

**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Thursday, October 21, 2010 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

DAILY ROUTINE

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

Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of World Polio Day

Hon. Mr. Hart: Mr. Speaker, I rise today in this House to ask for recognition of October 24 as World Polio Day.

We probably don't spend a lot of time thinking about polio. It is a disease that has been virtually eliminated from Canada and North America.

Il ne nous arrive pas souvent de penser à la polio. C'est une maladie qui a pratiquement disparu du Canada et de l'Amérique du Nord.

Why would we even stop to consider the importance of polio? Here in Yukon, there is a very good reason for us to recognize this day and pay tribute to a young Yukon man who is spreading the word about polio, the dangers it poses and the need to vaccinate against it.

Ramesh Ferris is a polio survivor who raised awareness of this disease in 2008 with his "Cycle to walk campaign" from Victoria, B.C. to Cape Spear, Newfoundland. Born in India, adopted by Yukon's Anglican Bishop, and raised here, Ferris will be in Cheyenne, Wyoming next week to raise awareness throughout schools in the Cheyenne area.

He is currently on a speaking tour for Rotary International, the organization that has taken on the eradication of polio as its cause.

In fact, Yukoners are very proud that Ramesh has been invited to speak at the United Nations in November as part of Rotary International Day. There he will share his message about eradicating polio in our lifetime.

Thanks to Rotary and its partners, the number of polio cases has been slashed by more than 99 per cent, preventing five million cases of childhood paralysis, and 250,000 deaths since 1985.

When Rotary began its work 25 years ago, polio infected more than 350,000 children annually. In 2009, fewer than 1,700 cases were reported, and so far in 2010 that number has dropped to 600 cases worldwide.

We are close to eradicating this dreadful disease completely but we need to remain vigilant in our education and awareness efforts. It is essential that all people, young and old, continue to be vaccinated against polio.

That, Mr. Speaker, is why we need to continue promoting immunization to prevent polio — because there is no cure and because polio is still out there.

Vaccination against polio is part of the Yukon's immunization schedule for all children and we are glad to do our part to protect our citizens against polio. Prevention is the best protection.

La vaccination contre la polio fait partie du programme yukonnais de vaccination des enfants, et nous sommes heureux de faire en sorte que les citoyens soient protégés contre cette maladie. La prévention est la meilleure protection qui soit.

We are also glad that we have a champion like Ramesh Ferris to remind us all of the importance of immunization. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. Merci, M. le Président.

Mr. Mitchell: I rise today on behalf of the Official Opposition and the Third Party to pay tribute to World Polio Day on October 24.

Le jour de poliomyélite du monde vise à augmenter la conscience au sujet du virus de poliomyélite et à encourager d'autres actions à le réduire de la propagation. La commémoration du jour accentue également le succès des stratégies globales en réduisant la propagation de la maladie.

World Polio Day aims to increase awareness about the polio virus and to encourage further actions to reduce it from spreading. The commemoration of the day also highlights the success of global strategies in reducing the spread of the disease.

Polio is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus, which mainly affects children under five years of age. One in 200 infections leads to irreversible paralysis, usually in the legs. Among those paralyzed, five to 10 percent die when their breathing muscles become immobilized. There is no cure for polio; it can only be prevented. A polio vaccine has existed since 1955. There is no excuse for a single child to suffer the effects of polio in 2010 — 55 years later.

Tant que les restes simples d'un enfant atteints de la poliomyélite, enfants dans tous les pays sont en danger d'entrer en contact avec la maladie. Nous devons vacciner des millions des enfants les plus vulnérables du monde et finir la douleur inutile travaillée par cette maladie. Le vaccin de poliomyélite, donné des périodes multiples, peut protéger un enfant pendant la vie.

As long as a single child remains infected with polio, children in all countries are at risk of contracting the disease. We must vaccinate millions of the world's most vulnerable children and end the needless suffering wrought by this disease. The polio vaccine, given multiple times, can protect a child for life.

Rotary International declared October 24 World Polio Day to spotlight its effort to stamp out polio worldwide. In 1985, Rotary International joined with the World Health Organization and committed to the eradication of polio.

Yukon's own Ramesh Ferris set out on an inspiring 173-day journey on his Cycle to Walk campaign to raise polio awareness. Through his handcycle across Canada he spoke to schoolchildren, service clubs and politicians about polio and the need to educate, rehabilitate and eradicate this disease.

Though his cross-country hand-cycling is over, his fight for the eradication of polio is not. His efforts and the polio cause have given him the opportunity to spread the message at many speaking engagements in both Canada and the United States. He also travelled to India to participate in an immunization clinic. Ramesh is scheduled to address a United Nations meeting in New York City as part of Rotary International Day.

We as a global society must ensure that no child will ever again know the crippling effects of polio. Polio is still a challenge in many other countries and we must all work together on the fight for the eradication of polio and help make the world polio-free. Our thanks to all the volunteers, service clubs and individuals involved in raising funds and awareness for the eradication of polio. Polio eradication is within our grasp.

L'extirpation de poliomyélite est dans notre prise.

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

In recognition of Whitehorse General Hospital/Yukon Hospital Corporation being named a top employer

Hon. Mr. Hart: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask my colleagues in this House to join me in recognizing Whitehorse General Hospital and the Yukon Hospital Corporation as one of the top 100 employers in Canada for 2011.

M. le Président, j'invite aujourd'hui mes collègues à se joindre à moi pour souligner le fait que l'Hôpital général de Whitehorse et la Régie des hôpitaux du Yukon ont été choisis pour être au nombre des 100 meilleurs employeurs du Canada en 2011.

Last week we learned that the corporation had been awarded this designation by Mediacorp Canada, which recognizes the country's best places to work, and the organizations that lead their sectors in the attraction and retention of employees.

The corporation was chosen from among 2,750 applicants and assessed in eight key areas: work and social atmosphere, benefits, vacation, communications, performance management, community involvement, and training and skills development.

The Yukon Hospital Corporation received ratings from very good to exceptional for on-site amenities, vacation allowance, pension plan, and maternity and paternity leave for employees. Training and skills development and employee engagement received above average ratings.

The hospital and the corporation join such well-known institutions as the Fairmont Hotels and Resorts, Simon Fraser University, the Office of the Auditor General of Canada, The College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario and the Vancouver Island Health Authority, who were also named to the top 100 this year.

This recognition will assist the Yukon Hospital Corporation in its recruitment and retention efforts in the future. The Yukon Hospital Corporation has provided, and will continue to provide, outstanding service for all Yukon residents.

Cette reconnaissance aidera la Régie des hôpitaux du Yukon dans les efforts qu'elle fera pour recruter des employés et les maintenir en poste. La Régie a toujours offert et continuera d'offrir des services exceptionnels à tous les résidents du Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, this distinction clearly demonstrates the Yukon Hospital Corporation's commitment to its employees in

providing the kind of work environment that supports their health and well-being, along with their opportunities for growth and service. We congratulate the hospital, the corporation and all the staff.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues to welcome here in the Legislative Assembly here today representatives of the Whitehorse General Hospital. They are: Michael McKeage, chief operations officer; Roxane Larouche, the director of human resources; Rhonda Holway-McIntyre, director of the First Nations health program; Nick Leenders, chief financial officer; Val Pike, community liaison nurse. I might add, Mr. Speaker, Val is the longest-standing employee currently at the Whitehorse General Hospital — 31 years. Craig Tuton is the Yukon Hospital Corporation Board of Trustees Chair; Adeline Webber, chair of the First Nations Health Commission; and also we have Florence Roberts and Richard Durocher, who are board members of the Yukon Hospital Corporation.

Applause

Mr. Cathers: I also want to rise to pay tribute to the Hospital Corporation, the board and the dedicated staff for their success. I congratulate them for being named one of the top 100 employers and recognize, of course, the valuable role that that will play in assisting the Yukon in attracting and retaining staff for our health care system.

I want to particularly recognize Chair Craig Tuton, and CEO Joe MacGillivray for their leadership in running the Hospital Corporation and striving for excellence, and thank very much every single member of the board; the staff of the Hospital Corporation; others, including doctors and specialists who work at the hospital but are not directly employed by it; and I also take this opportunity to thank all of the Yukon's dedicated health professionals, including paramedics, medevac crews, nurses, therapists and staff at the Department of Health and Social Services who work with the Hospital Corporation in providing high-quality health care to Yukon citizens and providing us with a health care system that is second-to-none in Canada and that all Yukoners appreciate and should be very proud of.

Again, I just want to thank every single member of the Board of Trustees of the Hospital Corporation and all of the staff and those who work there for their work and congratulate them on this achievement.

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

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I would ask the indulgence of the House to join me in making welcome Mayor Richard Durocher and Councillor Howard Fick from my home community of Watson Lake. Welcome, gentlemen.

Applause

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

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling the *Status of Yukon Fisheries, 2010*, from the Department of Environment.

Speaker: Are there any further documents for tabling?

Reports of committees.

Petitions.

Bills to be introduced.

Are there any notices of motion?

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to ensure its House leader is informed about matters involving the business of the House to avoid passing on incorrect information to Opposition House leaders, as occurred recently regarding the scheduled appearance of Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board officials.

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

THAT this House urges the Government of Canada and the Yukon government to recognize the important service the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation's AM transmission provides to Yukoners in remote areas beyond the range of current and proposed FM service, including advising them of current events, keeping them informed during power outages and providing potentially vital information to them during natural and civil emergencies by working together to prevent CBC from discontinuing Whitehorse's AM transmission in 2012.

Speaker: Any further notices of motion?

Is there a statement by a minister?

That brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Fiscal management

Mr. Mitchell: I have questions for the Minister of Finance on last year's \$25-million deficit budget. Yesterday, the Premier's deputy minister confirmed one of the worst kept secrets in the Yukon; namely, that last year's budget is in fact a deficit budget. After promising a surplus of \$19 million last spring, the Premier has missed the mark by some \$40 million. It now has been confirmed by the minister's top official — and just to remind the minister I will table the evidence of that here today.

Will the minister confirm last year's budget is a deficit budget?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Well, Mr. Speaker, hardly a secret. All the financial information is in the budget documents, so I'm not sure what the Leader of the Liberal Party is implying about secrets. Secondly, yes, the deputy minister did confirm factually all fiscal matters to date and furthermore, Mr. Speaker, so have we, by tabling the very same information.

But in total, with regard to the fiscal position of Yukon, we are in a net financial resource position that is very healthy. Once again, I have to repeat to the member opposite and the House that Yukon is one of only two jurisdictions in Canada that indeed has a net financial resource position versus net debt. The only other jurisdiction is Alberta. That's something for Yukoners to be very proud of, and it has held us in good stead because all the options we have available today — to invest in Yukon's infrastructure and build our economy and deal with health care and our social safety net and beyond — are part of the fact that we've created that savings account.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, the Premier says it was hardly a secret. It wasn't secret to some 34,000-plus Yukoners, but this Premier has been denying it for the last three weeks in this House.

Last spring, the Premier put out a news release the day the budget was released. It said, quote: "This year will be the seventh consecutive year-end with a budget surplus..."

Let's fast-forward to today, 18 months later. The Premier's top official has now confirmed that last year's budget is not a surplus at all; it is a deficit budget. He says the deficit is more than \$25 million. When the Auditor General's report comes out in a few days, that number should not change, according to the Premier's own deputy.

Will the Premier put that number on the record? What is last year's final year-end deficit?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: It is on the record. It's called a budget document. I'm not sure what the member is missing in that regard; but furthermore, the final fiscal position of the Yukon is indeed a net financial resource position. Of course the member should know when it comes to financial issues that, during the course of a fiscal year, once estimates have been tabled there will be variances such as \$20-million-plus-change in accounting. Not expenditure — we still have the money — it's a change in how we must book Building Canada.

By the way, Mr. Speaker, the government side is not worried about our fiscal position at all. In fact, we're quite confident about the position we're in as we go forward. If the member, the Leader of the Liberal Party, cares to look further into the budget document he would see successive years going forward of a very healthy fiscal position for Yukon. That's indeed why we set about managing our finances in the way we did. We created a savings account. We've doubled the fiscal capacity of the Yukon and much benefit is accruing to Yukoners because of that.

Mr. Mitchell: The government side may not be worried about Yukon's fiscal position, but we can tell them that many, many Yukoners certainly are.

We know it pains the government to admit that it got it wrong, but that is certainly what happened here. The Premier's top official confirmed last year's deficit. The only one who won't admit it is the Premier. Of course, he is backed by all his Cabinet colleagues, because they are all in it together.

So, we're going to give the Premier's colleagues a chance to do the right thing. The public deserves clear answers from this government. After promising a \$19-million surplus, the government has delivered a \$25-million deficit. The Premier

refers to it as “adjustments”. The ministers have a choice. They can remain in denial and back the Premier or they can admit the obvious. Is there any minister on that side of the House willing to admit that last year’s budget is a deficit?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I think, Mr. Speaker, the leader of the Liberals is worried, because he simply does not understand financial management or even what the budget documents tell him.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, we are in it together. We are in it together in doubling the fiscal capacity of the Yukon Territory.

When the Liberals were in government a few short years ago, we were also debt servicing our costs for wages and program delivery to Yukoners. We were paying interest on borrowed money on a daily basis just to pay for those services and programs. Mr. Speaker, that is no longer the case. We have a savings account. We have an investment — with cash in the bank and our assets — well in excess of \$200 million.

Mr. Speaker, if we were to extinguish our liabilities today, we would still maintain that very healthy net financial resource position. What a contrast from the Liberal financial management, which broke the territory, drove Yukoners out of here, devastated our economy, and put the Yukon on the backburner. Today the Yukon is a bright spot in the nation and is very much involved as a member of the international community.

Question re: Fiscal management

Mr. Mitchell: This Premier likes to say that the previous government caused us to be paying interest while he mortgages the future and creates millions of dollars of future interest. We wonder what this Yukon Party government will try to sell off next. The minister responsible for the Housing Corporation was recently caught looking to sell off Yukoners’ mortgages. This has reaffirmed Yukoners’ suspicions that this Yukon Party government is not one to be trusted and is one that refuses to learn from its mistakes.

This Yukon Party government is spending money faster than it’s making it and attempting to make it in ways that are offensive to Yukoners. Last spring, the Premier told Yukoners that they could expect a \$19-million surplus. Yesterday the Premier’s deputy minister said that we should expect a \$25-million deficit.

Why has this government’s financial mismanagement led it to resort to the selling of Yukoners’ assets to pay for all these projects?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: I wonder if the leader of the Liberals is living in the same territory. How can the members say we’re selling assets? One of the biggest projects ever undertaken in the Yukon today is a hydro project — some \$160 million plus is being invested. By the way, this Yukon Party government was able to achieve that because of our partnership with Canada — a \$71-million investment by Canada. That’s not selling assets; that’s building assets. When was the last time that the Liberal leader and his colleagues brought \$71 million into the territory? When was the last time they brought \$71 into the territory? Selling of assets is a fantasy from across the floor. The building of assets, building Yukon’s future, is the Yukon Party government’s plan and it’s being delivered on a daily basis across the territory.

Mr. Mitchell: The proof of what the Premier was doing is sitting behind us over here. This government thinks that Yukoners have money to burn. This government needs to understand that money can’t buy trust. On one hand, we have a Yukon Party government pointing at expensive investments and patting themselves on the back saying what a good job they’ve done. On the other, we have this government making risky investments in asset-backed paper, trying to sell off Yukon’s energy assets to an outside private corporation and now considering the sale of Yukoners’ mortgages to the highest bidder.

Why is this government still trying to liquidate Yukoners’ assets to finance an infrastructure shopping spree that it clearly can’t afford?

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: Just to review things, it was discussed yesterday that harsh words beget harsh words, so utilizing questions to take a shot at the Yukon Housing Corporation, you learn some very interesting things when you do go into minutes. For instance, when the very short-lived Liberal government, the shortest lived majority government in the history of the Commonwealth of Nations —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: On a point of order, Member for Kluane.

Mr. McRobb: Mr. Speaker, I believe it’s contrary to section 19 of the Standing Orders, 19(g), to imply a motive and I just heard the minister say a member was “utilizing questions to take a shot at the corporation.” I think that in itself is fully explanatory in terms of a motive.

Speaker: On the point of order, Minister of Economic Development.

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: On the point of order, Mr. Speaker, again harsh words beget harsh words. If the member opposite wants to increase the level of debate in here, then perhaps he should start it himself.

Speaker’s ruling

Speaker: The Hon. Leader of the Official Opposition used the terminology “caught”. The implication was with regard to the minister in charge of Yukon Housing Corporation. That’s an implication there were some misdeeds on behalf of that minister. Harsh words will indeed beget harsh words. There is no point of order. Members, you open a door and somebody walks through it —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Speaker: Member for Kluane, did you have a point of order?

Mr. McRobb: No, I didn’t. If I did, I would stand, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: Then I suggest you maintain your silence. You’re one of the leaders of this House and you’re responsible for decorum in this House.

The Minister of Economic Development has the floor.

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: Going back into the minutes, I found that the honourable Liberal minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation appeared before the board. I will

read from their minutes: “The Liberal minister provided the board and staff with a brief overview of his thoughts relating to long-term planning, including consider ideas such as self-financing for the corporation.”

The Liberal member himself and his party considered ways of financing, which I’m sure included selling off assets and other such things. They’re making accusations of things they themselves did. Perhaps they should reflect a little bit in their own minds on that.

Mr. Mitchell: This minister can’t defend his actions, so now he is talking of previous governments. He’s the member who said he didn’t interfere when the minutes prove otherwise.

Yukoners want good government, one that won’t make poor financial decisions in acts of desperation. Let’s look at some facts of this government. Over four years, this government has borrowed \$67 million through the Hospital Corporation, borrowed \$100 million through the Energy Corporation, poorly invested \$36 million in asset-backed commercial paper, spent the savings account down and down and down, run up two consecutive deficits in a row and looked at selling off Yukoners’ energy future and their mortgages.

With all of the desperate attempts that this government has taken to cover its debts, it stands to reason that this government is truly in financial hardship. How can Yukoners trust this government’s ability to manage the public’s finances?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Speaking of the issue of trust, it wasn’t that long ago the Liberals were suggesting we were selling assets; now it’s selling the future. Which is it?

But let’s talk about what Yukoners entrusted their government to do. The Yukon public entrusted the Yukon Party government to build an economy. Today, we have economic prosperity, jobs and benefits for Yukoners, with our children moving home and obtaining gainful employment.

Mr. Speaker, Yukoners entrusted us to build a better investment climate. Today, hundreds of millions of dollars of private sector investment are flowing into the Yukon Territory — more jobs, more benefits for Yukoners.

Yukoners entrusted us to build our infrastructure today. Never before has there been more investment in infrastructure for Yukoners, today and long into the future.

Mr. Speaker, Yukoners entrusted us to protect and conserve our environment. There are more parks, habitat protection areas and other land base under conservation than ever before in the Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, Yukoners entrusted us to deal with the social side of the ledger. Never have there been such large investments — such significant investments — in our social infrastructure in the history of the Yukon Territory.

Mr. Speaker, it is about trust. We are in it together.

Question re: Young worker safety

Mr. Cardiff: Mr. Speaker, two years ago, the Yukon New Democrats brought forward the *Young Worker Protection Act*. Our act looked at general minimum working age and age restrictions — particularly in hazardous industries — and at mandatory supervision and training requirements.

The government took a different approach on this issue than we would have. Last year, the CEO of the Workers’ Compensation Health and Safety Board said that proposed regulations on minimum working ages in certain industries would be ready for legislative review before the end of 2010 with implementation slated for January 1, 2011.

Are we on schedule and can the minister provide some details about what age restrictions will be and in what occupations?

Hon. Mr. Hart: As I have stated previously in this House on matters and questions of similar processes, this government takes the issue of young worker safety very seriously. We take all worker safety very seriously. With the actual implementation of the occupational health and safety regulations in 2006, we are looking after all our workers here in the Yukon. In regard to the member opposite’s question, we are on schedule. We will be implementing our new process early in January of 2011. We are currently working with Community Services and its board to break down just exactly what particular industries and what ages will be utilized, based on the consultation that we received from the Yukon public on those issues.

Mr. Cardiff: When the minister can answer the question, I’d appreciate receiving it. Between 2005 and 2009, there were almost 700 injury claims accepted by the Workers’ Compensation Health and Safety Board, filed by young workers under the age of 25.

We’ve also witnessed the deaths of two young men at the Wolverine mine. The NDP has been raising this issue of improving how we train, supervise and protect young workers from injury for many years.

What concrete measures have Yukoners received — a code of practice? Can the minister provide some details about whether or not the code of practice is working in terms of reducing injuries to young workers and how it’s being evaluated?

Hon. Mr. Hart: The code of practice in this orientation was put into effect January 1 of this year, 2010. We’re pleased to say we have seen results from that process taking place. We’re also very happy with the employers, who are taking the necessary time to provide training and supervision to their new staff, especially those young workers.

Mr. Cardiff: The minister would do well to actually answer the question. When it comes to protecting young workers, we’ll admit there has been some movement, like the code of practice, but we’re not sure how it’s being evaluated and what the results are. We don’t believe we’ve done enough.

When this government takes an interest in an issue, proverbial mountains can be moved. Look at the speed at which this government brought in cellphone legislation or the *Act to Amend the Business Corporations Act* or the *Securities Transfer Act*. Look how quickly they drafted and tabled civil forfeiture legislation, and look at the number of amendments to various pieces of legislation caused by the *Agreement on Internal Trade* and the staff resources that were devoted to that.

Why is the issue of protecting young workers so low on this government’s priority list?

Hon. Mr. Hart: I’ve stated it many times in this House. This government is very concerned with the safety of

our young workers out there and we have shown that in a substantial number of ways. We've gone out to consultation. I'll remind the member opposite that we went out based on a motion put forth in this Legislative Assembly, but I will also remind the member opposite there was a substantial amount of opposition to many of the items that were out for consultation with regard to what the government should interfere in with regard to young workers. We went forward on many options we had agreement on and, as I stated previously, and as I mentioned to the member opposite previously, we are working on options with the Employment Standards Board to deal with the ages for the appropriate type of retail and other industries that young workers are working in today.

That is underway. We are working with the *Employment Standards Act* through Community Services to get that thing in place. They are currently working on those particular items. We have one sticky situation, in particular, we're working on, and we intend to work through that and we intend to meet our deadline of January 2011.

Question re: Housing, social

Mr. Fairclough: We have repeatedly asked the minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation to work cooperatively with the opposition parties, especially on important issues that we should all agree on. Yesterday's debate on the need for supportive housing in the Yukon was a good opportunity for this minister to do that.

Mr. Speaker, we know that there are some members on the government side who agree with the opposition parties on this issue. The failure with this government is in delivering the goods. This government says many things and yesterday was a good example of why Yukoners have lost faith in this Yukon Party government.

Mr. Speaker, why did the government not cooperate with the opposition parties yesterday when we all agree that there is a need for supportive housing in the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: Mr. Speaker, the motion that was originally tabled yesterday, of course, referred to one project and asked for the government to interfere with it. It is under consideration by the Housing Corporation. They are doing their good work and due diligence. The motion that the Liberals put on the table — directly out of the report by the group that was mentioned, I might add. They didn't even have the originality to write an original motion — needed to be changed into a more generic thing.

When the member talks about "delivering the goods", he ignores the \$34.4-million facility at Yukon College and the \$10.5 million, 32-unit facility in Riverdale. He ignores the \$2.2 million, nine-unit seniors housing project; a \$3-million, eight-unit seniors housing project in Teslin; a \$4.5 million, 12-unit facility in Watson Lake.

Compare this, Mr. Speaker, to the Liberals' concept. They delivered, in their short reign — nothing. Not a single unit.

Mr. Fairclough: This government's conduct in the Legislature yesterday was nothing less than shameful. It is a shame that hard-working NGOs are doing all they can to address and identify the need for supportive housing in the territory, and this government couldn't rise above petty politics

long enough to support this worthy cause, Mr. Speaker. It's a shame that this government would see yesterday's debate as a platform for criticizing opposition members.

It's a shame that we have to listen to this government, day after day, making statements they cannot defend. Yesterday was the right time to set our partisan hats aside and work together for the common good. We did that; the Third Party did that; the government could have done that, but they refused. The question that remains is why. Why can't this government keep their commitment to work with the opposition parties on behalf of Yukoners?

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: Again, another one of the problems with the motion is that it addressed Whitehorse. It had nothing to do with the rest of Yukon. I would expect the Member for Mayo-Tatchun, of all people, to broaden that a little bit and understand why it was broadened. He says that it was a shame. It was a shame to ignore all of the others — all of the other non-governmental organizations and encourage them to work with the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors.

The motion directly requested this government to interfere. Again, I refer back to a letter that was sent to the short-lived Liberal minister responsible for the Housing Corporation: "At our recent planning session, you asked the Board of Directors to review the Mountainview Place project with the intent of developing new options. The Board of Directors seeks your concurrence that its strategy is acceptable." That's signed by the chair back to the Liberal minister responsible for Yukon Housing Corporation.

Mr. Speaker, the Liberals have made it very clear that they will tinker with the Housing Corporation; they will tinker with teacher allocation. It's the belief of this government that we properly allow boards and committees to do their good work and to comply with the procedures that are in place.

Mr. Fairclough: Mr. Speaker, part of the motion yesterday was "working with all levels of government, non-government organizations, First Nations and stakeholder groups to support a Housing First approach to ending homelessness in Yukon."

What's flawed about that, Mr. Speaker? This is about trust and trust in this government. Yesterday was a good example of why Yukoners can't trust this government. A lot of people are working very hard to address the need of supportive housing in the Yukon. This government could have supported the efforts of those people, but they didn't. This government could have contributed to the debate yesterday, but they didn't. This government could have helped those hard-working people to address this very serious issue; they didn't.

So why won't this government support the efforts of — remember those words — support the efforts of those hard-working NGOs who want to develop supportive housing in the territory?

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: That's exactly what the motion was all about: encourage the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors to do their good work and develop the strategies that the member mentions.

It is not the belief of this government to tinker with boards, to tinker with committees, to tinker with staff allocations for

teachers. I could go on and on about all of those things. Again, I go back to this House where the Liberal Member for Kluane said, "I have seen where the Deputy Minister of Executive Council Office comes into the executive offices with an ATIPP request and asks for political guidance..."

That member said that when he was a member of the NDP. He accuses directly a deputy minister and the government leader of the Yukon of the day — the NDP government leader. I do hope that the New Democratic Party president is listening assiduously, as I know she always does, and takes note of that. It does raise the question whether the member left the party — or was thrown out — to join the Liberals.

Question re: Government accountability

Mr. McRobb: Oh, Mr. Speaker, in the past few weeks the minister responsible for the Housing Corporation has been relentless in singing in the same old worn-out praises of what a wonderful job this Yukon Party has done over the past four years. However, he has failed to reconcile his opinion with the opinion of Yukoners who have identified good governance as their top concern. The time has come for this minister to finally accept some responsibility in this government's loss of the public's trust. He denied the corporation, for which he's responsible, was considering selling Yukoners' mortgages, but the evidence proved otherwise. He denied interfering with the corporation, but the evidence proved otherwise. Is the minister willing to finally take responsibility for his actions and resign his portfolio?

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: I do take it as a great compliment to be the first person that the Liberal government — well, "government" before and opposition now — has demanded a resignation from. They have demanded the resignation of everyone else in the House, and I think even the pages are starting to get a little bit nervous.

But I go back to the Liberal minister of the short-lived Liberal government who directed the Yukon Housing Corporation Board of Directors and staff with a brief overview of his thoughts — God knows, it probably was brief — relating to long-term planning, specifically: "consider ideas such as self-financing for the corporation".

Mr. Speaker, the member opposite is trying to accuse me of something that his own party and short-lived government did. Again, perhaps he should do the review; read some of the documents and review the tarot cards. I think the horse is dead — finally.

Mr. McRobb: Mr. Speaker, that's exactly the kind of response Yukoners have grown weary of.

All the members in here should know that principles of integrity and trust should be upheld whenever a minister puts absolute assurances on record. In the event those assurances are disproved, there should be consequences. Yet this minister is content to stick to his old approach of deny, deflect and attack. In addition to these paramount issues of trust, this minister's interference with the Housing Corporation forced it to cut more than \$250,000 from other projects. Again, is this minister willing to take responsibility for his actions and resign his portfolio?

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: The Member for Kluane talks about a cut. He kind of misses the over \$100 million that this government has put into housing — \$77 million, I believe, in the last little while. What we have here is "Men with Brooms", part 2. We have to look at what was accomplished; I agree. What was accomplished? A \$2 million six-unit seniors housing facility in Faro; \$4.5 million for a 12-unit seniors housing project in Watson Lake; \$10.5 million for the 32-unit housing facility in Riverdale — I can go on and on — \$2.682 million for replacement of obsolete trailer units in Carmacks.

The member opposite likes to make accusations in this House and claim that he has evidence. There is no evidence. The only evidence he has is his word in the House, and he's wrong. He's not even close to reality. We invite him to join Yukon Housing Corporation and its provision of housing to over \$100 million to Yukoners. Under the past Liberal government — granted they weren't here long — zero. Not so much as a tent.

Mr. McRobb: Money can't buy trust. Yukoners have grown weary of this government and no longer trust it. This minister refuses to take responsibility for his actions. Yukoners know that principles of integrity and trust are not upheld whenever a minister puts absolute assurances on record that are later disproved, yet remains in denial. Yukoners also know that this minister once offered to resign. That's when he was minister responsible for the Yukon Energy Corporation and he finally woke up to the brewing ATCO scandal. A few months later, the Premier fired him from that post. The minister should be mindful of the oath of office he swore in this Assembly.

Why is it this minister is only willing to resign over someone else's mistakes and not his own?

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

Speaker: On a point of order.

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: On a point of order, the member opposite is saying that someone abrogated an oath. He has crossed the line. Perhaps he should join the rest of the decorum of the House — raise the bar a little bit. Maybe talk to his leader about raising the bar, although that might be futile.

Speaker: On the point of order, go ahead.

Mr. Mitchell: The member did not accuse the minister of abrogating his oath. He reminded him of his oath; no different from the minister reminding us of oaths we've taken and sending documents across the floor — just harsh words, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker's statement

Speaker: I agree with the honourable member. There have been harsh words from both sides of the floor in this Question Period. I would ask the members to allow me to review the Blues and I'll make a ruling later. I believe the Hon. Member for Kluane is finished.

Mr. McRobb: I'd like to repeat the question, because it was interrupted, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: No — okay, now you have me. For the sake of clarity, the Member for Kluane gets to ask his question

again, but the minister will get a minute and a half to answer the question.

Mr. McRobb: Why is it this minister is only willing to resign over someone else's mistakes and not his own?

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: I certainly never resigned or anything like that, and I was never fired from the portfolio. I do have to ask, also, did the member leave the New Democratic Party after it came to light that he observed an illegal act of a deputy minister and a sitting Premier? Did he leave the party? Was he fired? I don't know and, frankly, I don't really care. But again, when the Member for Kluane says in this House, and I quote: "I have seen where the Deputy Minister of Executive Council Office comes into the executive offices with an ATIPP request and asks for political guidance about which sections should be blanked out and which sections returned."

Mr. Speaker, that is an illegal act. I also remind the member opposite that he observed it and, by not reporting it, he committed an illegal act.

Speaker's statement

Speaker: Order. This has gone beyond the pale, members. One cannot accuse another member of committing an illegal act in this Legislative Assembly. We operate on the principle, believe it or not, that all members are honourable and we think that of each other. So please retract that.

Withdrawal of remark

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: Certainly, Mr. Speaker.

Speaker: I'm sorry?

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: I said "yes", Mr. Speaker.

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

ORDERS OF THE DAY

Hon. Ms. Taylor: 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 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. 22, Second Appropriation Act, 2010-11*. We'll continue with general debate on Vote 8, Department of Justice. 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. 22, Second Appropriation Act, 2010-11*. We will now continue with general debate in Vote 8, the Department of Justice. Mr. Inverarity, you have about 17 minutes left.

Bill No. 22 — Second Appropriation Act, 2010-11 — continued

Department of Justice — continued

Mr. Inverarity: Just while I'm getting organized here, I'll wait for a second while officials take their chairs.

The other day when I left off, we were talking about the Salvation Army Resource Centre, and I'd left a few questions with the minister, and maybe I'll have an opportunity to come back to that in a minute or two. I wanted to pass on a couple of things and then talk about something else.

Just before coming in, I happened to receive an article through my e-mail on cellphone activity in British Columbia. This is more anecdotal than anything else, but the headline read "21,000 fines issued in British Columbia" and over 20,000 of those were for cellphone violations, and that was just within the last six months. So I think we're going to see some activity as we get closer to the introduction of the cellphone bill this coming April, and I look forward to hearing about the educational components that will be happening with regard to cellphone activity.

The point that I wanted to talk about today was something that's a little bit — well, it really hasn't been visited in the Yukon for a number of years. I know that the Minister of Justice has a number of different portfolios and titles. The one I'd like to talk about is the Attorney General type of office, and I'm looking for some information along those lines.

Most jurisdictions in Canada share the administration of justice with the federal government. The exception to this is the three northern territories and specifically the Yukon. The federal government is responsible, for the most part, for administering criminal justice. In the Yukon the responsibilities, if I understand it right, of the Attorney General as the chief law officer of the Crown land falls to the Minister of Justice.

This is certainly different from the southern jurisdictions where they actually separate the roles of the Minister of Justice and Attorney General. There is good reason for separating these areas of responsibility in the larger southern jurisdictions, just as there is good reason for perhaps not doing so here in the Yukon — size and things like that. Small jurisdictions such as the Yukon would have a difficulty justifying the cost of establishing an independent Auditor General's office, but I think it's something that is worthwhile considering at this point in time. I know that, through devolution, a number of jurisdictional departments have been devolved down — I think forestry and lands, for example, and things along those lines that have been devolved down. It might be time to perhaps revisit the issue of the Attorney General's office. Just to be clear, I'm not suggesting that we go out today and incur the expense of creating an Attorney General's office, but perhaps it's something that we can get into some debate on at some point to see exactly what the costs might be and if there is a role that we might be able to do.

There are reasons, however, to examine the differences between the roles and the responsibilities of the Justice minister and what would otherwise be the Attorney General.

In southern jurisdictions, oversight for judicial and quasi-judicial commissions and boards fall within the responsibility of the Attorney General's office. Such organizations as the Human Rights Commission, Ombudsman, and the Workers' Compensation Appeal Tribunal would not report directly to the Department of Justice. I've even been somewhat critical over time of the fact that the Human Rights Commission actually reports to the Minister of Justice, particularly from a financial perspective. I know the minister has been quite adamant in her comments about not being involved with the Human Rights Commission, but it just highlights that fact, again, that by drawing that line on the piece of paper, it does imply that there is some responsibility, however you want to perceive it, and by setting up an Attorney General's office, it would take that perception out of harm's way.

There's a good reason for the separation, as I've mentioned, with regard to the human rights. In the Yukon's case, we need to review some of these links we have between the Justice department and what could otherwise be a new branch within government.

Here in the Yukon, judicial bodies are funded, as I've indicated, by the Department of Justice. This offers some savings, but it also creates some tension and potential conflicts. I've seen this in terms of articles in the newspaper with regard to the Human Rights Commission and their comments, and certainly when we were out on our tour of reviewing the *Human Rights Act* with the Select Committee on Human Rights, we heard from them regarding what they believed to be a conflict.

I believe the time has come to review this arrangement with Yukon's justice system and to look for opportunities to improve the role of the minister, vis-à-vis the Department of Justice. I would appreciate any information the minister has with regard to this particular issue. I'd like to see whether or not there has been any more work done on it over the past — I'm going to say — 15 years because, in doing a bit of research, it seems that it has been about that long before one of the previous, I believe it was the NDP government, looked at trying to create an Attorney General.

At the time, devolution wasn't around; it was certainly at the turn of the century when devolution started. We certainly have had 10 years of it under our belts and perhaps by moving in this direction, we might be able to see whether or not we have come to the point where an Attorney General's office might be something worth considering.

Along with that, perhaps the member — if she still has written down the question from last week — might respond to my questions regarding the Adult Resource Centre. I look forward to her thoughts on what I've just talked about, to see if there is any movement to move in that direction. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Hon. Ms. Horne: I thank the member opposite for his comments. It is good news that we hear from British Columbia regarding the new penalties for distracted driving. The Province of B.C. has issued over 14,000 penalties for impaired driv-

ing since the new laws came into effect on September 20. In addition to administrative penalties issued for impaired driving, police also impounded 1,239 vehicles from impaired drivers. They've also laid 435 penalties for excessive speeding. That is, indeed, good news and we look forward to our new laws going into place.

In response to the questions that we left off with on Thursday — yes, it was — I will respond to hopefully all the questions that were asked. Justice has been working with the Adult Resource Centre on renewal of its contribution agreement. The new contribution agreement will be for a period of one fiscal year, 2010-11, and will ensure service for 13 clients. The remaining three beds are contracted to Correctional Services Canada and Health and Social Services. There are presently three clients in the ARC. The ARC does not have an infestation of mice. Two months ago, a couple of mice were indeed seen, and I think the Pied Piper must have gone in because the two mice were caught in a trap and we hope we are mouse-free at this time — but we do keep checking it. If it is a problem, we will take care of it. I will go there myself and catch the mice.

Contract renewal discussions have included extensive budgeting exercises, examination of Yukon Adult Resource Centre policies, contract deliverables and staff models. Our goal is to ensure that funding is sufficient to maintain operations, meet training and security standards and recruit and retain staff in a competitive manner.

The contribution agreement in 2008-09 was \$420,000. In 2009-10, that agreement was increased by \$284,000, and this new total of \$704,000 is the 2010-11 agreement.

In order to ensure safety only low-risk offenders, bail clients and offenders who are transitioning back to the community are qualified to stay at the Yukon Adult Resource Centre.

The Salvation Army has very high corporate standards for running a halfway house and they are working diligently, so staff is well-trained in ensuring site and client security. ARC staff have been trained in policy and protocols for case management, security and supervision. This has been a priority to ensure staff is fully trained and meeting Salvation Army requirements and is a necessary building block to building program capacity. ARC staff is partnering with Community and Correctional Services whenever possible to enhance programming capacity. For example, they are being trained to deliver anger management programming with correctional and probation officers. Training is currently underway and will be complete October 21.

General programming includes chores assigned in a work program model, cooking and a basic nutrition program; clients built a greenhouse this summer and are growing vegetables. There is a woodworking program when weather permits. Clients have built picnic tables and an outdoor shelter. A wellness and recreation program is in place and a First Nation elder does a talking circle once a week.

ARC staff will be trained in suicide prevention and working with mentally ill clients by the end of December. Present programming includes AA, recreational activities and work programs. Corrections branch is also working collaboratively with the Yukon Adult Resource Centre to ensure sentenced

clients on term assignments can attend programming offered in the community. Changes were made to the staffing model at ARC to facilitate a greater emphasis on programming, case management and financial accountability. The staffing model reflects the qualifications now required of staff and the availability of auxiliaries on-call to back-fill staff occasions and other necessary absences. I did go on a tour of the ARC a couple of times, and I was very impressed with the management there. I feel it is doing our clients well. I will be making — or asking — for another tour very shortly.

There was also a question on the types of offenders that we have at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. On any given day, the offenders at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre change and those changes can be by the hour. The statistics available are updated frequently, but should be viewed on average to get a clearer picture.

A picture or a snapshot of Whitehorse Correctional Centre: for the member opposite I will list the following offences. We had one arson; one assaults causing bodily harm; two assaults with a police officer; seven assault with weapon; 12 assaults; eight breaches; four break, enter and theft; one Criminal Code traffic; five drive-while-disqualified; one forcible confinement; one fraud; three impaired driving; two *Motor Vehicles Act*; two murder; one other weapons offence; three over .08; one parole violation; three possession narcotics traffic; three possession of narcotic; two resist/obstruct peace officer; three robbery; two robbery with violence; two sexual abuse; 11 sexual assault; two theft over; two theft under; one trafficking a narcotic; six uttering threats. That's for a total of 92 clients.

In addition, for the member opposite's interest, the Department of Justice publishes a justice facts booklet, which is available on the Justice website. In this booklet, we break down the offences on average by type for both the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and probation clients. In addition, there are a number of other interesting statistics on the department's business lines. The booklet is not meant to be exhaustive but it does give a pretty good idea of what kind of volume and other statistics the department gathers over the course of the work at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. I can offer these booklets to the member opposite — also look at the website.

The Department of Justice designates the Minister of Justice as the Attorney General for Yukon.

There are different models that different provinces and territories use to divide solicitor general functions and Attorney General functions. B.C., Alberta and Saskatchewan, for example, have an Attorney General and a separate Minister of Public Safety, who oversees traditional Solicitor General functions. In other jurisdictions, like the other two territories as well as Manitoba, Prince Edward Island, Newfoundland and Nova Scotia, there is a Minister of Justice who acts as the Attorney General. At this time, we have no interest in exploring a separate portfolio for Attorney General in Yukon.

I would just like to give a short comment on the human rights. In our consultation to modernize the *Human Rights Act* in Yukon, recommendation 16 calls on the government to remove the funding for the Human Rights Commission and Panel of Adjudicators from the Department of Justice. This issue is

being discussed in the context of the current consultations. Public media statements by the Human Rights Commission imply the Department of Justice is in a conflict of interest, as it represents the Yukon government as employer in human rights complaints while also serving as the funding authority for the Human Rights Commission and the Panel of Adjudicators.

It is normal in Canada for government to fund human rights commissions through their Department of Justice or Attorney General. Ten out of 14, including Yukon, also do so. Three governments fund their commission through a different government department and the Northwest Territories commission receives funding directly from the legislature, but given the interest to examine funding, we are open to looking at this issue as per the recommendations.

Mr. Inverarity: I'd like to thank the minister for that informative dialogue, particularly the position on the office of the Attorney General. I think she did indicate her position on it succinctly.

Also the comments about the Adult Resource Centre I found to be interesting. The comment, or the complaints about the varmints is something that was handed down to me and I thought that I should bring it forward.

I'm glad that the minister is so proactive by wanting to participate in search and seizure of the vermin herself. I'd say that she's stronger willed than I in this particular case. I don't particularly like rats or their kind — so kudos to the minister for taking on the challenge.

I think at this point I'd like to return to the original discussion that I had last Thursday regarding Whitehorse Correctional Centre. I do appreciate the update. Ninety-two clients — I'm assuming that that's fairly current because the numbers we got a week ago were for September 15 or something like that. If that's the case, perhaps the minister could just verify that. I'm kind of curious as to whether she has the breakdown of the male/female component. We don't need to go into a lot more detail with regard to that. I think that it would be of interest to know the types of — well, the breakdown was good in terms of murder and the number of cases of drug use and drug possession and people on trafficking charges. Those were of particular interest.

The murder one was something I thought was interesting — that we have them up there at the correctional facility. I wonder how long some of these individuals have been waiting there, but I'm particularly interested in the number of females — it has always been a concern — so if the minister has a breakdown on the types of inmates we actually have — not by crime necessarily, but by gender. For example, are there any females in for murder, or that sort of thing?

Hon. Ms. Horne: The statistics I gave earlier as to the types of offences was the count on October 1, 2010. I'll go over again the inmates in the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. These figures are from September 13, 2010.

The count on that day was 69 — 43 in remand, 26 sentenced. The average inmate count for 2009-10 was 77 — 46 in remand, 31 sentenced. The average inmate count for the past three years was 67 — 40 in remand and 27 sentenced.

On September 13, 2010, 72 percent of inmates self-identified as being of First Nation ancestry. The average percentage of self-identifying First Nation people over the past three years was 75 percent.

On September 13, 2010, 10 percent of inmates were female. The average percentage of female inmates over the past three years was 12 percent.

Mr. Inverarity: I have the numbers from September 13. I appreciate the minister repeating them for me. I was concerned that we had gone from 69 on September 13 to 92 on October 1. That must be pretty close to the maximum that we've had at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. I don't think we've had more than 96, if I'm not mistaken, in the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. I'm a little concerned, with all the construction going on up there, as to what the current numbers are — not based on the 92 figure, if that's the most relevant she has and if she has a breakdown on that.

Assuming that we're working on the 10 to 13 percent ratio for women, that would mean there would be somewhere in the neighbourhood of 11 or 12 females there. Does the minister know the breakdown and types of crimes? Obviously, that small a number — I don't want to breach any kind of jurisdictional issues or privacy issues, but if the minister had a breakdown on the types of criminal activity that some of the females were involved in, I would appreciate even just a description of the general type of thing.

Hon. Ms. Horne: I refer the member opposite to the booklet I just sent over: *Department of Justice Facts 2010*. Page 12 gives the female population at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. The average number of admissions of female inmates, remand and sentence at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre has increased over the past five years from eight percent in 2003, or 43 inmates, to 13 percent in 2008, or 82 inmates. On average, 10 females were incarcerated daily at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre in 2008. This is up from seven females incarcerated daily at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre in 2007. The maximum count was 18 in August, and the minimum count was six in April and May 2008.

The majority of female inmates are of First Nation identity. In 2008, 22 of the 26 sentences served by females at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre were First Nations. More female inmates were between the ages of 20 and 29 than any other age group. This trend of higher numbers of women being incarcerated is general across Canada in the past few years. The count at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre has been as high as 110. The 91 is not unusual. This number fluctuates, as I say, on a weekly/daily basis — it changes constantly. We have had as many as 11 women and also down to zero women incarcerated at the Correctional Centre. I remind the member opposite that KDFN now operates a land-based treatment centre that is available for the women as well as the men that are incarcerated. The land-based healing camp of KDFN — we announced in July that we would be opening the land-based healing camp.

Funding for the camp included \$110,300 from the Department of Health and Social Services on top of \$300,000 from the northern strategy trust. The land-based treatment camp will integrate traditional as well as modern healing techniques by

reconnecting participants with the natural world. That is where we, as First Nations, regain our strength and our pride in ourselves as First Nation people. It will be available to Yukoners all through the year and throughout the Yukon.

To date, we have had 10 Justice clients who have been referred to the KDFN camp at the Jackson Lake facility. I understand that it went very well. These individuals went through the entire program and are doing well. This KDFN land-based healing program builds on the therapeutic community resource feasibility study that was conducted jointly by Kwanlin Dun and the Yukon government. This land-based treatment centre is the first that we will look at and will possibly go to further communities in Yukon, but it is available right now for men and women and to all throughout the Yukon.

Mr. Inverarity: We're sitting at approximately 10 females.

Perhaps the minister could tell us how many are in the women's transition centre currently and how many are remaining in the general Whitehorse Correctional Centre compound?

Hon. Ms. Horne: I didn't respond to an earlier question on the probation rates. I forgot to give the statistics to the member opposite. Also, on September 13, there were 586 clients supervised in the community. The average number of clients per year for the past three years was 492. The main categories of supervision are: probation, 277; bail, 221; and conditional sentence, 36. Again, the average of First Nation clients over the past three years is 65 percent, and 20 percent female.

The transitional women's living unit — the women's annex — increases the options for accommodating and providing programming to female inmates. I don't know if the member opposite came with us on our tour of the opening. It really is very impressive for our female inmates to be housed in the annex, and the female inmates who do reside in the annex are classified minimum or medium security. Women who are not deemed at risk to the community are housed in the annex. We don't have any current figures, but again those figures fluctuate. They have to be considered minimum or medium security to reside there. The women's annex provides female inmates greater access to the community and it improves opportunities for reintegration planning. The annex employs a living skills officer who instructs the women on food safe meal preparation, nutrition, and budgeting, plus they have all the programming that exists in the main Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

Mr. Inverarity: Okey dokey. Thanks very much. So, not all the females are resident in the women's transition centre at the time. If they're considered a violent individual, then they are still over in the older Whitehorse Correctional Centre. The reason I'm asking this is I had heard that the actual women's transition centre was closed down for a number of months over the summer. I was curious as to what happened to the women who were there — where they went. Were they just moved back in? Were there some issues around that? If the minister's aware of that, perhaps she could just shed a little light on why the transition centre was shut down. Maybe there weren't any females to be housed there, I'm not sure.

Hon. Ms. Horne: I do have the figures as of September 9, 2010, for the women's count in the annex. As of Sep-

tember 9, 2010, Whitehorse Correctional Centre had six remanded female inmates and one sentenced female — a two-year low for female admissions.

Only one of these women met the criteria for transfer to the annex. Female inmates being held at Whitehorse Correctional Centre are reviewed weekly to determine who is eligible and a good candidate for the program. Again, only women who are deemed to be a low risk to the communities, staff or other inmates are considered for the annex. If others are deemed a danger, then they are not considered. This would be the reason the annex was not closed at any time. As I said earlier, it can fluctuate from highs there of six to a low of zero, which happened in this case.

I can also offer the information that in 2009-10, the government committed \$1,104,000 toward the construction of the annex. The annual operating expenses for the annex comprise part of the whole Whitehorse Correctional Centre annual budget.

I believe that answers all the questions that the member opposite had.

Mr. Inverarity: So the minister is saying that the centre wasn't closed at all over the past six months, if that's the understanding that I have. I was led to believe that, as the minister indicated earlier, some of the women did take part in the alcohol treatment program up at Jackson and Fish Lakes and that while they were up there the centre was closed — or, I should say that it did not house any inmates during that time. I assume that the staff would still be in the centre, although there wasn't anybody there to actually administer. So it would technically still be open; there just weren't any inmates in there for a period of time. I'm not sure how long the drug treatment program goes — if it is six weeks or six months. My understanding was six months, but I'm probably wrong on that. It's probably only a six-week program.

I'm curious if that is the case — and I could very much be wrong. In fact, there were always inmates in the transition centre. But I'm curious what the staff would be doing if there weren't any actual inmates in the women's transition centre — whether they would be there all the time or whether they would be moved over to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre to do staffing. I believe some of them have unique skills in the women's transition centre. Perhaps the minister could correct me if I'm wrong — no problem with that — or perhaps help set the record straight in terms of my understanding about what happens with the staff in the transition centre. Have some of these women, both high risk and low risk, participated in the alcohol treatment program?

Hon. Ms. Horne: The member opposite is correct. It would depend on the population of female inmates that are able to go into the annex. During the programming at Jackson Lake would be deemed that it was closed because there were no inmates in there, plus no females were eligible to move into the annex at that time. So it is dependent on those who can move into the annex and the staff, at that time, would be moved into the main Whitehorse Correctional Centre. To work in the annex, they have the training with the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, plus additional training to work at the annex, but we are

always open to accept female inmates if they meet the criteria of the annex.

Mr. Inverarity: I will digress a little bit here. The minister mentioned that she has had tours of the ARC. I have had a tour of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, but I really, dearly would love to have a tour of the new transition centre, plus what will be the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre. When the minister has her next opportunity to go there, I would certainly appreciate an invitation. I probably wasn't the critic responsible for this area prior or when she was on those tours and perhaps my counterpart did get a tour — I'm not sure — but I would definitely appreciate an invitation for a tour of the centres. I'm even prepared to wear a hardhat and steel-toed boots, if necessary, to get into the new Correctional Centre.

But getting back on to the women's transition centre, it's my understanding that once the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre is open and fully functional, the women's transition centre will then become an elders healing centre or something along that line, where inmates would go to get counselling and services along those lines. Can the minister just confirm that, please?

Hon. Ms. Horne: I will arrange a tour for the member opposite to accompany us on a tour. I'll make sure I have my mouse equipment with me so that the member opposite will not be attacked by any rodents.

When the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre opens, the women's annex will transfer to Health and Social Services. We are working very closely with Health and Social Services to determine the exact nature of the programming that will take place in the annex. It is not an elders centre, per se. The use is being determined; it will be part of the new therapeutic programming of the new Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

Mr. Inverarity: Could the minister tell us what the attendance centre is?

Hon. Ms. Horne: The attendance centre will provide wrap-around services for clients of the Community Wellness Court, as well as ongoing support and after-care after they've gone through the Community Wellness Court process. The opening of the attendance centre will complete the vision of providing those Community Wellness Court clients who have substance abuse or mental health problems, FASD or cognitive impairments, the resources they need to successfully complete their wellness journey.

The attendance centre will also serve as a check-in centre for low-risk offenders on probation, and bail clients.

It will also provide programs and services that will address a variety of clients' needs, such as counselling and group programs that address their criminal behaviour, as well as providing assistance with other aspects of their wellness journey, such as employment readiness, life skills, educational upgrading, recreation and healthy living, budgeting and money management, responsible tenancy, and other services.

The attendant centre will be open 12 hours per day, seven days a week. Through extended hours of operation, programs and services will be offered during the day, in the evenings, and on weekends to enhance access to clients and offer support during periods of times where they are more at risk, especially

in the evenings. The attendant centre will begin operation by late November 2010. It is being funded through the existing budget of the Community Wellness Court. This is something that we are very pleased is in place to offer those clients that are most in need of these services and this support to get them through their wellness programming. I'm very pleased to see that it is in place.

Mr. Inverarity: Are the attendant centre staff going to replace probation officers? If I'm on probation will I go there and check in?

I guess the question is, how many staff are going to be there? The member indicated where the funding was going to be coming from. This is old money, I guess. It's not in the current supplementary. Is there going to be a decrease where the source funding is coming from?

Also one critical one — I noticed that this attendant centre was actually scheduled to be open sometime in September and, as the minister indicated, it has been pushed back to November. I'm curious as to why. And finally, where is it going to be?

Hon. Ms. Horne: As for the staff, we are still developing the staffing model. As far as the location, what I can tell you right now is that it will be a central downtown location that is easily accessible for all the clients, and we are in the process of still finalizing the programming and operational plans for the centre.

As these plans are still underway, I can't give all the details at this time, but I would ask the member opposite to stay tuned for any announcements we have, and I will ensure that the member receive an invitation to the opening when it does occur.

Mr. Inverarity: Thanks very much. I really appreciate the offer of the invitation, and I accept it most wholeheartedly. I'm a little concerned about the time frame. Again, the minister has indicated that it will be some time mid to late November for it to be up and running. That would probably indicate that you would need to have something leased now to be able to move in to that time frame, as I know government doesn't — the wheels of property management need to be always pushed along, as we say.

I'm going to move on a little bit from that one because we have a lot of other departments, and I'd like to get through some of these other issues I have. So, as I say, I indicate that I wait with bated breath for more information regarding this attendance centre. Traditionally in government, the odd employee survey has been done. I think different departments have employee surveys. I'm just curious — I know that in the survey ratings over the whole government, the Department of Justice had fairly low numbers at one point.

I'm wondering if a survey has been done recently. If the member has a copy of it, it wouldn't hurt to get a copy of it. Does she feel that the staff has moved up from a morale perspective since the last survey was done? Does the minister have any other information regarding the general well-being of staff, not just within the Department of Justice, but at the Correctional Centre?

Hon. Ms. Horne: The survey is done in April of each year. The results came in in August. They were compiled and

released in August, and it is available on the Public Service Commission's website. The Department of Justice is engaged in a number of major priorities and projects, and we have enjoyed substantial success in moving forward toward our goals.

We have made some major efforts since the last survey to begin to improve the work environment through the activities and the employee engagement action plan.

The number of staff who participated in the survey increased significantly. This is very important, as the survey results help us to see our organization's strengths and areas where we can improve.

We have seen some positive change in our engagement scores, but obviously there is still room to improve our work environment. It takes time to create positive change and we are moving in the right direction according to the results of the survey. Our main areas for action are the same as last year: leadership practices, organizational support, job support and recognition, and fair human resource practices. All of us play a role in creating a positive work environment. The management team is committed to continuing the activities in the employee engagement action plan. All of us need to be committed to improving our work environment by working together.

The employment management surveys are intended to give valuable information to management directly from the employee on how to continually improve as a public service employer. These surveys are a standard tool used by private and public sectors to generate internal discussion and actions and to support excellence.

Public service excellence can be found in many ways. I am continually impressed by the dedication shown by Justice employees to provide quality service and improve the lives of Yukoners. We have seen that; we have seen the results throughout Yukon.

Mr. Inverarity: So it came out in August, and it's on the Public Service Commission website. I have to say, I didn't look there; I was looking on the Justice site, so I'll be curious when we're finished here today to go back and see what the results are. Could the minister give us some of those results as we speak this afternoon? Does she actually have a copy here? If not, then we can certainly leave it to a later date.

I'd be curious to hear how the morale is. She seemed to indicate that some of the numbers were going in the right direction. A few more comments on the actual contents of it would be — for example, what were some of the performance indicators? How well did the department fare? That would be worthwhile putting on the record.

Hon. Ms. Horne: I can tell the member opposite that I don't have a copy of the survey here, but I can elaborate on the results — not on the results, but what we've done to improve the employees' engagement.

In 2009, engagement sessions were held to obtain ideas, comments and suggestions. These sessions that were used were a café model and were organized by a project team of managers and staff. Nine sessions were held and over 110 employees participated. The management committee produced an employee engagement action plan, which was circulated in late

April 2009 to all staff. It forms part of the overall department plan.

It forms part of the overall department plan. Delivery of the action items continues. On top of the café sessions and in the plan, other work that has been done includes setting up a system for the deputy minister to introduce himself to all new hires. We began a process for training for management committee to increase leadership and teamwork skills. The deputy minister met with the groups of staff in every branch to discuss ideas for inclusion in the operational and departmental plan. As I said earlier, we are moving in the right direction, as our survey says, which ended in April.

Mr. Inverarity: I appreciate that. Thanks very much. I'll look forward to perusing those on-line after the day is done. Could the minister tell us what the IOM model is?

Hon. Ms. Horne: The integrated offender management, or IOM, is a collaborative, client-focused, case management model. The model provides a seamless case management plan for the entire sentence of the client, including custody and community supervision. It focuses on the transition period between custody and community supervision when clients are particularly at risk to re-offend. The goal is to reduce re-offending by assessing the risks and needs of offenders by applying processes and programs that have proven effective in reducing that risk and by starting re-integration planning at the earliest opportunity.

While the offender is in custody, a team of skilled case managers first assesses the risks and needs of the client and work collaboratively to meet the client's needs and reduce his or her risk. The team develops a plan that covers the offender's time in custody, their transition to the community and their time on probation. The plan targets the factors that underlie the offender's criminal behaviour, such as violence or substance abuse.

The implementation of the pilot project has been evaluated; all findings confirmed that the integrated offender management project was meeting or exceeding the stated goals. The pilot project is now becoming operational. Research on the effect of the integrated offender management project on re-offending rates of clients is still pending. The IOM is funded out of the existing budget for Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

Mr. Inverarity: So, there was a pilot project that was conducted; how long was the pilot project? How many inmates were involved in the pilot project, if she has that information? It sounds like it's now going to be a full-fledged part of the day-to-day operation and is being funded through the Whitehorse Correctional Centre's regular budget, but I would like to know what that amount is on a regular basis, and is there an integrated computer system that makes up part of that system? How much — when was it purchased and implemented? Was it implemented as part of the pilot project and at what cost, if the minister has that information?

Hon. Ms. Horne: Since the integrated offender management pilot project began on July 6, 2009 — we are just transitioning now so this commenced July 6, 2009 — there have been 63 individuals sentenced to more than 120 days incarceration. Thirty-six of these fit the criteria for integrated

offender management. Of those who did not fit the criteria, 23 individuals had no probation, one was low risk on the risk needs assessment tool and three individuals had no probation and were low risk on the risk needs assessment tool.

Of the 36 individuals who fit the criteria, there were seven men and 29 women — by ethnicity, 21 Caucasian and 15 First Nation.

Community breakdown is: 22 Whitehorse; four Watson Lake; four Pelly Crossing; one Carcross; one Mayo; two Ross River; one Haines Junction; and one Teslin.

Of the risk needs assessment rating: three were medium; 13 high; 18 very high; and two not yet completed.

Releases: one paroled; 22 regular releases; and 13 remain active Whitehorse Correctional Centre clients.

Return to custody and results: one reverted to remand is having outstanding charges; one found not criminally responsible now under the Yukon Review Board; one returned as remanded inmate; and one is currently incarcerated on remand, awaiting trial.

The programs that integrated offender management project participants have accessed: work crew, 17; kitchen, seven; school, 10; White Bison, six; female and two male in the wrangler program; psychological counselling, three — that's an agency from outside of Justice; the women's annex, six.

Participants in all programming offered at the annex — First Nation program: Gathering Power, five; elders counselling, seven; residential school, two attended a four-day conference and one attended counselling outside of Whitehorse Correctional Centre; sweat ceremonies, three, with a temporary absence to Carcross; the Tatla Mun healing camp, one; Jackson Lake healing camp, four.

Other offenders programs: spousal abuse, four; violence prevention group, 10; substance misuse group, one; psychological assessment counselling, five; individual counselling, 27; Yukon Adult Resource Centre, 10 — and two more on the waiting list to go to the healing camp.

As you can see, it's very varied and well-attended. It's to fit the individuals.

The member opposite also asked about the information system to support IOM and the correctional programming at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. In this regard, I can report that a systems development project has been underway since 2006-07 to replace the court registry information system, or CRIS, which has been in operation since the late 1980s. CRIS is a mainframe application operated and maintained by the Information and Communications Technology branch of the Department of Highways and Public Works. Replacement of CRIS has been identified as the most important information technology project for the government over the next three years.

Implementation of an electronic client information management system is one of the goals identified in the *Correctional Redevelopment Strategic Plan*. That is ongoing.

Mr. Inverarity: I'm going to move away from some of this stuff, from a personnel perspective, although I may have to come back to it. There are some other issues I want to cover.

I have some other issues that I want to cover. I would like to move back to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, and I'm wondering — let's go back six months to a year, if we can — how many times has force been used in the Whitehorse Correctional Centre — again, within the past six months or a year, if you have those numbers — and under what circumstances, if the minister could tell us? Let's leave it at that for now.

Hon. Ms. Horne: I would presume that the member opposite would mean “taser” — taser use at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Currently the tasers, as I have reported in this House before, are not in service at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre. Following the reimplementation plan, a draft policy is complete and being reviewed.

The policy is reflective of national legal standards. Taser International training and use guidelines and recommendations listed in the Justice Braidwood report on the use of tasers: as part of the reintroduction plan, a senior staff member successfully completed instructor training, technician training and evidence-collection training at the Taser Training Academy. Twenty staff selected for training will undertake planned use-of-force training, which includes advanced communication skills, enhanced solution-orientated situation management training, along with taser training.

To date, nine of these staff have completed this training program. Tasers are planned for introduction in the near future upon completion and approval of the comprehensive policy and staff training. Only trained staff who have successfully completed the comprehensive planned use-of-force training program will be authorized to access or utilize the taser. Preauthorization for the use of the taser will also be required by senior management prior to the deployment of that taser.

The cost of instructor, technician and evidence-collection training was \$2,125.39. The cost of new taser units and associated supplies and equipment was \$8,885.27. The planned use-of-force training course involved nine staff for a three-day training program. Total cost of reimplementation was \$27,430.01.

Mr. Inverarity: Actually, taser use was another question altogether, but I appreciate the minister answering it. I wasn't really referring to use-of-force around specifically the taser, although it does come into bearing in terms of total numbers. My concern here is that I understand there has been some turnover within the Whitehorse Correctional Centre — staff retiring, leaving and I know that there are a number of new FTEs who have come into place at the corrections centre. Some of these are brand new.

I think there's a general downward trend in staffing from senior-type people who have 20 years plus — 15 to 20 — to more in the eight/nine range or even younger than that. What my concern here is, is there a general trend to the use of more force, which perhaps reflects a lack of training — I'm not really sure, but that's why I'm asking for the numbers of individuals or individual times that a person may have been held down. I don't have an overall description other than the use of force to subdue an individual within the Whitehorse Correctional Centre who is perhaps misbehaving.

Parallel to that is the question of the increase in the number of women in the Correctional Centre — and I've anecdotally heard that they're more difficult to deal with at times than the male population within the centre, which is why I had asked the earlier questions about the breakdown between males and females — that it is sometimes more difficult to control some of the female population than it is the larger male population.

If the minister has any information regarding the use of force in the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, I would appreciate it.

Hon. Ms. Horne: There are other methods for use of force besides the taser, such as pepper spray, but we don't have the number of times it has been employed at Whitehorse Correctional Centre. I can get back to the member opposite, if he would like, with those details. But we have not seen an upward trend for their use. I can't say it has ever been used in the last 12 months, but I can get you some figures.

Women do have different needs from the male inmates. The training that the staff is given would reflect the different requirements of the women. We do have a use-of-force policy at Whitehorse Correctional Centre, and it's also authorized under the new *Corrections Act*. But we can get those statistics on the use of force and get back to you with those details.

In March, all correctional officers at Whitehorse Correctional Centre went through a comprehensive fire response/contingency planning/group incident response training course. A new group of correctional officer recruits completed the correctional officer basic training program and greatly improved the on-floor mentorship program. Two subsequent courses were also delivered for correctional officer recruits under the banner of the Northern Institute of Social Justice at Yukon College. As to the new recruits, we have experienced members coming back and also, as the member opposite said, we have brand new recruits.

Select staff members have been trained in planned use of force, including enhanced communication skills, enhanced solution-oriented situation management, electronic control device training for future incidents, which require a specialized response.

The Department of Justice is working with the Northern Institute of Social Justice to provide training that will be beneficial to the Department of Justice and other agencies. To date, training includes correction officer basic training — one group, Whitehorse Correctional Centre; two groups through the Northern Institute of Social Justice — the fire response contingency and group response.

I believe that does answer the questions the member asked.

Mr. Inverarity: I appreciate the comments from the minister. I look forward to those statistics on the use of force within the Whitehorse Correctional Centre and the types — for example, when those circumstances were required and what remediation was done. Were there any staff members at risk during that period? Did they escalate to the point where the RCMP or other people had to be called?

Obviously, the minister has indicated the policy regarding tasers — but, you know, if they were being used. But I'm more specifically interested in those issues that fall below the use of

tasers to general control of the inmate population that has a tendency from time to time to perhaps even fight among themselves and the use of force is required to break those things up.

So on that note, I do look forward to the minister's commitment to provide that information for me, and I'll move on from this point.

Last spring the minister will recall that there was some discussion around Bill No. 82, the *Civil Forfeiture Act*. I am just wondering what the current status of that is and whether there was some inference it might be brought back. It hasn't been put on — well, it's sitting in, I believe, second or third reading at this point. I'm just wondering if the minister could give us an update on that.

Hon. Ms. Horne: Our government does remain committed to giving law enforcement the tools it needs to combat illegal activity in our communities in Yukon. We are committed to ensuring public confidence is strong in our police force and in our government's commitment to law and order in Yukon.

We have accomplished a great deal with our initiatives that improve the justice system in Yukon. A strong justice system leads to healthy, peaceful communities.

As to the timing of the public consultation on the legislation, the government has not at this time scheduled the consultation. Before the bill is voted on the consultation, the consultation will have to have been completed and we want to take the recommendations into account before we bring that to the House.

Mr. Inverarity: I would also like to ask the minister — I sent a letter to the minister regarding violent crimes and the allocation of resources to see if we can resolve or bring to conclusion some of these outstanding violent crimes, particularly the Angel Carlick one that is out there, and there's a few others that I think need some investigation. I was wondering if the minister has any more updates as to the progress of some of these crimes and, in general, perhaps the minister might comment just on what the — she probably won't be able to make a comment on them because they're still outstanding, so I won't go there.

Hon. Ms. Horne: Yes, given the sensitive nature of the ongoing unsolved crimes, I will not give any details or comment on that. The unsolved homicides and major crimes, such as those involving violence against women, remain a grave concern for all of us. We just had this in the House this past week. It is a major concern to all of us in the Legislature. Our officials meet regularly with the RCMP to ensure that police resources and funding are in place to investigate and hopefully solve these crimes.

It's important to note that the internal management of the RCMP, including how they conduct and direct resources toward investigations, is the responsibility of the RCMP Commissioner. M Division has five investigative files, which are categorized as homicides, and which are being actively investigated at this time. These five active investigations include two deaths from 2007, two other deaths from 2004, as well as the human remains found last year. In addition to these files, the RCMP has 10 other death investigations which remain open.

These date back to 1981. Charges have been laid in six of these investigations. The status of these investigations varies, given the unique circumstances of each individual case.

Last year the Department of Justice provided supplemental funding through the territorial police services agreement to ensure the RCMP had sufficient resources to carry out these serious investigations. The funding provided in 2009-10 was in the amount of \$263,000. The Department of Justice also reiterated our support for supplemental funding this fiscal year, should a need be identified.

We are confident that the RCMP is diligently pursuing these investigations to the best of their ability so the perpetrators can be brought to justice and the families who have lost their loved ones can find closure. I have heard that there are RCMP members — one in particular — who go above and beyond the call of duty to try to solve these crimes. They are active and they do care and are working on them.

Mr. Inverarity: I would agree wholeheartedly. I have a high regard for the RCMP and believe they do their very best in everything they attempt to do. Having been myself a civilian guard for the RCMP in my youth, I've seen both sides of the issue with regard to how the RCMP has to confront humanity every day. I am more than empathetic to their causes and to their beliefs and they have nothing but my support, both now and in the future. I look forward to their current difficulties being straightened out. I think they will rise to the standard to which the RCMP have been for the past, I think we're probably into 100 years — I'm trying to remember — maybe 125 years, now; maybe more, that the RCMP force has been within Canada. I know I have had opportunities to even meet some overseas in my travels. I know they always represent Canada very, very well — actually above and beyond the call of duty.

Maybe it might be an opportunity now to not just discuss — I don't want to discuss them specifically, but I want to discuss a problem within the Yukon. I'm not sure — it's a broad-based discussion, so I'm not sure if there are statistics. I'm not really looking for them at this point in time — well, maybe. The issue somewhat talks about major crimes — perhaps if the minister does have any numbers as to what are outstanding in that area. Specifically, I would like to talk about the drug problem in the Yukon. I'm giving the minister a bit of a heads-up here, the reason why I'm bringing this forward at this time is that I have had a number of discussions with people and some of it — as a member of the opposition, a lot of the information we get is somewhat anecdotal, so it would be nice to try and quantify the issue.

A few years ago we brought in SCAN legislation that, as you know, has been fairly well-received within the community. I don't want to specifically talk about SCAN itself, but I want to talk about drugs and the use of drugs within the community — within all of the communities in the Yukon. I was talking to a previous minister of the government actually — not this government; it has been probably 10 or 15 years ago that he was a minister — and I asked him what the drug problem was like when he was in government.

He indicated that he thought that the drug business in the Yukon — we're talking illegal drug business as opposed to

pharmaceutical prescription type; we're talking illegal drugs. The issue here at the time was that he thought the business of illegal drugs was probably generating at least \$1 million a year in gross revenues, to look at it from a business perspective. So, I asked him, "What do you think it is today?" The individual said, "Well, I don't think it has gotten any better. In fact, it has probably gotten a lot worse." He threw out a number of probably at least a \$2-million-a-year business. That might be actually low. What I'm curious about in terms of a discussion with the Minister of Justice here is, exactly how big a business is the illegal drug business in the Yukon?

What effects does it have on day-to-day community within the population of the Yukon, if she has any information regarding that — with comments on the destructive force of this enterprise in the Yukon — and specifically exactly how big of a problem is it? Am I correct in my assumption that the illegal drug business in the Yukon is close to being one of the number-one industries in the Yukon? I would be interested in her comments on this at this point in time.

Hon. Ms. Horne: I again refer to the booklet, *Department of Justice Facts 2010*, pages 10 and 11. The drug offences — inmates in Whitehorse Correctional Centre and on probation range from seven to eight percent. The major crime in Yukon is violent crime, which is approximately 50 percent but, as to the drug use, we have implemented the *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan* because we have found, and it's still true, that substance abuse is the biggest driver of criminal activity in Yukon and this is why we put the *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan* into effect.

We have the street crime reduction team and, as the member opposite mentioned, we have SCAN. As of our latest figures — I believe they were October 1 or very close — there have been close to 350 complaints received since the inception of this legislation. As a result of those investigations, 48 warnings were issued to tenants engaged in illegal activity, while 38 evictions have taken place with the consent and support of the landlord.

In order to remind Yukoners of SCAN's mandate and contact information, pamphlets were mailed to Yukon residents in February of this year and efforts will continue to be made to engage communities and inform them of how SCAN does help. In some cases, drug dealers or bootleggers have moved their activity from one location to another following SCAN action. Should this activity move to another location, you can be sure SCAN will follow them.

SCAN seeks to disrupt the illegal activity to the point that it is no longer feasible for the individuals to continue, while sending a strong message that such activities will not be tolerated in Yukon.

In a number of cases, individuals engaged in illegal activity voluntarily ceased their activity, once warned or evicted by SCAN. In other cases, individuals engaged in illegal activity have been referred to agencies for addictions treatment and have steered their lives in a more positive direction.

In a recent confidential client satisfaction survey of past complaints in SCAN, 73 percent of the complainants felt that

their neighbourhoods were safer. Ninety-one percent thought the quality of service received from SCAN was excellent.

We also have the street crime reduction team. Since 2007, the street crime reduction team has helped to reduce street-level disorder and improve public safety by focusing on prolific drug and alcohol offenders. In 2009, the team's actions led to 255 Criminal Code charges, 87 warrants executed, 355 curfew checks on priority and prolific offenders, 145 intoxicated persons taken into custody, 26 *Controlled Drugs and Substances Act* charges and three search warrants were executed.

Building on the success of the three-year pilot project, crime reduction will now be permanently embedded in the operations of M Division, RCMP, as part of an integrated crime reduction strategy. The Department of Justice will provide new funding to support an integrated crime reduction coordinator, who will lead the program and work closely with the watches to ensure focused patrols of crime hotspots, close monitoring of prolific offenders and intelligence-led policing.

The RCMP's crime reduction operations will be conducted by members of the duty watches, which will be increased to more optimal levels with the addition of four new members. The Government of Yukon provides \$1.4 million over three years for the street crime reduction team. The RCMP M Division reallocated approximately \$1 million to support this initiative. The total three-year cost of this initiative was approximately \$2.4 million.

And, as I said, the major driver of crime in Yukon is substance abuse; thus, the reason that we put the *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan* into effect. These numbers — we are tackling them through our street crime reduction team, the SCAN program, and all the programming that we have that is ongoing. We have the Community Wellness Court. Everything is integrated into rehabilitating our inmates, and to help our offenders lead a healthier lifestyle.

Mr. Inverarity: I appreciate the comments from the minister with regard to how they are fighting the drug problem in the Yukon, but my question was a quantifiable one: how big is the problem? How much money is in the industry out there? We see people across Canada making drug busts of hundreds and millions of dollars, really, in terms of the types of drugs, and the minister even alluded here today that they're spending lots of money on trying to overcome the problem of illicit drugs and illicit drug use, both in schools and in the communities.

The SCAN program she alluded to is, I think, doing a good job, particularly in the follow up. But I'm trying to quantify the problem. I'm trying to determine how big the drug problem in the Yukon is. Is it a multi-million dollar industry in the Yukon? Certainly, in terms of the charts on page 10 — that if 50 percent of the crime in the Yukon is violent crime and the majority of that is alcohol- and drug-related — certainly drug-related — and if a percentage of the other 50 percent is related to drugs, then we're spending millions of dollars in the course of a year trying to fight this problem. How big is the problem?

Hon. Ms. Horne: We do realize that drugs are a huge problem in Yukon and alcohol is a huge problem. As I gave

you the figures, seven to eight percent of those incarcerated equate to the number of drug offences.

We do not have the value of the business relating to this. The RCMP would have those figures. The reason we were trying to bring Bill No. 82 into effect was to deal with what were the proceeds of crime. Unfortunately, we didn't get that bill passed in the House. We certainly acknowledge that substance abuse is the biggest driver of crime in the Yukon, as I said earlier. Substance abuse has huge impacts on the quality of life of our Yukoners, here in Whitehorse and in the communities, as well as the negative impacts for those who are caught up in the cycle of drug abuse.

We are more concerned with bringing those individuals into the system and helping them with our programming, whether they're in our court system, in WCC or in the communities. We want to help rehabilitate those individuals and to help the citizens who are confronted by these problems. So we have brought forward and implemented the *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan*. That is our main concern. Our main issue that we address is to rehabilitate these individuals.

We have brought forward the Community Wellness Court, which also addresses this problem. As to the value of the business operations, we don't have those figures, as I said. The Community Wellness Court does address a lot of these problems. It takes time for the individuals to go through the system and get the programming that they require.

Mr. Inverarity: I'm not sure how to progress with this. The minister has stood up and said that she doesn't know how big a problem the drug problem is in the Yukon. I agree with the minister that it is a significant problem in the Yukon. I agree that the programs in place for those people who are arrested and put into the system are probably good programs. We need them to get them developed. Seven to eight percent are drug-related. You hear stories about individuals who are first time offenders who get off — those kinds of situations.

I'm not going to dwell on them because it is in large part about rehabilitation and getting them to not be a part of the system. The SCAN and the remand programs that they have in the Whitehorse Correctional Centre — all of these things lead to trying to reduce the drug use in the communities. I'm not 100-percent certain, but the minister said she didn't have the number, but at one point she indicated that perhaps the RCMP has the numbers. If that's true, perhaps she could correct that and get us the numbers. Before we can tackle the issue of how we get drugs out of the schools, how we get drugs off the streets, how we deal with those people who are put into the system — personally I think we need to be able to quantify it to identify it. I think we all know it's a big problem. What we need to do is determine if the actions that we're taking are equal to the size of the effort that's out there. If I'm wrong and it's not a \$2-million industry, but a \$200-million industry in the Yukon or a \$2-billion industry — probably not that high, but a \$200-million industry in the Yukon, that sheds a significant light on the type of problem that we have and the action that the Minister of Justice, the RCMP and the justice system needs to take to address this specific problem.

We need to get drugs off the street — all of them. Date-rape drugs — you know, you watch the commercials and you hear the terminology. We're not alone in the problem and I would say I'm fully behind the minister's efforts to try and do drug reduction, so we're on the same side of this argument. What I'm trying to do is just quantify the argument and quantify how big a problem it is so that we can in fact solve the problem, because if it's bigger than all of us then we're going to have to take some significant action in order to eliminate the drug problem in the Yukon. Would the minister agree with that statement?

Hon. Ms. Horne: We do not know the dollar value of the drug trade in Yukon. Those figures can be obtained from the RCMP. If the member opposite goes to the RCMP, he may be able to get them. They will have the figures related to the street value. As I say, that is one of the reasons we tried to bring in Bill No. 82. As to the dollar value of the street value of drugs and alcohol that is recovered during investigations — we don't have the facts on that, but the sad reality is that drug and alcohol problems in the territory are severe. We believe we are taking the right steps to address the issue. We have coordinated the plans under the *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan*.

I would just like to go over some of the local work that we are doing under the *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan*. We reinstated the Sarah Steele detoxification centre, which was closed during the prior governments. We have started the Community Wellness Court, which is a therapeutic court. We have undertaken a major consultation on corrections that resulted in a new client-focused, program-orientated philosophy of corrections. It is the client who is of major importance to us in this government.

We want to get that client reintegrated back into society; we want the client to come out of the programming and lead a healthier lifestyle. We have a new *Corrections Act* that reflects our new philosophy; we have the new women's annex, which is now operational; we are building a new treatment and correctional facility that is on budget and on time and supports this new philosophy. Last summer we launched a new *Victims of Crime Strategy* that will refocus our service to victims who are also under the influence of drug and alcohol abuse.

We have committed \$1.3 million over the next three years to improve services to victims; we have a new *Victims of Crime Act* now before this Assembly. By systematically changing the way we do business in corrections, we are shifting the focus to helping people, to helping our clients and, as I said, substance abuse is the biggest driver of criminal activity in the Yukon, and the old way of doing corrections was ineffective.

We have started a new way of doing reintegration in Yukon. Government departments have made major strides to meet commitments in the *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan*. The new philosophy of corrections is still being undertaken. We are still taking it out and rolling it. It's going out into the communities. We don't have an active measure of how this new programming and the new plans are doing, but we will.

In the spring of 2009, we coordinated production or release of the Yukon substance abuse resource directory, distributed to all Yukon communities. Most of the actions in the substance

abuse action plan are included in government priorities. We are reducing substance abuse and addiction. This is a long-term goal. It's not going to happen overnight. So far, the gauges that we're getting back are that it is working and the numbers are going down. Statistics on the dollar value would, at best, be an estimate in any case.

What we do know is that the drug of choice is alcohol. I'm told that over 80 percent of offenders' files are linked to alcohol abuse and again this goes back to our *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan*. Drugs are an issue in Yukon, certainly, but alcohol is by far the most serious issue. Alcohol addiction is and must be the primary focus with drug abuse — an important but secondary consideration — thus we are going forward with our *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan* and our courts to help our individuals.

Mr. Inverarity: I'd like to thank the minister; I'm not trying to get into a heated debate over this issue. I'm a little concerned that the department — particularly the minister, and I'll move it up to the department — wouldn't be getting some of that information from the RCMP. Now, maybe I'm asking the wrong question, because I've been focusing on the cost of the enterprise — because these people look at drug dealing as an enterprise. I think it's commonly referred to as a "criminal enterprise."

But if we don't have the dollar value and we're not sure if the RCMP has the dollar value — and the minister alluded to something like 80 percent of the people who come through her system are alcohol-related. That would leave 20 percent who are drug-related, if they're talking about substance abuse. She can correct me if I'm wrong, but the question is obvious: what percentage of the population — maybe that's a better way to find some criteria by which we can define how big this problem is. That's all I'm trying to do — figure out if this problem is being dealt with the adequate resources that the minister has. Is it such a big issue that, if we could put more resources into identifying not just the people who get into the system — because those are only the people who are caught. It's kind of like speeding, or cellphone use. How many people — I don't want to downgrade drug abuse, but if you only catch five percent of the population who are selling drugs, for example, or speeding, then you still have 95 percent out there who are still going faster or breaking the law.

That goes to how well we do our job. How well the systems that the minister talks about — they're there to fix the ones that we catch. But what are we doing about stopping the people from coming into the system? How do we stop the youth from buying drugs at 12 years old, in the high schools, or in the grade schools — I'm not sure that's happening, but I think it is — and then progressing through the system where we have adults out there, buying drugs on Main Street, in the YTG building — who knows where, okay? I don't know, but I hear anecdotal stories about the problem and I think it's something that needs to be addressed. In order to address the issue of reducing drugs within our communities, we need to be able to identify how big a problem it is.

It bothers me that we can't. Now, some of it may be based on some hypothetical number. For example, I had an individual

tell me they knew a drug dealer — or someone who used to deal in drugs in a community — and they made \$5,000 a day. Well, \$5,000 a day — and there was more than one drug dealer in this town apparently — at least that amount.

You can figure out exponentially what his income would be over the period of time. I don't know. I don't understand how big the problem is. I've made some statements here I'm not really sure about, so, I may be wrong. Quite possibly, I am. When the minister says that they can't identify how big the problem is, that's a bit frightening for me. Anyway, I'm going to leave it at this point, because I know we're coming up — in fact, I think that what we can probably do is — if the minister could try and talk to the department, it would be nice to be able to look at this issue and see how we as a community can come together and eliminate drug use — or at least reduce it to the point where it's manageable. Do we want to be a place — another piece of anecdotal information was I heard that we have more narcotics undercover agents in the Yukon than anywhere else in Canada. In fact, we're a training centre for them. It's probably not a true statement, but that piece of information had been passed on and it's because there are so many people doing drugs in the Yukon.

But we don't identify what it is, and I think that we need to identify it, and then look at how serious we are going to be about solving this particular nemesis of our society, and make sure that the problem is overcome. I think we're both on the same side. I'm pretty positive we're both on the same side of this issue — that we want to eliminate drug use everywhere it exists in our society. I appreciate the efforts that the minister is making with regard to getting those people rehabilitated who go into the system. But we need to get it before then, or we need to know that this is not a drug-friendly jurisdiction.

So with that, if the minister wants to comment on it, that's fine. I would like to thank, at this point, the officials for their time here this afternoon. I know the Leader of the Third Party is keenly interested to continue some of this debate. I appreciate that this particular issue is not going unnoticed within the department. I trust that, as we move forward, we will look at tackling this issue in a major way to try to solve this scourge on our population.

Chair: Order please. 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. 22, *Second Appropriation Act, 2010-11*. We will now continue with general debate in Vote 8, Department of Justice.

Hon. Ms. Horne: To respond to the Member for Porter Creek South, we are indeed on the same page. The RCMP will have the dollar value associated with drugs and drug seizures. The RCMP is actively following street level drug dealers. We do have SCAN in place and the street crime reduction team. SCAN drives them into the streets — the drug dealers — and the street crime reduction team actively picks them up while they're on the street. As I stated earlier, we know that

alcohol and drug abuse is the biggest driver of crime and social disorder in the Yukon. Again, as I've already indicated, the *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan* and its related components are very important in Yukon.

In summary, statistics on the dollar value would at best be an estimate. We recognize that the true cost is much more. It's not just the dollar, it's the interruption of the life of the individual — and not only of the individual, but of the individual's family and the whole community in general. This cost is immeasurable and that is what we are concentrating on.

We do know that the drug of choice is alcohol. Over 80 percent of offenders' files are linked to alcohol abuse. Drugs are an issue, certainly, but the most serious issue — and this is legal — is alcohol addiction and it must be the primary focus, with drug abuse an important but secondary consideration.

In education, the Education department has undertaken a number of programs. They've implemented new health and career education curriculum in grades 8 and 9 in 2006; K to 7 program implemented in 2007-08. The Education department has offered training to teachers and educational assistants to support children with special needs in the area of FASD. They've produced a new manual, *Making a Difference: Working with Students who have Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders*. We've started the Journey Far carving program for troubled youth and that was transferred from Education into Justice. The Education department has offered DARE, or drug awareness resistance education program, in conjunction with the RCMP and a pilot program — K9 for safer schools — teaching students about alcohol and drug awareness. The Education department is very aware of this problem of drugs in the schools and they are preventing it.

We have also invested in substance abuse in Yukon. We've invested in affordable housing — \$100 million and more. We've invested in education training initiatives. We have the land-based healing program with KDFN. We have drug prevention programs in our schools, investment in NGOs and multi-year funding. We have Many Rivers Counselling and Support Services and Kaushee's Place. We have many women's organizations; we have the Outreach van. We have investment in early learning; we have investment in community justice initiatives. We are aware of the problems and I'm very proud of the work we are doing in this area. We will continue to work to bring back those inmates or anyone who comes into our justice system to rehabilitate back into society to have healthy families, healthy communities and a healthy Yukon. Thank you.

Mr. Inverarity: I just wanted to thank the minister for those comments with regard to drug and alcohol use in the Yukon. I think that by my passion she understands where I'm coming from and the blight on society that these cause, that hurt people — it far exceeds the dollar value. I would ask the minister — in my request for a value of how big the industry is, I realize it was only going to probably be an estimate, but I think it's important for individuals and people in the Yukon to identify exactly — to realize the size of the picture with which we are probably dealing. It might be worth a press release on the part of the minister. Certainly if not that, I wouldn't mind

finding out a little bit more about that. It's difficult for me to go to the RCMP directly, so I would ask the minister to do that.

There's one final last question that I had neglected to ask before and it's a fairly straightforward one. The minister alludes to the Whitehorse Correctional Centre being on time and on budget, and I was wondering if the minister could tell us what that figure is and give us any updates as to the time frame. Are we still looking at the end of this year with occupation early next year?

With that, I would again like to thank the officials for coming in this afternoon and spending the afternoon here. On her reply, I will turn the questions over to my colleague from the Third Party who has a number of questions this afternoon to ask and follow up. I'm sure he will cover the areas that I have left. Thank you.

Hon. Ms. Horne: I thank the member opposite for his interest and his questions.

The total projected cost for the Yukon corrections project is \$66.2 million. Total capital expenditures for fiscal year 2006-07 were \$101,720; 2007-08, \$731,402; 2008-09, \$2,554,097 and; 2009-10, \$24,465,140. The government committed \$28 million for the 2010-11 fiscal year; \$11,525,840 had been expended in the 2010-11 fiscal year as of July 31, 2010 on the design and construction of the new Correctional Centre.

Mr. Cardiff: I'd like to thank the minister for that answer. That was a question that I had as well. Seeing as how that's where we are, I'd like to continue in that vein. I'd also like to thank the officials for being here today, as well, to assist in providing the answers.

I'd like to know, while we're on the cost of the Whitehorse Correctional Centre, how that compares with the original estimates for the facility and whether the entire amount is coming from the Government of Yukon, or are we receiving federal dollars for that, and are there any projected additional costs for new staffing requirements for the new correctional facility?

Hon. Ms. Horne: As I stated earlier, we are right on time and on budget at this time, and this is with the original plans.

The \$66.2 million in funding is all Yukon government funding. The current staffing levels at Whitehorse Correctional Centre include 67.5 permanent full-time employees plus 10.5 auxiliary-on-call FTEs. This staff complement covers all areas of operation, programming, and case management planning for both female and male offenders.

The staff model for the new Correctional Centre is currently under development and the need for new staff has not yet been confirmed. The issue of staffing for the new centre is still under analysis. The analysis will include examination of the legislated requirements under the new *Corrections Act, 2009* and commitments made for correctional redevelopment. The analysis will include security requirements at the new facility, programming requirements under the *Corrections Act, 2009*, and the *Correctional Redevelopment Strategic Plan*.

Mr. Cardiff: I thank the minister for that answer. It's very clear. I would like to ask the minister — she gave us the number of FTEs — can she tell us what costs are allocated in the operation and maintenance budget directly for First Nation

programming specifically, and what programs specifically are directed toward First Nation inmates?

Hon. Ms. Horne: As to the First Nation programming, we're offering an array of traditional programming activities for First Nation inmates. The Government of Yukon is committed to making programs available to inmates who want to make changes in their lives so they do not reoffend. The opening of the healing room at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre in October 2008 and the offering of culturally relevant programming demonstrates the ongoing commitment of our government to reflect the values and traditions of the First Nation people it serves.

Whitehorse Correctional Centre's elder advisory group, which meets monthly, is involved in providing advice on the operation of Whitehorse Correctional Centre to ensure that First Nation traditions and values are appropriately reflected. Elders are also involved in programming activities with male and female inmates, such as talking circles, crafts, counselling and spiritual guidance.

As to the money involved: in 2008-09, \$85,611 was spent on First Nation programming; in 2009-10, \$52,688 was spent on First Nation programming; in 2010-11, \$150,900 is budgeted for First Nation programming.

To elaborate a little on the First Nation programming that we have, there is individual counselling, the Gathering Power program, the White Bison program, solstice gatherings and feasts, traditional parenting, elders counselling, talking circles, teaching in crafts, drum-making and traditional medicines.

Mr. Cardiff: Thank you again to the minister for that answer and all the information.

Can the minister tell us if there is any separate programming in the corrections facility specifically for women inmates?

Hon. Ms. Horne: The female inmates are offered a range of programming. There are two culturally relevant programs to address substance abuse: the White Bison program, and making changes in their lives, which is the Gathering Power program. Female inmates are also offered the opportunity to participate in sessions such as Alcoholics Anonymous, elders counselling and guidance, traditional crafts and teaching, educational programs through Yukon College such as upgrading, general equivalency diploma, first aid, anger management, trauma, improving self-esteem, wrangler programming or outfitting, and living skills programs, such as safe food, meal preparation, nutrition and budgeting.

In addition, female inmates have access to individual counselling to assist with addictions, trauma and anger management. They also have access to the healing room. In addition, females have access to Hospice Yukon and the Elizabeth Fry Society. The women's annex, which opened in November 2009, increases the options for accommodating and providing programming to female inmates who are classified minimum or medium security. The women's annex provides sentenced female inmates greater access to the community and improves opportunities for reintegration planning. The women's annex employs a living skills officer, who instructs the women on food safe meal preparation, nutrition and budgeting. The staff

and living skills officer for the annex are budgeted for in the normal budgeting process for Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

This is a very pertinent question because the principles of effective correctional treatment acknowledge that the impact of programming is always more successful when traditions and cultural components are incorporated into the programs.

The correctional consultations and the corrections conferences we held in Whitehorse clearly emphasized the importance of the Correctional Centre offering First Nation orientated programming.

Mr. Cardiff: I'd like to ask the minister — I have a whole series of questions here about programming so I'm going to try to ask them kind of as a series of questions.

With regard to programming, and specifically the First Nation programming, I'd like to know if the Kwanlin Dun First Nation is still involved in determining programming. Are there other First Nations involved specifically in that programming? There are inmates on remand who come from a number of communities in the Yukon.

I would like to know if she can tell us how the healing room is accessed by inmates, whether it's available to inmates on remand, and whether or not there is segregation or a separating of male and female inmates in the healing room, or are they allowed to participate jointly — under supervision — in those programming activities?

Hon. Ms. Horne: To answer the question of the member opposite, the remand inmates do have access to all programming and that would depend on security requirements that the individual would have. We have an annual contribution agreement with CYFN to provide services at the Whitehorse Correctional Centre.

The land-based treatment healing camp at Jackson Lake: in July our government announced funding for a land-based healing camp. Funding for the camp included \$110,300 from the Department of Health and Social Services, on top of \$300,000 from the northern strategy trust. The land-based treatment camp will integrate traditional, as well as modern, healing techniques by reconnecting participants with the natural world. It will also be available to citizens throughout the Yukon.

To date, 10 Justice clients have been referred to the Kwanlin Dun to attend healing camps at their Jackson Lake facility. The KDFN land-based healing program builds on the therapeutic community resource feasibility study that was conducted jointly by Kwanlin Dun and the Yukon government. I'm pleased to say the KDFN run the land-based healing camp and they design their own programs for the First Nation clients, but it's not open only to First Nation people; it's open to all Yukoners.

The therapeutic community resource feasibility study was a Department of Justice and Kwanlin Dun First Nation project funded by the northern strategy. The therapeutic community resource feasibility study explored the possibilities for a multi-use, residential, land-based facility with varied programming and varied clients. It also explores management approaches that could support a multi-use, land-based facility. KDFN and the Department of Justice have completed this study. Kwanlin Dun First Nation has received northern strategy funds to build on

what was learned, and we are proceeding to develop a land-based healing program.

The Department of Justice appreciates and understands the need to work collaboratively with First Nations and other service providers to develop and deliver programs that are culturally sensitive to Yukon First Nation people. The Whitehorse Correctional Centre treatment team is working on building and maintaining partnerships with First Nation communities, groups, and individuals in order to assist in the development of programs and services. The integrated offender management team works very closely with First Nation communities and First Nation inmates on release planning.

The review of community justice projects, which looked at the impacts of community justice on offending and victimization, families and communities, was released in 2008. The department is pleased to be implementing a four-year workplan, confirming our support for community-based justice initiatives and our commitment to working with community justice partners.

Mr. Cardiff: Thank you again to the minister. I'm going to ask a couple more questions about programming. I do have some questions about the land-based treatment centre. I don't believe the minister answered the question about the healing room. With regard to the land-based treatment centre, are those activities co-ed — whether there are men and women attending at the same time? I appreciate the response about programming for inmates on remand and that they are getting programming, depending on security requirements. I can understand that there needs to be some sort of risk assessment.

I would like to ask some additional questions about the land-based treatment as well. The minister indicated that there have been 10 inmates there so far. I'm wondering whether or not there are First Nations other than Kwanlin Dun First Nation involved in the development and the implementation of this. Are they working with other First Nations, because their citizens are also able to participate in this program?

The minister talked about the financial commitment the government has made. It's my understanding this was a pilot project, but the minister sounds like they're experiencing some success. Is it too early to tell what success the program has had? Will there be a continued financial commitment on the part of the government to continue with land-based treatment in future years?

This is about the security. Are there inmates attending programming at the land-based treatment centre at the same time as there are people there who aren't involved in the justice system? What steps are being taken with regard to security in that matter?

Hon. Ms. Horne: Generally, we have separate programming at the land-based treatment centre. The male and female programming is offered at separate times. It would be only under extraordinary circumstances that we would have a co-ed program. KDFN does the screening for who goes into their programming. This is not a Yukon government program. This is a KDFN program. They screen the clients, and some of those are offenders that are accepted into their program. But I want to emphasize that this is not a Yukon government pro-

gram. We assist with it, but the program is done by KDFN, and they assist at the camp; we do not.

KDFN is in the process right now of working on an evaluation and, with respect to other First Nations, we are certainly willing to explore other sites as well.

Mr. Cardiff: I take it from that that it's Kwanlin Dun First Nation that decides who can attend. I'm just wondering if there are any security issues, whether inmates who are attending the land-based treatment programming — I'm just asking for clarification here. I think this is a great idea. It's long overdue. I am pleased with the minister's response about working with other communities on land-based treatment programs. These questions aren't meant to — we're just looking for some answers.

Are the inmates accompanied by corrections officers when they're attending the land-based treatment programming? Do they return to the correctional facility in the evening or are they housed there? The minister said they're willing to work with other communities and First Nations on land-based treatment programs.

What is the government's financial commitment? I'm not talking about today; I'm looking down the road. This has been something that has been asked for by many communities in the Yukon. Part of the success of land-based treatment programs for alcohol and drug addictions is that community support. So I appreciate the work that Kwanlin Dun First Nation is doing. I think it's much needed, but the government has made a commitment to fund this for a set period of time. That's the way I understood it; I may be wrong on that. What is the commitment of the government? Is it to continue funding it year after year in perpetuity? Is this a commitment the government has made now? What is the amount of that commitment on an ongoing basis? Will that kind of commitment be made available to other communities?

Hon. Ms. Horne: The funding for the camp we've provided so far, as I said earlier, included \$110,300 from the Department of Health and Social Services, on top of \$300,000 from the northern strategy trust fund. We wouldn't release inmates if we had security concerns about them individually. KDFN also screens all clients to ensure that all those clients meet the risk or needs assessment profile of the program.

It is my understanding that the clients reside at the camp. We don't have security guards with them. We are open to exploring future opportunities to provide funding to KDFN or other land-based treatment camps. These treatment camps must be community-driven. The community must come forward and let us know they're interested in them and we will explore each option.

Mr. Cardiff: It's refreshing to hear that. It took a long time to get to where we are today with land-based treatment and a commitment from the government. The one question the minister didn't answer was whether or not there's an ongoing financial commitment to support the programming at the current land-based treatment facility at Jackson Lake. What I want to know is, is it an ongoing commitment?

I'm hoping that the government, number one, evaluates the effectiveness of it, but that they continue to fund it — continue

to support this type of programming. That's what I'm asking about. Does the government have an ongoing commitment, or does it intend to provide ongoing funding into the future for the facility at Jackson Lake?

Hon. Ms. Horne: As I stated earlier, we are open to explore future opportunities to provide funding to KDFN or other land-based camps, and we're interested in seeing the evaluation that's being done by KDFN, and decisions would be made thereafter.

Mr. Cardiff: The minister said that she's open to exploring, in the future, financial requests. Maybe the minister can tell me this: is the minister aware of requests for future funding — for future years of operations programming at the Jackson Lake facility?

When the evaluation is available, would it be available to members on this side of the House after the government has reviewed it?

Hon. Ms. Horne: As I said, we are open to explore future opportunities, but we want to look at the evaluation that is being done by KDFN to ensure that we have good value for our money — that the programming is effective and supported by the community. We just want to have a look at the evaluation before we move forward. We do not expect this camp to close this year. We want to see it work into the future and in other communities, if possible.

Mr. Cardiff: I understand where the minister is coming from. She sounds like she's prepared to make a financial commitment in the next fiscal year. I know that the departments are currently in the process of developing budgets to be presented to the Legislative Assembly in the spring. I just thought that there might be some indication of whether or not there would be any money in the spring for this program.

Can the minister tell me, then, when they expect to see the evaluation of the program?

Hon. Ms. Horne: KDFN is in the process of doing the evaluation right now. Our officials are working closely with them.

Again, I'm very pleased that the member opposite is interested in our programming there. This has been an issue: the land-based treatment centre isn't something that came about quickly; we have been working on it as part of our *Yukon Substance Abuse Action Plan* and we have been active on this for the last two years. We just wanted to make sure that it would be effective, that it was community-driven. The officials have worked in earnest with KDFN to ensure that we address the alcohol and drug problems, the issues that our clients have, and the treatment of them.

I'm sure KDFN is just as interested in continuing their programming at the land-based treatment centre, and we will know more once we get the evaluation. Again, as the member opposite stated, it's very important that this be community-driven; the whole community has to work together with these individuals to ensure that it is a success.

As to the length of the programming, we have to bear in mind that this is KDFN programming. The times can vary depending on the nature of the programs, on whether it's male or

female; it varies two to three weeks, maybe longer. There is no set time. It depends on the situation.

I think that answered the questions. Yes, we are very interested in getting these individuals back in their communities — healthy families, healthy communities.

Mr. Cardiff: I thank the minister again for that answer. We're making lots of progress today.

I'm glad to hear there's some flexibility and that the programming times vary depending on the need; that allows for more people who are in need of treatment to get the treatment that they need and not be rushed out the door before it's completed or before they've had an opportunity to make a change in their life and heal. At the same time, it responds to the need for making spaces available when people feel they are ready to move on. I think that's an important thing. I don't know that it's up to us as individuals. I know myself I wouldn't be and I'm definitely not an alcohol and drug counsellor. But I think the people who know best when they're ready to move on are the people who are going through the treatment. It's often those people with addictions or who have recovered from addictions who best understand what it is that these people are going through. We need to use that as a resource. The people who have moved on and healed — we can learn a lot from them, because they can understand it more than individuals who haven't been there. So I think that's an important piece of this equation.

Still in the programming vein at the correctional facility, I would like to know whether there is any special programming or programs for inmates with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

I'm wondering if diagnosis is made available at the correctional facility on request and if there are any halfway house placements available for inmates being released who are afflicted with fetal alcohol spectrum disorder.

Hon. Ms. Horne: As the member opposite probably knows, the FASD and access to justice is an issue that is very important to me. We just discussed this thoroughly at the FPT meeting that was held in Vancouver, and it was because of Yukon that it was put on the national agenda. We are making major strides in this area. Yukon is the leader. We also have the Canadian Bar Association on board with us, and it is of major importance to us.

Yukon, in partnership with Justice Canada, hosted a conference on this very issue in September 2008, which was attended by 130 justice system officials from across Canada. The officials from the department are also working on a number of projects. At department level, we are working on the development of a plan and how we will address this issue from a policy and program perspective, both internally and collaboratively. In partnership with Yukon College and the Northern Institute of Social Justice, an FASD and justice curriculum package was developed and piloted in a training program. This training program was delivered this past spring to front-line workers whose clients have FASD and may be involved with the justice system. The front-line workers were drawn from the Justice, Education, Health and Social Services departments and the Ta'an Kwäch'an council. Feedback from the participants is informing further curriculum development and new methodologies for

delivering this training in 2010-11 through the Northern Institute of Social Justice.

Officials with the department have also been working with a number of partners to determine the feasibility of undertaking a prevalence study of FASD in the corrections population in Yukon.

Having an understanding of the number of individuals in our corrections population who have FASD is important to developing appropriate responses. We will continue to work on this issue with our provincial and territorial counterparts, as well as other agencies that have an interest in this issue. As to a halfway house, the ARC is available to male clients. I was very pleased that the CBA recognized the importance of efforts to improve access to justice for people with FASD; they also discussed it at their recent AGM.

As I said before, we have brought forward the issue of FASD at the federal-provincial-territorial minister and deputy minister level and we have led the way in the development of a workplan on this very complex issue. It is our belief that in order to move forward to properly address this issue, due diligence is required to define the issue, which is why we have approved the work currently being done by the FPT officials. I can assure you that we look forward to the opportunity for further dialogue with organizations, such as the CBA and other justice system professionals to address this issue and develop appropriate solutions.

We have spent \$574,591 per year for the Community Wellness Court — the court targets individuals with addictions, mental health problems, and/or fetal alcohol spectrum disorder; there's \$60,000 over the 2009-10 and 2010-11 fiscal years to undertake the first phase of our study on FASD in the corrections population. This funding is leveraged from our partners at Justice Canada, and is fully recoverable. In 2009-10, the department provided \$27,500 to FASSY to cover the interim costs for the lunch program, which provides a healthy meal for clients with FASD. \$68,000 from fiscal years 2008-09 and 2009-10 was committed to the costs associated with developing and delivering curriculum on FASD for Justice professionals through the Northern Institute of Social Justice. The department will also continue to commit resources for training staff who deal with clients who have or may have FASD.

We have a lot of activities that have to do with FASD. In Health and Social Services, we have the five-step FASD action plan. We concentrate on the prevention; we give funding to FASSY. We have FASD services for adults, services for children and families. We recognize FASD is a huge issue and we must continue to work on it. We are able to distinguish who has FASD. As to the actual cost and details, I don't have them before me right now.

I am not sure if I answered the question. I believe I answered the questions the member opposite asked.

Mr. Cardiff: Yes, the minister covered a variety of things. The one thing I'm not sure I got — I'm not looking for the costs associated with it. The minister touched on programs and funding for various organizations and I think that's great. A lot of those NGOs are doing a stellar service on behalf of Yukoners every day. We need to support them as much as we

can — something like what we were trying to do yesterday — to support some of these people who have housing needs. Often they have housing needs when they are released. These are the hard-to-house people.

The question I didn't hear an answer to — and I may have just missed it — is whether or not adult diagnosis is available on request.

Hon. Ms. Horne: This is a question that's better asked of the Health and Social Services department because it is that department that does the assessment for the clients at Whitehorse Correctional Centre as well. Yes, I think that's a question better asked of Health and Social Services.

Mr. Cardiff: I made a note about that and will endeavour to ask the Minister of Health and Social Services that question when we get to that department.

It's my understanding that it's a new facility. It's modern — it's a generation 3 facility. I see the deputy nodding his head. Things are going to be done in a different way than they are in the current facility. That, I believe, is a good thing.

It's my understanding — or I have heard — that there may be space allocated for programs other than Justice programs. So I would like some clarification on that — whether or not there will be other departments. I'm not sure which departments, maybe Health and Social Services. I'm not sure whether or not they will be housed or have some of their programming housed there as well.

The minister touched on services for female inmates. When I was asking about some of the programming that was available, the minister talked about Alcoholics Anonymous being available — I'm assuming for all inmates — and she touched on the Elizabeth Fry Society.

There are a lot of community resources. We were just talking about fetal alcohol spectrum disorder and the fact that the government provides funding to FASSY. I'm just wondering whether there's any intention on the part of the government to make space available in the facility for some of these community resources because it would make sense for accessibility to programming. I know some of these non-governmental organizations struggle on an ongoing basis. Part of the struggle on a regular basis with funding is the fact that they are using the limited funds that they have available to house themselves and to provide that infrastructure.

I don't know whether or not any of this was considered in the concept of this facility, but it would make sense to me that we might want to consider that. Whether or not it's in the existing facility — I'm assuming that the old facility will be demolished; I certainly hope so anyhow because the condition of that facility has been the subject of much debate over the years with fire marshals' reports, but there might be an opportunity down the road to truly make it a healing centre by offering limited space to some of these community resources that we have, like the Elizabeth Fry Society, the Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Society and others. There is a wide range of community organizations out there. I know I've mentioned two now and there are others that come to mind and I know I am going to miss them — the Second Opinion Society deals with mental health issues and provides support to people as well.

I guess what I am looking for is that it might be a common space that some of these community resources could work from and provide that programming to the inmates — that would be a true community partnership, also including Alcoholics Anonymous. So the question is whether or not there are other government departments that might have offices housed there to provide services to inmates — non-government organizations and other community resources.

I know we're coming to the end of the day, so I'm going to put this on record today. The minister can think about it for her response tomorrow. I'm just wondering whether or not there's any discussion taking place about having alcohol and drug services treatment available at the correctional facility.

Mr. Chair, seeing the time, I move we report progress.

Chair: It has been moved by Mr. Cardiff that Committee of the Whole report progress.

Motion agreed to

Hon. Ms. Taylor: I move that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

Chair: It has been moved by Ms. Taylor that the Speaker do now resume the Chair.

Motion agreed to

Speaker resumes the Chair

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

May the House have a report from the Chair of Committee of the Whole?

Chair's report

Mr. Nordick: Committee of the Whole has considered Bill No. 22, entitled *Second Appropriation Act, 2010-11*, and directed me to report progress on it.

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

Some Hon. Member: Agreed.

Speaker: I declare the report carried.

The time being 5:30 p.m., this House now stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. Monday.

The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

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