Mr. Edzerza: Agree.

Mr. Nordick: Agree.

Mr. Mitchell: Disagree.

Mr. McRobb: Disagree.

Mr. Elias: Disagree.

Mr. Inverarity: Disagree.

Mr. Hardy: Disagree.

Mr. Cathers: Agree.

Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the results are nine yea, five nay.

Speaker: The yeas have it.

Motion for third reading of Bill No. 17 agreed to

Speaker: I declare the motion carried and that Bill No. 17 has passed this House.

Bill No. 75: Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 75, standing in the name of the Hon. Ms. Horne.

Hon. Ms. Horne: I move that Bill No. 75, entitled *Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 75, entitled *Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009*, be now read a third time and do pass.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion for third reading of Bill No. 75 agreed to

Speaker: I declare the motion carried and that Bill No. 75 has passed this House.

Bill No. 76: Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 76, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Lang.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I move that Bill No. 76, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Community Services that Bill No. 76, entitled *Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion for third reading of Bill No. 76 agreed to

Speaker: I declare the motion carried and that Bill No. 76 has passed this House.

Bill No. 78: Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 78, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Fentie.

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I move that Bill No. 78, entitled *Act to Amend the Elections Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 78, entitled *Act to Amend the Elections Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion for third reading of Bill No. 78 agreed to

Speaker: I declare the motion carried and that Bill No. 78 has passed this House.

Bill No. 79: Third Reading

Clerk: Third reading, Bill No. 79, standing in the name of the Hon. Mr. Lang.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 79, entitled *Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Minister of Community Services that Bill No. 79, entitled *Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

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

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Motion for third reading of Bill No. 79 agreed to

Speaker: I declare the motion carried and that Bill No. 79 has passed this House.

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

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

ASSENT TO BILLS

Commissioner: Please be seated.

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

Clerk: *Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act and the Health Act; Act to Amend the Registered Nurses Profession Act; Second Appropriation Act, 2009-10; Second Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2009; Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act; Act to Amend the Elections Act; Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act.*

Commissioner: I hereby assent to the bills as enumerated by the Clerk. I've just got a dry throat. Please excuse me. I know you're all anxious to leave, but please bear with me for about five minutes.

Each season at this time I usually speak to your commitment and say thank you for putting yourself in a place where you are under intense scrutiny and stress. The Christmas season is filled with sounds, sights, and tastes that keep us busy with our own traditions. It tends to bring out a kindness and a generosity that is not experienced to this extent at other times throughout the year.

Perhaps it goes to our childhood — dreams of sugar plums and visions of Santa coming just for me. The child in all of us needs nurturing, and we rely on our memories as we all say, “Remember when —”. The same traditions we pass along, as well as creating new ones within our family structure.

As we leave this Legislative Assembly for the holiday season, let’s give in and experience this time with the wide-eyed wonder of that child, so the marvel of Christmas is as magical, fun and meaningful. Whether a small or large gathering is what you cherish, remember to also take time for yourself and have a well-deserved rest.

It has been my pleasure and my duty to be part of the protocol and the ceremony of this House and our parliamentary system. Perhaps I’ll see some of you at the Commissioner’s New Year’s Levee, where we will honour and present awards on behalf of the Governor General. This year, there is a Caring Canadian Award, as well as academic awards for students with outstanding grades from each Yukon secondary school. There will also be several Commissioner’s awards for some well-deserving Yukoners.

Okay, I do have to say thank you for all your time and for all your work within these walls and outside these walls of the Assembly and to all your support staff as well. I wish you and yours a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

As the House has reached the maximum number of days permitted for the 2009 fall sitting, as established pursuant to Standing Order 75, and the House has completed consideration of the designated legislation, it is the duty of the Chair to declare that this House now stands adjourned.

It is the pleasure of the Chair to wish each and every one of you the very best and the very merriest of Christmases and hopefully 2010 will be onward and upward for all of us in this territory.

Thank you.

The House adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

The following Sessional Paper was tabled December 17, 2009:

09-1-149

Yukon Liquor Corporation April 1, 2008 – March 31, 2009 Annual Report (Kenyon)

The following documents were filed December 17, 2009:

09-1-134

Health Care Insurance Programs, Health Services Branch: Statement of Revenue and Expenditures for Fiscal Years 1997/98 to 2008/09 (Hart)

09-1-135

Yukon Health Status Report, 2009 (Hart)

09-1-136

Speaker’s impartiality, letter (dated December 17, 2009) and supporting documents from Gary McRobb, MLA to Speaker Staffen (McRobb)