

**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Monday, March 21, 2011 — 1:00 p.m.**

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

Prayers

Withdrawal of motions

Speaker: The Chair wishes to inform the House of changes that have been made to the Order Paper. Motion No. 1077 and Motion No. 1141, standing in the name of the Member for Kluane, Motion No. 1214 and Motion No. 1327, standing in the name of the Member for Mount Lorne, and Motion No. 1331, standing in the name of the Member for Whitehorse Centre, have been removed from the Order Paper, as the action requested in these motions has been fulfilled in whole or in part.

DAILY ROUTINE

Speaker: We will now proceed with the Order Paper. Tributes.

TRIBUTES

In recognition of International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

Hon. Ms. Horne: I rise today to commemorate the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, which is recognized around the world annually on March 21. It is important that we never take this day for granted, that we take a moment every year to recognize that Canada is a leader in human rights.

We must also recognize that there is much work to be done throughout the world to ensure equality for all people. This day was first recognized by the United Nations after the brutal slaying of 69 peaceful demonstrators during a protest against apartheid in Sharpeville, South Africa, in 1960 on March 21.

Today the South Africa apartheid system, which was in place for decades, has been removed. I am encouraged, because if South Africa can change, so can other countries.

March 21 is observed annually to focus attention on the problems of racism and the need to promote racial harmony. Canada was one of the first countries to support this important UN initiative, and launched its first annual campaign against racial discrimination in 1989.

Twenty-one years later, the United Nations still faces severe challenges. Around the world, people are subject to discrimination because of their race.

For example, the leadership of Libya has long been accused of violating the human rights of minorities in that repressive regime. In 2006, for instance, Human Rights Watch accused Libya of serious abuses of the rights of migrants, mostly from sub-Saharan Africa.

As we watch the news, we are reminded of other examples as well. Today in Libya, Canada is taking a supportive role in a UN-supported action to stop a dictator from killing his own

citizens. As I've said, if South Africa can change, I am hopeful that Libya can change as well.

Here at home, Yukon continues to take steps to prevent racial discrimination in its own right. Let me remind Yukoners that this government has worked closely with Yukoners to modernize our human rights legislation. Prohibiting racial discrimination is a fundamental principle of the *Human Rights Act*. The act says it is discrimination to treat any individual or group unfavourably on any of the following grounds: ancestry, including colour and race; national origin; ethnic or linguistic background or origin.

This is grounded in our culture as Canadians and as Yukoners. I urge all Yukoners to pause for a moment and think about this grounding principle of the *Human Rights Act*, and how it ensures our freedom from racial and other forms of discrimination every day. Our nation and our territory are richer and stronger because of our commitment to human rights. I believe that human rights make a culture stronger because they allow all of our citizens to participate and contribute fully. We are the richer for it. Günilschish.

Mr. Inverarity: I rise today on behalf of the Official Opposition to also pay tribute to International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This international day is observed annually on March 21, as the world commemorates the anniversary of the 1960 Sharpeville massacre.

On this day in 1960, 69 peaceful demonstrators were shot by police in Sharpeville, South Africa, merely for protesting racially discriminatory laws.

This year, the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination is devoted to combating discrimination faced by people of African descent. The UN has proclaimed 2011 as International Year for people of African descent.

Since the apartheid system in South Africa has been dismantled, racial laws and practices have been abolished in many countries. We have built an international framework for fighting racism, guided by the *International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination*. The convention is now nearing universal ratification. The world has come a long way since the Sharpeville massacre, but the struggle to end racism is far from over.

It is unfortunate that in today's world, in many regions, too many individuals, communities and societies still suffer from the injustice and stigma that racism brings. Today, our society still has to struggle against racial hatred and discrimination, such as what we just witnessed in the news this past weekend by the neo-Nazi demonstrations over the weekend in Calgary.

The first article of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* affirms that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights.

We must continue to help our youth with early intervention and education. Through education about human rights and responsibilities, our youth will learn to recognize and understand that racism is wrong.

This day is a reminder of our collective responsibilities to continue our efforts to fight racial discrimination wherever and whenever it appears. We must reaffirm our commitment to the

prevention and eradication of racism and racial discrimination. I urge all Yukoners to take responsibility for our freedoms, to take a stand against racism and discrimination. Each and every day by our actions, let us do our part to help bring an end to racism and discrimination in our society.

Mr. Cardiff: I rise on behalf of the New Democratic caucus to pay tribute to this International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. This day was declared after the massacre of 69 peaceful protesters in Sharpeville, South Africa, on March 21, 1960. Because of that tragedy, the United Nations declared this day to draw attention to racial discrimination throughout the world.

The *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* says that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Unfortunately, this ideal has been proven difficult to achieve and we need to be reminded of our responsibility toward our fellow human beings and their rights. The scourge of racism is based in generalizations about people. We oversimplify an individual or a group and stereotype them without thinking. We prejudge them based on our created stereotype. Because of our stereotypes and prejudices, we discriminate against certain groups of people. In the case of racial discrimination, it is based on the physical or social attributes of other people.

Racial discrimination is displayed through humiliation of a person or a group or in denying them their dignity and universal human rights. We may just avoid certain people or places unconsciously. It is so basic to the human psyche that no one can truthfully say that he or she is totally without some thoughts or actions based on race. Many times we are unaware of those thoughts or actions until they are actually pointed out.

Racial discrimination goes hand in hand with poverty, unemployment, poor health, addictions and suicide. These conditions are often without control by the person or the group being discriminated against.

They are debilitating to the group and disruptive to general society through crime and lack of social supports.

In Canada, the results of racial discrimination are very evident among our aboriginal peoples and recent immigrants. In comparison to their numbers in the general population, aboriginal people and immigrants are employed far less often than the rest of Canadians and they report encountering barriers in finding jobs and often earn up to 45 percent lower pay.

Racial discrimination is found in the recent dangerous profiling of people of Arabic origin, even if they are born in Canada and the excuse, Mr. Speaker, is the need for security. We need only think back to the treatment of the Jews before and during World War II to see the parallel to the situation that we're faced with today.

To fight these negative actions, we need to deliberately foster respect and equality toward the people we work with and the people we meet in our daily business. We can encourage others to do the same.

The most important step in being mindful of racial discrimination is to show no tolerance for racial and ethnic slurs or jokes, intimidation, or physical and psychological violence toward anyone. We must show the courage of our convictions,

even if it is an embarrassment to us. In our multicultural society where there are many opportunities to learn about others, racial discrimination is not an unchangeable situation.

Speaker: Introduction of visitors.

Returns or documents for tabling.

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: I have tabling the Yukon state of the environment report for 2008.

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: I have for tabling the Yukon film and sound incentive program annual report.

Speaker: Are there any further documents or returns for tabling.

Are there any reports of committees?

Any petitions?

Any bills to be introduced?

Any notices of motion?

NOTICES OF MOTION

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

THAT this House urges the Official Opposition and the Third Party to outline their respective party platforms prior to the end of the current sitting in order to advise Yukoners on what they would do if elected into government rather than merely indicate their opposition to Yukon Party government initiatives.

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Speaker's statement

Speaker: Order please. Order. When a member is speaking, please have the respect to remain silent.

You have the floor, Member for Klondike.

Mr. Nordick: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Yukon Party government to continue to implement the ongoing initiatives outlined in the 2002 and 2006 Yukon Party platforms, which have put Yukoners on the pathway to prosperity by:

(1) promoting a strong, diversified private sector economy;

(2) protecting the environment and adapting to climate change;

(3) promoting a better quality of life; and

(4) practising good government.

Ms. Hanson: I give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House applauds the formation of the Yukon Mines Legacy Foundation and its efforts to collect donations for rebuilding recreational facilities in Ross River and, building on this, encourages the government, industry and the public to sit down and discuss other ways that our mineral wealth can create legacies for future generations.

Speaker: Further notices of motion?

Is there a statement by a minister?

Hearing none, that brings us to Question Period.

QUESTION PERIOD

Question re: Business nominee program

Mr. Mitchell: Every member of this House is familiar with the following statement, which begins, “I would like to take this opportunity to offer each one of you my sincerest and unequivocal apology for comments I have made recently.”

Those words belong to the Economic Development minister, and they are from the last time he had to apologize for his treatment of government employees. It doesn’t seem like the minister took to the lesson, Mr. Speaker, and now it’s up to the Premier to again make him apologize, this time to the employees in the Yukon nominee program. When will the Premier demand the minister’s apology for politically interfering?

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: Mr. Speaker, perhaps the member opposite should read on in his documentation on a ruling by the conflicts commissioner to his predecessor, which used language in the act that allowed me to put a motion on the floor to remove that individual from their seat. I chose at that time not to do it.

On this side of the House we deal with fact, and we deal with the economy and doing the best we can for Yukon, not with innuendo and personal assaults.

Mr. Mitchell: Well, Mr. Speaker, we are talking about this minister’s behaviour. The minister has experience drafting apologies to his employees. Last time he said, “I do regret that I’ve clearly offended individual employees, the department and all members of the Yukon public service with my comments, and I am truly sorry for having done so.”

This time, he put undue pressure on government employees to accept the nominee applicant whom he asserted would “easily qualify”.

The minister didn’t make things right last time until the Premier forced him to issue an apology. Can the Premier tell us: when can government employees expect the minister to apologize for his latest interference?

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: Again, the member opposite refers to a document that asked for information on a program. The information was given by way of a website. It was copied to the deputy minister and the director of business and trade, who administer that program, and the matter was turned over to them. Perhaps there was additional information. There is the provincial nominee program, which is administered in this territory by the Department of Education. There is also the immigrant investor nominee program administered by the Province of Quebec and the federal government, which the Yukon doesn’t participate in. There are additional possible things that someone could be asking, but the information in the letter was to the department, turning everything over to them. No further action was done whatsoever from my office. The individual in question is well-known and has been for many years by our department.

Mr. Mitchell: It’s a straightforward situation. We’re not asking about Quebec; we’re not asking about the Education minister; we’re asking about this minister’s offer to help. The

minister interfered in the Yukon nominee program. He advocated for a specific applicant and advised his employees that he would easily qualify. He later said that he made that recommendation based on being scammed, but the minister’s excuse of poor judgment doesn’t absolve his political interference.

The Premier is used to stepping in and fixing this minister’s mistakes, like when he fired him from the YDC portfolio and assumed it himself.

Will the Premier make him apologize for again interfering with government employees, or does he endorse the minister’s actions?

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: The Premier certainly did not fire me from the YEC portfolio. If the member opposite has proof of anything to the contrary, he is more than welcome to go outside of the confines and protection of this House.

The file in question is administered — if it is the business nominee program — by the department. The matter was turned over to the department. The matter has been in their hands and continues to be in their hands. I don’t know where the status of that is, nor do I particularly care, except the program does generate interest in investment into the territory. We’re interested in that investment. We’re interested in developing the territory and developing an economy. Attacking individuals and insulting people on this side of the House is something that we’re used to from the Liberals. It tends to lose its effect after nine years.

Question re: Advertising by government

Mr. Elias: Last week the Premier refused to say how much taxpayer money he is using to advertise his party. The Yukon Party has only a few short months to change their public image, which has been dealt some serious blows. There is the Premier’s secret negotiations to sell out Yukon Energy; there’s the Yukon Party’s political interference in the Peel planning; there’s the Yukon Party legacy of \$150 million in long-term debt; there’s tens of millions of dollars in Yukon Party bad investments — and it would take an awful lot of advertising to make Yukoners forget all of that and more before the next election.

Will the Premier finally disclose how much taxpayer money he is spending on this Yukon Party advertising blitz?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: The first problem the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin has is that he has referenced this as “Yukon Party advertising.” It’s nothing of the sort, but we’ve come to accept the fact that the Liberals have extreme difficulty understanding what’s really going on in the Yukon. That’s pretty evident with how they’ve approached this sitting. After the bold statements during the course of this sitting of presenting Yukoners their plan for the future of the territory, it has been a sad display, to say the least.

As far as what the government does in terms of informing its public, as I said last week in the House, the government will use whatever means are available within the confines of the appropriate legislative regulatory policy framework. That’s exactly what we’re doing. It’s no different from the Liberals putting out another press release with useless information.

Mr. Elias: Yukoners know exactly what’s going on here. These ads are unprecedented in timing, length and num-

bers and have never before been seen in this territory, and the Premier knows it. If the Premier is so proud of informing Yukoners, then why can't he tell Yukoners how much this unprecedented ad blitz is costing them? There are a lot of other valuable things he could be spending his money on. It has been going on for months, with Yukon Party Cabinet ministers on the radio two or three times an hour. Now, that has got to cost some money. The Premier didn't want to inform Yukoners about his plan face-to-face. That's why he cancelled the community budget consultation tour.

Can the Premier tell Yukoners how much his electioneering ad campaign is costing Yukoners and how long will it last?

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Again, the member opposite is somewhat confused. Informing the public is an obligation of any government, as it is with opposition. So I guess the question should be posed in this manner: how much is it costing Yukoners, when it comes to the Official Opposition — the Liberals — in presenting what they do to the public?

They haven't presented a plan — not even one idea. They present empty criticism by way of such things as press releases, which are certainly a cost to the tax-paying public.

So, yes, Yukoners do know what is going on; they are very astute about that fact. The only thing Yukoners don't know is what the Liberals plan to do for this territory should they, God forbid, ever be elected to the tremendous obligation and responsibility of office.

Question re: Environment portfolio

Ms. Hanson: Last week the Environment minister was short on details when I asked him questions during debate about his department. On February 22, and again last week, he said that the department commissioned a third party evaluation of the *Environment Act* in March 2009. That was two years ago. The report looks specifically at the impact of the legislative and administrative changes since 1992 and how these have affected the *Environment Act*. It is clear, the minister said, that the act requires updating to reflect the results of devolution, the passing of the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act*, and the coming into effect of the 11 First Nations final agreements.

Will the minister make public the workplan to review the *Environment Act* and tell us when Yukoners will see changes to this act tabled?

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: This is a work-in-progress, and we don't have anything for tabling at this point in time for the opposition.

Ms. Hanson: Well, the Minister of Environment also failed to answer my question about the status of the Yukon species at risk legislation that has been promised for years.

The 2007 state of the environment interim reports said proposed legislation would be drafted in 2008. That was three years ago. It's 2011 and we're still without legislation to protect Yukon's species at risk even though we are seeing major developments in many parts of this territory. When will Yukoners see a stand-alone Yukon species at risk legislation?

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: The *Species at Risk Act* is covered at this point in time by federal legislation. Again, this is a work-in-progress that the department is actively pursuing. Until

such time as there is a document to produce, it's still just a work-in-progress.

Ms. Hanson: It's very clear that we're talking about very, very slow progress. We know that protecting the environment is not a high priority for this government. We know the Environment minister is not championing the protection of the McIntyre Creek corridor or the Peel watershed like he did when he sat on this side of the House.

I'm not criticizing the dedicated and committed people who work in the Environment department. I am criticizing this minister for not taking his duties and responsibilities as seriously as he should, the way he did when he sat on opposition benches. I am criticizing this government for treating the Environment department like a junior partner and this minister for not standing up for the environment.

Do we have to wait for the next government and a new Environment minister or will this minister take action on any of the important environmental concerns raised?

Hon. Mr. Edzerza: Well, Mr. Speaker, I stated on the floor before without any reservations of embarrassment whatsoever that this government has accomplished more within the Environment department in nine years than all of the tenures when the NDP and the Liberal governments were in control.

I would like to some day compare the track record and put that on the floor of the Legislative Assembly. I wish I had it today, because I would do it; however, Mr. Speaker, I could not find anything that the NDP or the Liberals did so I had no comparison to bring to the table. The Yukon has over 12 percent of our land protected, second only to B.C. I think that's pretty good. Since the Yukon Party has been in office since 2002, our government has added a large number of protected areas. These include Tombstone Territorial Park, Old Crow Flats, Lhutsaw Wetland Habitat Protection Area, Fishing Branch Wilderness Reserve, Nordenskiöld wetland habitat protection plan, Asi Keyi Natural Environment Park, which is underway, Fishing Branch ecological reserve — the list goes on.

If I had the time today, I would surely love to read it all out.

Question re: Criminal justice legislation

Mr. Cardiff: Now that the Justice minister has been briefed by her officials on the matter, I'd like to return to the opinion of the Yukon's child and youth advocate on Bill C-4. I also want to get on public record my concerns with how the Justice minister dismissed out of hand the serious issues with Bill C-4 that the Yukon's child and youth advocate has brought to our attention. She appears not to value the input provided by him and his colleagues in the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates, which is comprised of members from across this country. Why is she dismissing his concerns before allowing him to make a report to this House?

Hon. Ms. Horne: As I said in this House last week, this is an issue that concerns the federal government, not the Yukon government.

Mr. Cardiff: Unbelievable. Unbelievable. This affects Yukon youth who are engaged in the justice system. I can't believe it, Mr. Speaker. This is incredible — absolutely incredible. The Yukon's child and youth advocate says the pro-

posed amendments to the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* lose sight of the best interests of the child. They allow for easier imprisonment of youth and "...potentially fuel an increase in incarceration of racial minorities."

He goes on to say that these changes take away from the rehabilitative qualities that this minister likes to talk about of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act* and hinder the positive re-integration of youth back into society. It focuses on punishment, deterrents and denunciation, and it neglects the needs of young people with mental illness who may find themselves in conflict with the law.

How can this government in good conscience support Bill C-4 after all the great work that has been done in recent years?

Hon. Ms. Horne: What I'd like to say first is that Yukon, along with all the other jurisdictions in Canada, feels that Bill C-4 would likely reduce the effectiveness of the *Youth Criminal Justice Act*, particularly with respect to pre-trial detention and adult sentences for serious offences. This bill was tabled without any notice or any consultation with the provinces or territories, which are responsible for the delivery of services under the YCJA.

Yukon believes the YCJA has been very effective in successfully reducing the number of young persons entering the court system and being sentenced to custody and that it does not require significant change.

Mr. Cardiff: Well, C-4 is a big step backwards. That is what the Canadian Council of Child and Youth Advocates says; that's what the Canadian Bar Association says; and that is what the Canadian Criminal Justice Association says — just to name a few of the critics of this bill.

The federal government says it needs C-4 to address violent youth crime, but the incidence of violent youth crime is rare and adopting the proposed amendments will not provide the desired public safety outcomes that the government is promising. It is a knee-jerk reaction by a right-wing government. Increasing incarceration rates does not work. The Yukon government seems to know that, and that's why it has overhauled the *Corrections Act, 2009*, that's why they have the Community Wellness Court and the therapeutic options and is building a new state-of-the-art corrections facility.

Will the minister at least make a submission to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Justice and Human Rights about the negative impact C-4 would have on Yukon youth?

Hon. Ms. Horne: Yukon supports the stated objectives of the federal government in introducing Bill C-4.

These goals include emphasizing the importance of protection of the public as a primary goal; simplifying the pre-trial detention provisions of the act to ensure that the serious, repeat and out-of-control young offenders are detained when necessary; reducing the barriers to custody for these young offenders; and ensuring that the adult sentence provisions of the act function effectively for those targeted with the most serious offences.

Question re: *Education Act* review

Mr. Fairclough: A couple of weeks ago, we asked the Minister of Education why, after nine years, this Yukon Party

government still hasn't done a comprehensive review of the *Education Act* as required by law. The government is legally obligated to review the act every 10 years, and so far we have seen no evidence that a review of this kind has taken place. When we asked the minister about this, he gave us his usual song and dance, but failed to answer the question.

Two weeks ago, the Department of Education tabled its strategic plan for 2011-16 — a document that made several references to the fact that a review of the *Education Act* has, in fact, been completed for 2002-04. So will the minister tell us if this government did in fact review the *Education Act*, then why hasn't he been able to give us a straight answer when asked about this in the House?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: I recognize that the Member for Mayo-Tatchun wasn't a member of the Liberal Party government when it was in power, but I believe that he was a representative in the Assembly, so I will direct him to find out more information about the *Education Act* review that was conducted by the previous Liberal government. It occurred between 2000 and 2002.

Mr. Fairclough: His own strategic plan said it occurred between 2002 and 2004, so who are we to believe here? One of the minister's primary responsibilities is to uphold the *Education Act*. Section 205(3) of the act clearly states: "A report of the process and recommendations resulting from the process shall be tabled in this Legislative Assembly by the minister at the next session of the Legislative Assembly after the completion of the report." One of the many references to this mythical *Education Act* review that we've heard so much about and seen so little appears on page 7 of the strategic plan released two weeks ago, where it states, "...the Government of Yukon introduced a new *Education Act* in 1990. A decade later (2002-2004), the government carried out a legislatively mandated review of the act."

If the review of the act did in fact take place between 2002 and 2004 as the plan states, then why was the review not tabled by this government?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Speaker, the member opposite just called it a "mythical review" and then said that the review took place between 2002 and 2004. Does the member opposite not read the questions before he reads them in the Assembly? Am I the only one that seems to see the disconnect between what the member opposite is saying and reality?

Mr. Speaker, there was some good information that was brought out in the Liberal government's *Education Act* review. There were thousands of comments put forward by Yukoners on how we could improve Yukon's education system and we all remember the fallout that happened between the previous Liberal government and Yukon First Nations because of the act review, let alone the teachers' strike that happened while they were in power.

There were a lot of lessons learned from that review. There were lessons learned from *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*, from the Kwiya report, from the education reform project that the Government of Yukon has conducted and all those have been incorporated in the strategic plan that we have before us.

The strategic plan that the Department of Education has tabled in consultation with Yukoners sets out the direction for the department for the years 2011 to 2016. If the member opposite has any questions about the future of education in the territory, I'd be happy to answer them.

Mr. Fairclough: The strategic plan states that this review took place between 2002 and 2004 under this minister. On October 30, 2008, the Minister of Education said, "Throughout the whole *Education Act* review — the education reform project — they were coming out with many things and many ideas that could already be accommodated in our very empowering *Education Act*." Now, education reform is important, but I'd like to spell out for the minister that it does not take the place of the review of the *Education Act*. This minister may not respect the importance of attending YTA meetings. He may not respect the fact that school councils should be told when the funding of their new school is delayed. There are a lot of things that this minister and this government should respect but don't. The law is something that they need to respect. Will this minister tell us if a review of the *Education Act* in fact has been carried out? If so, will he table it in this House as required by law?

Hon. Mr. Rouble: We've certainly learned from the lessons of our predecessors. We've learned from the actions of the Liberal government and how they responded to the *Education Act* review that the previous government conducted. We've worked in consultation with teachers, administrators, parents and school councils, and have developed the strategic plan for how we'll go forward, how we'll address issues like improving student success, how we'll put in place measures to monitor performance, how to put in place programs to ensure we're being responsive to the needs of communities, to put in place ways to increase the engagement of parents and families, ways of addressing rural issues and responsibilities, to put in place strategies to include First Nation language and cultural framework and incorporate it into our school, to address the issues regarding transitions and challenges that Yukon students face, to put in place plans for how we'll go forward with environmental stewardship and provide appropriate intervention for students with vulnerabilities.

We've put forward a plan as to how we're going to go forward with human resources, about building leadership capacity, about creating learning communities through our community. We've put forward a plan about how we'll develop and enhance critical thinking, creativity, collaboration and skills for Yukon students.

We've learned from the past *Education Act* review and now we've put forward a plan for the future.

Question re: Whistle Bend contract award

Mr. McRobb: It's normal practice for the Yukon government to award contract tenders within a week of the closing date for bids but, in the case of the contract tender for the Whistle Bend subdivision stages 1 and 2, underground deep and shallow utilities, which closed on March 1, it has been three weeks without an award. This is highly unusual, and in this case, jeopardizes the whole project's schedule.

Contractors haven't seen anything like it. Four out of the five contractors who bid on the job are Whitehorse companies. All of them, fortunately, underbid the outsider, but for some reason this government is holding these local business people in suspense by delaying the award of one of the largest ever contracts in the history of the territory. Can the minister responsible for this delay provide the House with an explanation?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, in answering the member opposite, we certainly understand the sensitivity of timelines on the projects that move forward under our watch, and we certainly are looking forward to moving forward with the contract that the member opposite is speaking about.

I'm not in a position here in the House to critique the contracts on any level, because I'm not on the day-to-day management of them, but hopefully there will be a decision made fairly quickly.

I remind the member opposite that it's one of many large contracts that this government has done — Mayo B being the biggest one. That's \$150 million some, Mr. Speaker. This is a \$20-million to \$30-million investment in our community. It isn't the largest contract this government has let but it is an important contract.

Mr. McRobb: The minister isn't in the position to "critique" — what does that mean? The minister must realize there are huge pressures on a successful bidder and time is of the essence. The company will need to carefully plan and prepare for this huge contract. It will need to prioritize this contract, which means passing on other contracts, hiring employees, lining up equipment, ordering supplies and so on.

After the contract is awarded, the successful bidder must wait an additional two weeks for the government's detail designs or issue for construction before it can order the specialty pipe required for the job, which will take another five to six weeks to arrive. This tender called for the work to begin on May 1, but this government has already delayed the schedule by weeks.

Can the minister responsible for this contract tell us when it will be awarded?

Hon. Mr. Lang: As the member opposite knows, contracts have a process. Steps are in place to follow that process, and I imagine the department is doing just that.

Mr. McRobb: This is the minister in charge. Let the record show this government's procrastinations have already set back the start of the Whistle Bend project. Continued indecision could postpone the phase 1 land lottery scheduled for the fall of 2012 and impede the home construction season planned in 2013. It's bad enough this government failed to honour its promise to Yukoners to provide a continuous supply of building lots, a failure that has already caused grief for many people who can't build their own homes because they can't find land. This government is now prolonging that grief and causing additional grief for the many Yukon businesspeople whose companies have bid on the contract.

Why is the minister condoning this delay and what's he prepared to do about it?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Again, in reply to the member opposite, this is work in progress. There is a process that has to be

followed. I am sure the department is within those guidelines, and I trust the department to do the right thing. As far as the Whistle Bend project is concerned, it is on time and it will proceed on schedule. As far as the member opposite is concerned, he has nothing to fear. The project is on-line and we are going to move forward with it.

Speaker: 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.

Bill No. 24: *First Appropriation Act, 2011-12* — continued

Chair: The matter before the Committee is Bill No. 24, *First Appropriation Act, 2011-12*. We will now continue with general debate in Vote 51, Department of Community Services.

Department of Community Services — *continued*

Hon. Mr. Lang: Welcome to the staff here this afternoon. In our conversation the last time we had an opportunity to stand here and present the budget and the highlights of the budget to the floor here.

Today, understanding we have a limited amount of time — we have actually five more business days when we can actually talk about the department, the opportunities here to drill down on the Department of Community Services, understanding the large investment this department makes in the territory.

There's a total of \$187,436,000 this department will spend. O&M is \$67,976,000 and capital is \$119,460,000. As it breaks out — and it's important that we discuss how this investment touches our communities — it's a very important department because, as we know, there are not many parts of the Yukon that aren't touched in one way or another by Community Services.

If you were to look at our budget lines and the investments we've made through the department over the years into our recreational complexes — whether in Mayo or the situation in which we find ourselves in Ross River, whether it's a partnership between the municipality of Dawson City and the First Nation on their advancement into a new recreational complex — all those are investments governments make on the ground for Yukoners.

One of the programs that has been utilized here in the territory over the last little bit — the last couple of years — is the Building Canada fund.

The Building Canada fund is a partnership between Canada and us. It is an investment — 75:2. For every dollar spent, 25 cents is a Yukon investment and the federal government comes forward with 75 cents. Those kinds of things we take advantage of because of the nature of the investments in our community. When this program was put forward, there was an obligation on our part as the Yukon government, the municipalities and First Nations to come up with an infrastructure plan as a guide. Certainly that was work that was done in all our communities, and certainly was the kind of work that opened our eyes to actual infrastructure needs in our communities, whether it is First Nation governments, municipalities, unincorporated communities, territorial government, roads, water and the other investments we need on the streets. If you look at the Building Canada fund, of course, you can see it being a \$52-million investment this year; it certainly is one part of a very large budget plan. As we move forward, we will see the investments that are going to be made in partnership with municipalities, First Nations and us and, of course, along with the federal government coming forward.

All of these plans and investments have to be approved by our partner, which is Canada. All of these have to be put in front of the Canadian Department of Transport, I think it is — Infrastructure Canada — that has to get their approval, which has been done.

If we were to look at a cross-section of the City of Dawson — there is a \$21,768,000 commitment to continue the construction of a mechanical sewage treatment plant and a district biomass heating system in the City of Dawson. That's being overseen by Highways and Public Works. That investment is being managed by Property Management, and we certainly look forward to that being completed for the City of Dawson. The actual treatment plant is driven by a court order, so that's a legal process that we have to go through.

Another investment on the ground is Build Canada. We have other programs and other investments, but this is \$3.2 million to enable assessment of the water and waste-water system in Watson Lake, as well as engineering and initial construction on upgrades to their water and sewer lines in the community.

There is also a \$900,000 commitment to complete the new mechanical sewage treatment plant in Carmacks and also another investment of \$1.5 million for a waste-water collection system that ensures compatibility with the new plant. In other words, the new plant on the ground will be finished and another \$1.5 million invested in a collection system.

There is a \$500,000 upgrade to the water and sewer system in the Marwell area of Whitehorse — another investment in partnership with the municipality — and \$900,000 for asphalt overlay to extend the life of city streets. That is just under \$1 million.

There is \$400,000 to upgrade roads to improve drainage in the small community of Beaver Creek. Again, that is an investment we're making in the community of Beaver Creek.

\$55,000 is to complete phase 1 upgrades in the community of Old Crow and an additional \$1.9 million to complete improvements to ditching and for culvert replacement in phase 2 — another investment in the community of Old Crow.

There is \$375,000 to complete construction on the Selkirk First Nation public workshop. That is a new building for the First Nation, and that is \$375,000 — understanding that is 75-cent dollars from the federal government and 25-cent dollars from the territorial government.

\$425,000 is to improve recycling facilities and arrangements in the City of Whitehorse.

As you know through our *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan* going forward, this is an investment that we're making in the City of Whitehorse in order to better serve the entire territory, so that is a big improvement.

\$900,000 will purchase a more efficient transfer system for Whitehorse periphery and is to set up systems at regional sites in order to better handle recycling, composting and chipping. That again is a commitment that we made in the *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan* that we tabled here in the House. As part of this government's *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan*, there will be \$500,000 earmarked for developing a modern solid-waste treatment facility in Old Crow. Again, that will be done this season.

The 2011-12 annual capital plan for the Building Canada fund, phase 2 of design and start construction of a new water treatment plant in Carcross — the total cost is \$1 million, \$500,000 of which is budgeted for this year; it's a two-year program — 2011-12. \$400,000 is set aside for 2011-12 for improvements to the water system in Haines Junction, as well as new fire hydrants and upgrades to the community's pumphouse No. 1. The total project costs will be \$4 million.

There's \$100,000 that will go toward improving the Tagish-Taku subdivision public drinking water fill point in the upcoming fiscal year. The total project cost is \$850,000.

As you can see, some of these investments are staged. \$3 million is set aside in 2011-12 for engineering design and the construction of a new public works building in Ross River to house a new water treatment plant and to service a heated vehicle bay. This project is expected to cost \$3.6 million. \$250,000 will enable improvements to the community well in Mayo, including adding more capacity and upgrading treatment facilities. \$1 million is budgeted in 2011-12 for upgrades and improvements to the Old Crow water supply. The project is expected to cost \$2 million in total. There is \$500,000 allocated to assess and engineer upgrades to the waste-water system in Teslin. Total project costs will be approximately \$2.5 million. There is \$75,000 that allows improvements to the intersection at the Alaska Highway and the Two Mile Hill in Whitehorse to help keep drivers safe making left-hand turns. That's an upgrade at the top of Two Mile Hill.

There is a \$200,000 investment in 2011-12 to facilitate lot development in Mayo through the design of upgrades for water and waste-water services, as well as local roads. In total, \$3.1 million is indicated for this project — another staged project here in the territory.

There's another million dollars in the upcoming fiscal year to upgrade community streets and ditches in Ross River and \$150,000 to upgrade roads and improve drainage in Burwash. In total, the Ross River project is expected to come in at \$2 million, while Burwash projects have a budget of \$1.45 million — again, more investment into our communities.

There's a \$250,000 commitment set aside in this 2011-12 budget to improve the local sanitary collection system in Destruction Bay — another ongoing issue that Destruction Bay has had, and this \$250,000 will go a long way to alleviate that issue.

Yukon's planned spending clearly demonstrates our care to deliver long-term benefits to communities, our local businesses and our economy. Our investment here in infrastructure and construction, through the Building Canada fund, will contribute significantly to the health of our local economy for several years to come.

Once again, in 2011-12, this government's sound planning on infrastructure spending will translate into a much broader advantage for Yukon. Again, it's an investment from the Building Canada fund — one of the many funds we have.

As we've talked through the other project, the YRAC program has been around for a number of years. This is short for Yukon Recreational Advisory Committee — grants, as requested, at the end of the day on Thursday. This is a very important program. It sprinkles resources throughout our communities on recreation. Basically, if you want to look at an overview of it, it's available for Yukon sport governing bodies and Yukon special recreational groups — groups including Special Olympics Yukon, Sport Yukon, Softball Yukon and similar organizations. As you can see, it does have a large cross-section in the recreational community. YRAC is annual funding that is provided to sports and recreation groups from across Yukon to support programs that improve our quality of life and provide a variety of opportunities for people of all ages to be active.

Applications are accepted on an annual basis in late March — that would be this month — following the close of the application process. YRAC meets to look at available funds in May and make recommendations. YRAC funding is shared between Community Services, Sports and Recreation branch budget and from Lotteries Yukon. As you can see, Mr. Chair, it is an application-driven process that certainly touches all of our communities. In 2010-11, here's an example: there was \$185,000 provided to special recreational groups; \$520,000 to sports governing bodies and \$100,000 for high-performance athletes and official programs. Including an additional \$130,000 for core funding for Sport Yukon, the total YRAC grants for 2010-11 was just under \$1 million — \$935,000. The 2011-12 application process closes later this month, as I said earlier. As you can see, of all the projects that we have, the programs that we have available to us, YRAC is roughly a \$1-million investment into our communities. As you can see, it touches very much the communities in and around Whitehorse and throughout the Yukon.

I had the pleasure of going to Ross River the other day and meeting with the community of Ross River to go over the situa-

tion they found themselves in after the fire at the hockey arena. I was very impressed with the number of people who attended our meeting and the dialogue we had as a government. We put together a planning group on how we move forward as a government, replacing that recreational complex as quickly as we can. This government has made that commitment. There's work to be done. I'd like to thank Ross River. I'd certainly like to thank the number of people throughout the Yukon who donated resources so Ross River wouldn't be out money to buy new equipment and the other things they lost in that fire.

I'll take questions from the members opposite.

Mr. Elias: I thank the minister for his opening remarks here today, on a new day of debate on Community Services. I thank the minister for going over some of the Building Canada fund projects around the territory. I did have some questions with regard to that, and it seems he has touched on almost all the projects I had questions on that were funded by the Building Canada fund.

Last week I did ask the question with regard to the Yukon Recreational Advisory Committee and the reason why I asked the minister about the new programs is because on the Community Services website, under sports and recreation, it says what's new. Under "What's New" it lists those YRAC grant application packages and I do realize they've been around for awhile, but under the "What's New" title the obvious question is, has anything changed in those programs? And if so, what has changed? Are there different policies that exist within the different funding programs? That's why I asked the question with regard to what's new within those programs. Could the minister elaborate on that, if there is anything that is actually new or if anything has changed substantially in there?

I appreciate the minister putting forward the \$935,000 investment that the Department of Community Services put forward to these important sporting application programs.

In speaking to different colleagues over the years who have jurisdiction, and even some First Nation municipalities that provide public money to application processes, they do have different policies, especially with regard to children under the age of 18 or 19 years who get sponsored with public money. They cannot accept any tobacco sponsorship or alcohol sponsorship or things like that. Now, I was just wondering if the minister could elaborate whether the Yukon and his department has any policy with regard to people who receive or apply for these — that they can't have, for example, a tobacco sponsorship on their snowboard or on their jersey or on anything for that matter.

I brought up the issue of energy drinks and the consumption of them by our Yukon children under the age of 18. I would be interested to hear from the minister whether or not any policy exists, especially with regard to these application programs, which are close to \$1 million on an annual basis, and if they have some sort of policy that exists where whoever receives these — whether they're a sports governing body, a youth, a recreational group or if they're high-performance athletes — are not allowed to receive tobacco, alcohol or energy drink sponsorships as part of this public funding.

I do know there are other jurisdictions in Canada that have those restrictions on any individual receiving those types of sponsorships. So if the minister could elaborate on that, it would be a good start.

I lost my other note here. I did have another question under sports and recreation. But, again, I guess the point is that our athletes in the Arctic Winter Games, which is going to be hosted by the Yukon next year again, and our Canada Winter Games and Summer Games, and any national or international competitions — whether or not that policy exists to limit the sponsorships from alcohol, tobacco and energy drinks.

I'll just leave it at that, but, again, if there are any changes that have been made under these four or five programs — it is under the title "What's New".

I was wondering what was actually new. There is an assumption that something has been changed in these programs. So I'll wait for the minister's response. Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Lang: With respect to the application process for YRAC, what's new about it is that you can now fill it in on-line. That was something that the groups asked us to do. So that's what the new part of it is.

It's interesting — it never fails to amaze me about what we do in the Yukon. I think what we do as a society and as a group — and I'm taking it as all of the Yukon. Certainly, sports and recreation is one of those departments that really excels in our communities and also in the recreational thing — the individuals we have who have gone on into international sports, like Zach Bell and other individuals who have left our communities. Zach Bell, raised in Watson Lake, Yukon, is now one of the top cyclists in the world.

That's quite a compliment to our community, when you think of the number of people we have in our communities. In other words, 34,000 people produce some incredible sports individuals. I would be remiss if I didn't compliment the Minister of Finance. When we took office we had the opportunity to look at the Canada Winter Games and these Arctic Winter Games and these other games and the investment that we put in under the leadership, really, of the Minister of Tourism and Culture — we moved forward and beefed up the funding for these groups to see what we could do on the international stage. Certainly those investments bore fruit when you look at our performance today and what it was previous to 2002. In 2010-11, athletes once again excelled in representing Yukon, and the medal count included six sports: cross-country skiing, orienteering, swimming, shooting, cycling and wrestling — five western Canadian championships, 47 national championships and 37 international championships. The production in those different sports — cross-country skiing, orienteering, swimming, shooting, cycling and wrestling.

The shooting alone — the individuals who excel are from Pelly Crossing. You know, Zach Bell is from Watson Lake, so it's just not the City of Whitehorse athletes who are standing on the podium. It is quite a cross-section of our community. There are 239 athletes, including 81 aboriginal youth, plus 80 coaches and mission staff on Team Yukon from seven communities traveling to the Arctic Winter Games 2010 in Grand Prairie,

Alberta. What did they win? They won 37 gold medals, 37 silver medals, 27 bronze medals. That's what that group did.

Canada 55 is made up of seniors. August 2010, in Brockville, Ontario, saw the 112 member team from eight communities in the Yukon — again, a good cross-section of representation throughout the territory. They captured 83 medals in 13 sports — athletes ranging in age from 55 to 91 years old with the average age being 69 years old. On all levels, we have really excelled on the national stage and the international stage. There are the Special Olympics and Canada Summer Games, which are other levels where we've really excelled. July 2010 in London, Ontario, a team of 30 athletes and staff brought 14 medals home to the Yukon. Again, another job well done.

In 2010-11, we increased the number of certified coaches in the Yukon by 10 percent. I guess in saying that, we have to take a moment not only to thank the athletes, but we have to thank the parents and of course the coaching staff and the trainers who are all part and parcel of the success of our athletes. If we were to look at the resources — again, \$185,000 to Yukon special recreational groups; \$520,000 to Yukon territorial sports governing bodies; \$92,000 to high-performance athletes and \$40,000 to elite carded athletes who represent Yukon at the highest level of competition in Canada and, of course, internationally.

Mr. Chair, these kinds of investments would not be possible without the resources that this government puts forward. Again, I would like to thank the Minister of Finance and also the government for putting these kinds of resources forward, because that prioritizes what this government stands for. This government stands for investments at all levels in the territory so that our population throughout the territory can compete on a pretty high level across our great country.

There was \$417,000 to Yukon sports and active living organizations under the Yukon Sport for Life fund; \$210,800 was received from Canada to match Yukon funds under sports and aboriginal bilateral agreement for 2010-11 to seven sports development projects throughout the Yukon — again, another partnership between us and Yukon, and this is directed toward the aboriginal bilateral agreement.

There's \$111,461 of matching funds from a Yukon government partnership between Community Services and Health and Social Services for the healthy living bilateral agreement with the Public Health Agency of Canada, which contributed a total of \$222,922 to the Recreation and Parks Association of Yukon to deliver active living programs in all our Yukon communities.

Again, it's quite an investment, as we look at the long list of sports we participate in as a Yukon community, and also where we're at on the national and international levels and inside the Yukon.

We do make these kinds of investments throughout the territory; it is quite an impressive record that we have.

As for the sponsorship the member opposite was talking about — sporting events — the Yukon government is not an organization that hosts competitions or organized sporting events. Sports governing bodies would be the ones that would do this kind of sponsorship or enter into these kinds of sponsor-

ship agreements. We as a government don't have a policy about who can sponsor. So we stay out of that purview. The various sports governing bodies may have policies — whether it's the Arctic Winter Games group, the Canada Winter Games group that was here — certainly, they would probably have some internal policies on how they would draft or manage policies. I know that the long list of sponsorship for the Canada Winter Games — and, of course, for the Arctic Winter Games, is extensive. Without that kind of sponsorship, I'm not quite sure we could host that size of an event. They would, I imagine, have internal policies to make sure that they were being sponsored by appropriate companies or groups.

Certainly, as a government, we don't oversee that because of the nature of what they are doing. Of course, elite athletes and athletes participating on Team Yukon may be subject to rules established by the organization's committee regarding sponsorship and endorsement. As we go somewhere and compete, we certainly have an umbrella, and I imagine that the organization where we are competing would have policies in place too. Certainly, our athletes are role models and amateur athletes are bound by rules and conduct themselves accordingly. In other words, there are rules that they have to follow. Certainly with the Arctic Winter Games and Canada Summer Games, there are rules for our athletes. They are, in essence, ambassadors for our territory and that certainly comes as a given. It is part of the education and the obligations that all of our athletes are reminded of on a daily basis. Certainly, I have to say to the member opposite and Yukon as a whole, I am really proud of our athletes.

The calibre of individuals — the youth and whatever — is incredible. We have produced some wonderful individuals in the territory who will go on to be great citizens, not only here in the Yukon, but for Canada.

I had the pleasure of meeting Steven MacLean, who is an astronaut in Canada, and hear his descriptions of whom he met here in the Yukon. He was so blown away by the questions that these 10-year-old children asked him. He couldn't believe the calibre of individuals who were sitting in front of him — these kids who had the privilege of meeting with an astronaut, who actually went into space twice. He was just so impressed with our youth, so that goes a long way when we talk about our youth.

We tend to concentrate on the negativity, but the biggest part of our communities — wherever you go in the territory — is that they are full of great youth, as long as we keep them involved and we have access to the resources to do it. I think that, as we move forward, our community will just get better by having these large investments.

Mr. Elias: I would like to echo some of the minister's comments because it just makes me so proud to see so many Yukoners participating right from the Polar Games in our territory to the Olympics over the years, and watching them succeed and participate. You don't have to necessarily always get a medal, but just to reach that high level of athleticism and having the parents, coaches, trainers and community members who buy the tickets from the children and from the athletes and from the cultural contingents especially. The cultural contin-

gents that we send around the world are so creative and unique. It just proves that in today's Yukon we still have living languages and living cultures. Our history is so precious to us, and nothing can be more important. Yukoners have told me it has brought a lump to their throats and tears to their eyes when they see our Yukon athletes and cultural contingents on the world stage and on the national stage. Yes, I echo the minister's thoughts on how important participating in sport and culture is.

To me, it saves lives. People have told me over the years that if it weren't for a certain sport taking up their leisure time, or that feeling of success, or that feeling that your teammates are relying on you for the team to succeed — it's incredibly valuable and builds good, solid citizens.

I just want to echo the minister's comments. I understand where he's coming from with my question with regard to getting additional sponsorships. I know sponsorships are important to get events happening. Obviously, that's what it is. Some sport-governing bodies across Canada do limit the certain types of sponsorships that individuals and organizations can have for a lot of reasons.

I'll move on to a different topic. I'd like to ask the minister a couple of specific questions. I'm wondering if the minister can give me an update on a specific project — that's the Stewart Crossing landfill.

Could he provide the House with an update on this project? I believe last year, he said that he was actively working on the issues of the landfill of Stewart Crossing and this is part of the *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan*, so could the minister give me an update on that project and how that's progressing?

Another issue that I brought up in Question Period earlier on in this sitting was in regard to the EMS building on top of Two Mile Hill. Let me be clear, absolutely we support this building. We've been advocating for this for quite some time. It's the total cost of the building that is of concern. I understand that it's \$8 million plus in the budget; however, could the minister confirm that it's being built without a final plan and could he confirm the actual total cost of the building on the top of Two Mile Hill? If he provides an update on the Dawson recreation complex — he mentioned earlier that this looks like it's going to be a partnership with the municipality and the First Nation, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in up there in Dawson City. If he can update the House on if there has been a location identified — have any costs been identified, or are there any plans?

This budget item is not in the current budget's long-term plans. If the minister's department is going to be a partner with the municipality and First Nation in Dawson, some idea should be represented in the budget documents. I couldn't find them; I could stand to be corrected on that.

It's those three questions, if he can give me an update on the Stewart Crossing landfill, the EMS building on top of Two Mile Hill and the Dawson recreation complex.

Hon. Mr. Lang: If you were to look at our *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan*, which we tabled here in the House, there was some work to be done, and obviously there was, because there are some commitments in this document of how, over the next period of time, waste will be managed throughout

the territory. One of the more important things we did as a government was put the advisory committee together.

We put the advisory committee together and it is a community-driven advisory committee on overseeing the *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan*. That was very, very important, and they have met a number of times to date and recommendations are forthcoming. In other words, they are going to do their good work. The first recommendation will be for the Yukon government to support the city's initiative around zero waste — that's the City of Whitehorse. The recycling working group has been actively meeting to address the future of recycling in the Yukon. Those two groups are working in unison with our government and the municipality to put the master plan forward.

I guess in answering the member opposite, before I answer the Stewart Crossing thing, I should bring the House up to date on what has happened up to now. There have been five-Whitehorse periphery site transfers of domestic waste to Whitehorse. That was all part of the action plan — the commitment — as part of our agreement with Whitehorse. We are removing recyclable materials and will soon encourage removal of organic from the waste stream. In other words there is more work to be done, but certainly it is a very positive move in the Whitehorse periphery on how solid waste is being managed today and how it was managed five years ago. We as a government also participated in the waste audit with the City of Whitehorse and have a baseline for measuring waste diversion practices in rural Yukon sites. So, again, Whitehorse being the size it is, we've been working with them on that, as well as looking at practices for rural Yukon. The five peripheral sites have power. Again, we put power in. There are heated attendant shacks, and they are gated and monitored by attendants, providing a minimum of 30 operational hours per week, as determined by the local community. Again, the Marsh Lake group oversees the Marsh Lake transfer station. I've heard very good reports on the management skills and what's happening in that transfer station.

As we move forward, the next sites that are actively being worked on are Mayo, Keno City and Stewart Crossing. So that would be — if, in fact, it goes forward, and I'm very optimistic it will — all of Stewart Crossing and Keno City being directed to Mayo. There would be a municipal solid-waste plant there. Stewart Crossing would become a transfer station and Keno City would become a transfer station. We're actively working with Keno City, Mayo and Stewart Crossing as we speak to see how that plan would unfold. So in addressing Stewart Crossing, Stewart Crossing will become a transfer station and that is our next step.

Dawson City as a stand-alone situation because of where it's at, but certainly we have to enter into an agreement with Dawson on how the outlying areas around Dawson — being mostly mine sites and individuals who come on a seasonal basis — would be managed and that's in discussions now. But then we have to look at Carmacks, Pelly Crossing, and Braeburn and how those would be managed. The Watson Lake area takes in Upper Liard, Swift River and these other locations. How would they be managed?

This is an ongoing work-in-progress, but remember that we only have until 2012 when we have to eliminate all burning. Old Crow is another investment we're making, and we certainly are addressing that issue by investing the dollars that are needed to put in the appropriate burner for the community. So if we were to look at the *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan* — I'm reporting that the committee that was put together is actively working.

As well, the recycled part of it is actively working, and I look forward over the next year or two to have this finished, and we have an overview and a management team together to do just that.

It's a whole new world out there when we manage solid waste, and we've made the commitment. The improvements we've made to date have been well-received in the community and have addressed a big part of our solid-waste issues in the community.

In the *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan*, we have taken a period of time to really work with our communities, the individuals out there, and the business community on how we could best address those transfer stations.

I'd like to thank the department, because it has been a big job over a period of time to get this thing up and running. I'm very impressed with what I see today, but looking forward to the other investments we've made — as I've read off — in solid waste to improve it even more.

As far as the EMS facility is concerned, this year \$3.2 million will be budgeted, and that would begin construction this summer.

The final design will give us certainty on final costs of the facility. We expect final design by the end of May, so it's coming up fairly quickly.

The next year's budget shows just over \$5 million, but I expect this to be refined, once final design is complete. We do have \$3.2 million for this year and over \$5 million for next year. But on the back of this design, there will probably be some critiques to get closer to a final cost. We're looking forward to that being done.

This government is going to build a new EMS building at the top of the Two Mile Hill. It certainly is a needed piece of infrastructure in the territory. This winter, the final conceptual plan was finalized. Detailed design, as I said, will be done this spring, with the start of construction this summer. The current budget figures are class D estimates. These will be refined as we move forward, but there is money in the budget to cover this.

Mr. Elias: I'll continue to move on. I've only got a few more questions for the minister until the Third Party takes over here.

I do have some statistics with regard to the area burned in hectares by wildfires in the Yukon from 1950 to 2009, and it's about 1.7 million hectares. Does the minister have any data with regard to how many fires we had last year in the territory, the number of hectares burned, and the cost of fighting the fires that had to get fought? The minister might have alluded to this last week, and I'll apologize in advance for asking the question twice if he answered it already. But if he could provide that

data again to the House that would be great. Also, on the FireSmart front, I believe it was last fall that over \$800,000 was allocated to 28 projects around the territory. Can the minister give an update on the work to date on those projects for FireSmart programs around the various communities?

I believe there were 28 projects that money was allocated toward.

On a same fire-related question — it's with regard to the new fire trucks, I believe, in Ross River and Marsh Lake. The question there is, how are those fire trucks working? I understand there was some new technology on the fire truck in Ross River and there were complications last week with regard to that new technology and, if so, can it be fixed? Those are questions I have right now about fire.

Hon. Mr. Lang: If we were to look at Wildland Fire Management, the most important part of last year's fire season was the early date it started. That was a bit of a wake-up call for us, because that fire came about a month early. We had, of course, the Minto mine — Carmacks 3 fire — was the Yukon's most expensive one; it cost \$900,000. This fire threatened both Minto mine and Fort Selkirk, burning 5,257 hectares. The suppression effort was successful and no values were lost. Its early start was, as I said, a bit of a wake-up call that we might have an even bigger fire season. That did not materialize.

The British Columbia area just outside of Watson Lake was Yukon's second most significant concern. Yukon fire crews and resources assisted B.C. on this fire, which reached 35,000 hectares and stopped less than 20 kilometres outside of the town of Watson Lake. Smoke was a major issue in Upper Liard and Watson Lake for several weeks.

In 2010, there were 28 active FireSmart projects, employing approximately 150 people, treating between 100 hectares and costing upwards, as the member opposite was speaking, of \$820,000. Of course, Wildland Fire Management also responded to two significant flood events: one at Upper Liard and one in the Mayo area. They are a very active part of this department.

As far as the FireSmart program is concerned, there was a record or project decision on August 2, 2010. The Liard First Nation FireSmart — \$30,000; Mount Lorne FireSmart 2010 was just over \$30,000; Village of Haines Junction FireSmart 2010 — \$30,400. They are all approximately the same. I'll highlight the ones that have a different range. There was the Village of Haines Junction, as I said — \$30,400; Crestview FireSmart, 2010 — \$30,400; Porter Creek FireSmart, 2010 — \$30,400; Copper Ridge FireSmart, 2010 — \$30,400; McLean Lake FireSmart — \$30,400; Riverdale FireSmart project — \$30,400.

The important part about FireSmart is just that — it's very good for our communities to manage the forest around our communities, and this is a very good way to do it. For years it was looked at as more of an employment issue. It was one way we could get people out and working. Now, I think with all the jobs and all the opportunities out there, this has turned around to be a management tool for Wildland Fire Management and it certainly has been very successful.

So if you were to look at Carcross-Tagish First Nation, they had \$20,500; Village of Teslin — \$25,000; Teslin Tlingit Council FireSmart — \$25,000; Hillcrest FireSmart — back to \$30,400; Marsh Lake FireSmart — \$30,400; Watson Lake FireSmart — \$30,400; Tagish volunteer fire department — \$30,400; Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in FireSmart — \$30,400; the Vuntut Gwitchin FireSmart — \$30,400; Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation had \$25,000; Village of Carmacks — \$30,400; Kwanlin Dun — \$30,400; White River First Nation had \$30,000; City of Whitehorse FireSmart program — \$30,400; Ross River FireSmart, 2010 — \$25,000; Village of Mayo FireSmart — \$30,400; Town of Faro — \$30,400; Na Cho Nyäk Dun in Mayo, FireSmart — \$30,400; Champagne and Aishihik FireSmart — \$30,400.

As you can see, all of these groups, First Nations and communities take advantage of this fund, and the total is over \$800,000.

The communities have become very good at carrying out this specific investment. You only have to drive into our communities to see the improvements the FireSmart program has made over the years.

If you were to look at an average from Wildland Fire Management, we average about 150 fires a year, of which 40 to 60 of those fires required suppression activities. In other words, they were close to our communities and close to investments — close to the human part of us living in the territory. But they all require monitoring by our officials. If Wildland Fire Management has areas of the territory that have — I guess you would call it — prioritized action, it doesn't mean we don't monitor the other ones. We do take an active part.

The member opposite was talking about the partnership we have in Dawson for the recreational facility there.

This was a discussion the City of Dawson and the First Nation had with us as a government and this was pertaining to the life of the recreational facility they have on the spot there today. Certainly, our government, when we took office in 2002 and we were presented with the engineering facts on that building — the previous government had spent I think in excess of \$10 million on that building — very badly invested money — and the building needed more investment than the community of Dawson could invest in it. As part of the bailout for the City of Dawson — in other words, the resources that were needed to get it back into municipal standing — one of the obligations was that we would work with the City of Dawson to augment their costs. Of course, we continue to do that.

In 2009, we put in place a \$4-million contribution agreement with the City of Dawson. Remember that this is municipal infrastructure that we're talking about. The funds were originally meant to address structural issues with the existing facility. They do have a committee put together to oversee that.

It is the municipal government, Highways and Public Works and Community Services that are to put the engineering together to make sure that the building will pass an engineering stamp on a yearly basis. In July 2010, at the request of the municipality of Dawson, this government allowed remaining funds to be used toward establishing a new site only after structural repairs were complete, which makes sense, so we have the re-

sources there to make sure that the structure is sound for the coming year.

The oversight committee is finalizing a workplan on next steps toward the new site. In other words, the municipality is looking at two or three different options along with the First Nation, so that's ongoing.

Of course, the First Nation, the City of Dawson and the government are working collaboratively on this important project for Dawson, as I've said many times. We are still under the original contribution agreement of \$4 million over five years, 2009 to 2014, and work continues. In other words, they freed up some of the resources to do the engineering work they need to do on these specific sites so that they can pick a site that will accommodate the footprint that they visualize.

This is a partnership between us and the municipality. Again, it's municipal infrastructure, and the First Nation also has a stake in this because the recreation centre or the hockey arena and these other facilities need to be replaced from a structural point of view.

It's ongoing work. I look forward to getting the final decision on a site from the municipality and the First Nation so we can move ahead and plan how we're going to invest in Dawson to put a recreational facility in place that will service that area.

Mr. Elias: I'll move on now. I thank the minister for putting on the record earlier some of the Building Canada funding that has been going around. He mentioned there was \$52 million invested this year with the Building Canada fund. Is that the total, including Canada's contribution, or is that simply Yukon's contribution?

On the Community Services website, which is a massive website — I believe the link to the site was provided in the briefing as well — there's 161 or maybe even more projects going on in the territory. They range from being funded from recreational infrastructure Canada fund, Building Canada fund, municipal rural infrastructure fund, Canadian strategic infrastructure fund, the gas tax fund. What else have we got here? There is the Arctic research infrastructure fund, economic stimulus fund, affordable housing initiative. There is a multitude of funding programs that are participating in what looks like about 161 projects around the territory, but what I couldn't find was anything that described the projects' time lines or costs in the various communities, right from Beaver Creek to Whitehorse and Watson Lake and all parts in between.

Is there some place that interested Yukoners could go to find what stage these projects, what the accountability criteria with regard to the different funding programs are, and what stage these projects are at? I'll use the Carcross waterfront, for instance. The minister said that there are seven of these projects that are finished.

How many of them are outstanding, and what are they? What funding program are they being funded by? That would be one question for the minister.

Another specific question is with regard to — there seems to be a change in policy last month with regard to gas installations. Apparently, as of last month, you don't require a gas installation permit to deliver a propane tank or a cylinder to a site, and all tanks and cylinders must be included in the gas

permit prior to connection to a piping system. It seems that this is related to our *Gas Burning Devices Act*. This also falls under the purview of the Minister of Community Services. It doesn't seem to be compliant with the national natural gas and propane codes, as set forth in the B149.5 code book. So if the minister could explain that change in policy. Why was it changed? What was necessary for that policy to be changed? Those are a couple of the questions that I had.

The minister mentioned the Old Crow roadwork and drainage system improvement project that is going on in my home community of Old Crow. I guess everything is going pretty well up there. The gravel is being hauled 24/7 right now, just because of the time of year, and it's good to see. I'm getting some good feedback from the community on seeing the realization of that Old Crow roads and drainage system improvement project. I've had some feedback from community members for the minister.

I also have some questions about cellphones and how that's being communicated at entry points around the territory. The law is scheduled to change in a few weeks, I believe, and I know our rubber-tire traffic is going to start to increase as well. I was just wondering if the minister has education signage on our websites — or Tourism and Culture comes to mind — to let our visitors know — as well as air traffic — that when they come to the Yukon that driving with a cellphone is prohibited in our territory — or a handheld device. I'll leave the minister with those questions for now, and I look forward to hearing his response.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I'm also responsible for Highways and Public Works, and we can discuss the signage on the new cellphone rules or laws going into place on April 1. I have already talked to the department. We visualized putting signs as you enter the Yukon, to make sure it's very clear to the travelling public that this law is in place. I'm sure the department will do it as quickly as they can, considering how the weather is. They will do it in a timely fashion. So that will be done. I will be talking again to Highways and Public Works to make sure it is done.

If you were to look at all the projects this government is investing in — the Building Canada fund, which we've gone over extensively; the municipal rural infrastructure fund, MRIF; and the Canada strategic infrastructure fund, which in essence is being replaced by Building Canada — these are ongoing. But if you look at the projects throughout the territory — remember, some have a bigger investment on our part than others.

So, as I said, there is a 75:25 split on Building Canada. If you were to look at, let's say, Beaver Creek road upgrades, those are being funded by the Building Canada fund. That's road and drainage improvement. That again, I was talking about. Burwash Landing — \$2.5 million is a wellhead improvement geothermal project expanding geothermal heat from the well to public buildings. That again is another Building Canada fund.

Another Burwash Landing improvement is an investment of \$1.45 million in road improvements — repair road service and improve the drainage in the community. That again is an

other investment through Building Canada. Burwash Landing has some more investment in wellhead protection. That, again, is construction of a new well for a backup water source. That's an ongoing commitment. That's a Building Canada commitment.

Building Canada in Carcross — Carcross water system treatment phase 2, water plant and building upgrades — another investment by Building Canada fund. Carcross has a water system treatment phase 1. Design and construction of water treatment — that should be backwards there — design and construction of a water treatment plant capable of treating surface water to meet current and future regulations. That again is an investment of Building Canada.

CSIF, which is the Canadian strategic infrastructure fund — in Carcross, there's the gateway pavilion and visitors washroom — again a project that is almost completed, that comes through CSIF. CSIF in Carcross — *SS Tutshi* memorial — that again is a project that is completed this year. The gateway pavilion visitor washroom I have as completed. Carcross, CSIF again — landscaping phase 2 is expected to be completed this year. Carcross — another CSIF project — visitor-base infrastructure, walkways, parking controls. That is again another investment by the Canadian strategic infrastructure fund. It is expected to be completed in 2011. At Carcross — Building Canada fund — BST streets and highway turning lanes — re-surface roads and upgrade drainage. That has been completed.

Carmacks waste-water treatment — construction of a mechanical waste-water treatment facility is complete. That was a Building Canada fund investment. Carmacks again, an ongoing Building Canada fund investment, waste-water collection system improvements phase 1 — sewer main lift station secondary lines et cetera. That's ongoing; that's a project that as I read through the Building Canada fund was highlighted.

MRIF in Carmacks, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation — public drinking water fill point is an ongoing investment. That's through MRIF.

Building Canada in Destruction Bay, a \$250,000 investment to repair the sanitary collection system — rehabilitate and upgrade local sanitary collection system. This will be a 2011-12 project.

Again you see where you have these three investments in our communities. Building Canada in Dawson City, the water study — prepare long-range water system capital improvement plan for upgrading community well. That's another investment through Building Canada.

Building Canada is in Dawson through a Highways and Public Works project, a sewer treatment facility — design and construct mechanical treatment plant and existing force main. It's an ongoing investment but the resources are coming from Building Canada and it's a partnership between us and the federal government.

Building Canada — \$7.5 million for Dawson City heating city, phase 2 for the district heating system. That is another investment, all hooked on to the mechanical treatment plant, which is being built now, and we're looking forward to that. Another investment in Dawson City through Building Canada is the sustainable utilities and district heating, biomass heating

system and sustainable infrastructure element in new wastewater treatment thing.

Rock Creek — through the Building Canada fund — the upgrade of the community water supply will begin this summer.

The Town of Faro has a couple of projects in the Building Canada fund: water and sewer pipe replacement, the replacement of existing water supply from pumphouse 3 and other areas; water and sewer pipe replacement phase 2, replace existing downtown water mains. That again is an investment made on the ground in Faro.

I would like to remind the House about Faro. Faro has become very, very busy over the last couple of years and there is certainly more demand on that community, not only for housing. This government, of course, invested in a seniors complex there. Certainly, the water and sewer system, from the municipal point of view, needs the upgrades of these investments.

There is a Building Canada project in Grizzly Valley in Deep Creek — water design and construction of a water treatment plant and well to serve Deep Creek and Horse Creek. That is a Ta'an Kwäch'an Council investment from the Building Canada fund. That is beginning this year.

MRIF — Haines Junction water supply improvements to replace pump in well No. 3 with a higher output pump to increase water production, repair well No. 5 and install a pump. That again is an investment that is going to happen this year.

Another Haines Junction Building Canada fund investment — water reservoir and pump station — phase 2 of the project to construct a second treated water reservoir and distribution pumphouse — again, beginning 2011. So that's more investment on the ground through Building Canada. Another Haines Junction investment — Champagne and Aishihik First Nations cultural centre. Construction of a cultural centre — another Building Canada investment that is an ongoing project.

Of course, Building Canada again in Haines Junction — a \$4-million investment in water treatment project, phase 2; design and construct new water mains in residential and commercial areas; new water distribution mains in industrial areas; new fire hydrant for under-serviced areas; upgrades to pumphouse No. 1. So, as you can see, this is an ongoing management tool that the municipality has and certainly this would be started — the annual capital plan for this year.

Another Building Canada investment in Haines Junction — Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. This is the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations investment in water, garbage, garage for water truck and facilities — in other words, a new facility for the water truck. That will be completed this summer.

If you get closer to home here, Mr. Chair, in the Marsh Lake area — the Building Canada fund — water intake and pumphouse — construct water treatment plant for local residents and commercial water delivery. That has been completed. That investment is long in coming, but it's very impressive. If an individual has a chance to go and look at that, that's quite impressive.

MRIF in Mayo — an MRIF investment — Na Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation geothermal heating — geothermal heating

component of NND's administration building. That's an ongoing investment. That again is another building or structure every Yukoner should do a tour of. It's very impressive for the First Nation in Mayo. Another Building Canada fund project for Mayo — \$2.5 million for a new community well and water treatment — water system assessment to increase well capacity — annual capital plan. Again, Mayo finds itself in a situation where it is getting a lot busier than it has been over the years, so a lot of these investments are very timely and we look forward to having them complete.

The Building Canada fund — \$3.1 million in Mayo, over and above the \$2.5 million is phase 1 water, sewer and road upgrades — an upgrade of services to accommodate existing and future urban lot development in Mayo — again, another need for the community. Of course, that's 2011-12.

There is another investment in Mayo through the Building Canada fund — water well upgrades to extend water distribution system. That's an ongoing investment by the community.

If you were to look at an unincorporated community like Mendenhall — Building Canada fund, upgrade community water supply — that again is another commitment this government made to make sure that we build our potable water in the territory, throughout the territory, so it meets the national standards.

The community of Old Crow, Building Canada fund — streets and drainage improvements, phase 1: ditching culverts and roadwork to mitigate standing water issues. As the member opposite was saying, it's ongoing and it's work-in-progress at the moment. Again, as we were talking about our *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan* in the investments in our community, Building Canada is going to fund the upgrades to the solid-waste facility in Old Crow, investigate alternative methods for managing Old Crow's municipal solid waste, and that is all taking place in 2011, and we look forward to that improvement.

Old Crow, Building Canada — we were talking to the member opposite about the water supply upgrades — upgrade drinking water systems, and that is a \$2-million investment over the next period of time. Old Crow again, Building Canada fund — road upgrades phase 2, including gravel extraction, crushing, ditching, and culvert replacement. That's an ongoing investment that the government's going to make.

Ross River, Building Canada, a \$2-million investment, roads and streets phase 1: reconstruct drainage and grubbing in the community of Ross River. We look forward to that being completed. It's very needed in the community of Ross River. There's a \$3.6-million investment in the public works building in Ross River. This is a new public works building to house water treatment plant and public works vehicles and equipment. I think it also covers the need for the fire truck, so it's a big investment in the Town of Ross River and that's an ongoing investment we're making. Ross River again, Building Canada fund — and I remind the members opposite that it is an unincorporated community — water treatment system: upgrade water treatment system for arsenic removal — upgrading our system to meet the national standard for potable water.

Pelly Crossing and Selkirk First Nation, an MRIF investment, waste-water disposal facility: replace waste-water system

— the First Nation and the MRIF program for the community of Pelly Crossing. MRIF again, Pelly Crossing, in conjunction with the Selkirk First Nation, piped water system. That has been an ongoing project over the last period of time. Building Canada fund — Pelly Crossing — public works shop, replacing the building. That's another investment that the First Nation is making.

If we go to our community of Tagish, Building Canada — \$850,000 in the Taku subdivision, public drinking: upgrade supply and pumphouse and bring it up to a standard that meets the potable water standards across our country. Carcross-Tagish First Nation — another Building Canada — water treatment arsenic removal; another upgrade in the community for potable water.

Teslin, another Building Canada investment — road upgrades: gravel and BST, road surface drainage and improvement. The municipal government will be taking this on. Mr. Chair, another investment of \$2.5 million, Building Canada fund — waste-water system upgrades: rehabilitation and replace waste-water infrastructure — another investment in the community of Teslin. Another investment in potable water through Building Canada for Teslin — drinking water treatment upgrades and, like Tagish, the arsenic removal, so that again is an investment in potable water.

Building Canada fund in the community of Watson Lake — water and sewer pipe replacement and wet well phase 1. Of course, that's a global water/waste-water assessment and repair breaks in water and sewer line. That's another investment in the community of Watson Lake. Another community of Watson Lake Building Canada fund investment is a water and sewer pipe replacement and wet water phase 2. That again is to address the potable water in the community of Watson Lake and also the volume of water they have in the community of Watson Lake.

There is another MRIF application or commitment by MRIF in Watson Lake for water and sewer expansion. That again is more investments in the community of Watson Lake. CSIF in the City of Whitehorse for the wharf, to build a heritage-themed wharf structure along the waterfront at Main Street. That, Mr. Chair, as you can see as you walk by where the wharf is being built, is a work-in-progress. That's going to be a great improvement for the waterfront.

CSIF in the City of Whitehorse — train shed, to retrofit and upgrade the facility. This is more investment in our historical buildings on the waterfront. CSIF in Whitehorse, excavate and remove contaminated soil and install monitoring wells. That, again, is an investment in Whitehorse. CSIF also — the program Whitehorse has taken advantage of — landscaping at Shipyards Park — another improvement on our waterfront.

Another CSIF project, landscaping Ogilvie to Strickland — another ongoing investment by the City of Whitehorse in the community.

CSIF in Whitehorse — Kwanlin Dun cultural centre off-street parking, which will be very important, and CSIF will be working with the City of Whitehorse. CSIF and Whitehorse again — Rotary Park parking lot. Again, that's another invest-

ment in our waterfront and better management of the Rotary Park situation.

CSIF and Whitehorse, Kwanlin Dun First Nation cultural centre — more investment. I had the pleasure of doing a tour of the new library in the new cultural centre and I recommend that individuals go and look at that building. It's going to be quite a building on the waterfront. They've done a fine job of not only building the building, but the conceptual plans and the new library are going to be quite something for the community of Whitehorse and for the whole Yukon.

CSIF in partnership with Whitehorse, heritage buildings in Shipyards Park, restoration — that's an investment. MRIF and Whitehorse, Hamilton Boulevard extension — more investment through the City of Whitehorse. MRIF in Whitehorse, Canada Games Centre waste-heat recovery system — ongoing for how we manage our energy in our buildings in the territory.

Building Canada fund: \$750,000 in Whitehorse to upgrade the intersection of the Alaska Highway and Two Mile Hill. That again is an investment. Whitehorse, through the Building Canada fund, has \$900,000 for asphalt overlay — again a yearly management tool that the City of Whitehorse uses to maintain the road surfaces. Building Canada in Whitehorse — material recycling and sorting facility. That, again, is another improvement in the City of Whitehorse.

Certainly, again I could go on, but I know my time is limited and those are the kinds of things that are being invested in through those three programs, so I hope that that answered some of the questions of the member opposite.

Mr. Cardiff: I would like to begin today by saying I am pleased to be able to enter the debate in Community Services for the budget for 2011-12.

I was listening with great interest at the beginning today and the minister talked about how little time we have left to debate all the departments that are yet before us to be debated. Yet we heard at least a couple of advertisements for all the projects that the government is doing. I'd like to remind the minister of Standing Order 19(c) and what it says is that a member shall be called to order if they "persist in needless repetition." I've heard many of the things the minister has said today over the last few days and you can only announce projects so many times.

The other unfortunate thing about what I just finished hearing is I didn't hear an answer to the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin's question and I believe it to be a legitimate concern.

The Member for Vuntut Gwitchin asked a question about the *Gas Burning Devices Act*. This isn't the question I want to meet with the minister about tomorrow morning, just so he knows. That's a separate question.

The Member for Vuntut Gwitchin raised this question about a memo that came out on February 14 and, as someone who has worked in the industry, I have a bit of a concern about this. It says, effective immediately, inclusive residential permits will include service line, household gas piping, appliances and related gas venting. Household piping for the purposes of an inclusive residential permit is deemed to include tanks and cylinders. Multi-family installations will be treated as commercial installations.

Then it goes on to say you do not require a gas installation permit to deliver a propane tank or cylinder to a site but, for the purposes of an inclusive residential permit, it is deemed to include tanks and cylinders.

If you look in the act, a gas installation means a facility — this is in the interpretation of the act, section 1: “‘Gas installation’ means a facility or system, including fittings, that is owned or operated by a gas company or a public utility and that it is used for storing, conveying, measuring, or regulating gas;” — that would be the tank — unless you buy the tank and it’s not very easy to buy a large tank. I think you can buy a 250-gallon tank, but any of the larger tanks are rented on an annual basis and you pay demurrage on them.

So they are “owned or operated by a gas company or a public utility.” Fast-forward to section 5 — “Permits for installation or alteration.” It says: “Subject to the regulations, no person shall install or alter an appliance, house piping, a vent or a gas installation...” I’ll remind the minister that a gas installation means a facility or system, including fittings, that is owned or operated by a gas company and is used for storing, conveying, measuring or regulating gas. No person shall install or alter an appliance, house piping, vent or a gas installation, unless a permit has been issued authorizing the installation or alteration.

It would appear to me from the memo that somebody with experience in dealing, installing heating appliances — I’m not a gas fitter, but I have worked with many a gas fitter and I’ve installed many a furnace and I’ve had many a tank delivered to the site. This seems to be going backward here, because there’s a public safety issue on this one and I thank the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin for raising it.

The unfortunate part is the minister didn’t answer the question. Can he answer the question now?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I would remind the member opposite we answer the questions that are asked in the House. The questions were addressed to me on the programs that were available. That’s exactly what I did.

As far as operational questions of the day-to-day management of the operation of the gas component of the territorial government, I’m told there are no changes to policy. Another thing I’ll remind the member opposite of is that you can buy your own tanks, because I have. I have bought my own propane tanks of quite a large size. So he stands corrected on that.

The department issued a bulletin regarding application of existing policies — operational clarification only. So, again, he’s wrong on the question about policy. Policy hasn’t changed. This is an operational question. It should stay within the department. The member opposite said even on the floor here that he doesn’t have the background to discuss or debate the gas issues in the territory.

I remind the member opposite that there is no change to policy. A department issued an interpretation bulletin regarding application of the six existing policies as operational clarification only. So that’s what the department did.

Mr. Cardiff: Well, I would argue that there aren’t very many residential situations where residential customers are buying their own large tanks, because that is not a very common occurrence here in the territory. I have participated in

many installations. I never said anything about changing policy or anything. What I am saying is that the policy contravenes the legislation — if the minister could respond to that. I know I admitted I am not a gas fitter and I don’t have all the background, but I certainly have a lot of experience. The minister should respect that, just as I respect the experience that he has. This appears to me to be something that goes against the legislation.

I would ask the minister to look into it and if he can’t provide the information on the floor, there is a line item in the operation and maintenance budget that deals with building safety. We can ask any questions around government policy or legislation with regard to those line items in that regard, so don’t try to slip out of answering the question because it’s something that’s deemed to be operational. This is a matter of public safety and we’re going to have that conversation again tomorrow, I hope, on a different matter, but the Member for Vuntut Gwitchin raised this and the minister did not respond to that question, contrary to what he said, and so I’m asking him to respond appropriately now or look into it and get back to us with the information and a legal interpretation.

Hon. Mr. Lang: I think that I definitely answered the question the member opposite has put forward. I think what we should do is go back to the budget and address some of the issues we have in the budget, because it is a fairly large \$187,436,000 investment in the communities. In answering the member opposite on this gas-fitting issue, I do respect the fact that he is obviously a gas fitter and some of the facts he put on the floor today weren’t correct, but those are what this House is about. Questions are asked.

We only have a few days left. I’d like to go back to the budget and talk about some of the opportunities Yukoners have in these investments. There’s just over \$119 million in capital investment. That’s a large investment in the territory and will be received in our communities. I don’t think I have to go through the list of investments from the different programs we have, whether it’s Building Canada, which is a partnership, or MRIF or infrastructure programs.

The thing that we have to talk about here today is the gas tax alone. We haven’t talked about the gas tax. \$97.5 million will be invested in environmentally sustainable infrastructure in Yukon between the years 2005 and 2014. There are 22 recipients in the Yukon. There are eight municipalities and 14 First Nation governments. 68 percent of the \$97.5 million is allocated to municipalities, 25 percent to First Nation and 7 percent for unincorporated Yukon communities. As of the beginning of February 2011, there are 100 approved projects — another investment in our communities — including 21 complete projects resulting in cleaner air, cleaner water and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. So again, another avenue for our communities — whether it’s First Nation, municipal or addressing some of the issues we have in some of the unincorporated communities. That has been a seven-percent allotment so that we as a department work with our unincorporated communities to invest our gas tax in an appropriate fashion.

Eligible projects categories include — now we are talking about gas tax — water and waste-water management; solid-

waste management; community energy systems; public transit; active transportation infrastructure; local roads, bridges and tunnels that enhance sustainable outcomes; and building system improvements that lead to significant energy efficiency and community capacity building.

The Community Services branch works closely with recipients to set up an easy-to-follow time line for review of projects which are put forward and offers an annual recipient gas tax fund workshop — in other words, we work with the affected communities, whether it is municipal governments or First Nations — and is available for ongoing guidance and support to assist recipients in understanding their gas tax funding obligations and requirements. It's another tool, another investment that the municipalities, First Nations and unincorporated communities can use to improve their communities. If you were to look at gas tax funding approved projects by the community, there is again an impressive list of investments.

In the Village of Carmacks — Carmacks solid-waste facility — \$26,000; Tantalus sewer line replacement — \$44,000 — I'm rounding off the figures, Mr. Chair; the replacement of municipal office windows and other improvements to infrastructure, \$17,000 — just under \$18,000.

The City of Dawson — I'm just going to highlight some of them — well intake optimization program — \$123,000 of gas tax money; reservoir pumphouse chlorination improvements — \$512,000 — quite a large investment; water quality program — \$47,000; piping replacement and water valve chamber — \$551,000. Where would the money come from in our communities to do these kinds of investments without things like the gas tax?

The Town of Faro — as I was saying, the pressure they're getting now for more housing and more lots because of the improved economy in that area. Water system wellhouse at No. 1 motor upgrade — there is a \$35,000 investment; replacing a boiler in the Faro recreational centre — \$87,000; Faro lagoon No. 3 reconstruction — just under \$100,000; Faro's sewer main replacement — \$52,000; recreational centre asbestos removal project — \$90,000 — just under \$100,000.

So, again, all of those resources would have to come from somewhere. Of course, the gas tax makes it possible for these communities to do that kind of work.

The Village of Haines Junction — fire hall energy efficiency improvements. Again, this is another improvement to the community to make their fire hall more energy efficient. That's a \$200,000 investment. Arena ice plant investment — another modernization to make it more economical for the community to run their ice plant — \$300,000. Enhance energy efficiency to fire hall phase 2 — another \$200,000. Where would that come from without access to these kinds of programs?

The Village of Mayo recycling centre — \$340,000 — a massive improvement for the recycling program; rejuvenation of the warm water wells — that's just an enhancement — \$55,000.

The Village of Teslin — bike lane paving — \$75,000 and sewer lagoon fencing, which is very important — \$32,000; rec complex roof — another improvement to the rec complex —

\$25,000; rec centre water supplies — \$61,000; transfer station for the Teslin landfill — \$68,000; recreation complex and administration building water closet replacement — \$16,000. All of these investments would have to come from somewhere.

Composting program — \$16,000; wood chipper lease and operation — \$8,200; rec plex roof repair, phase 2 — \$157,000; tangible capital asset reporting — \$35,000; arena mezzanine improvements — \$197,000 — again, rounded-off figures; lagoon and wetland hydrological assessment — \$14,000; compact and garbage truck — a brand new investment for the community of Teslin — \$159,000 — again, coming out of the gas tax.

Town of Watson Lake — administrative building roof is \$40,000; Watson Lake chiller unit — \$134,000; chiller unit training for three staff — another important component of this kind of investment — \$7,800; recycling centre upgrades — \$15,000; tangible capital asset reporting, which is important because all of this has to be reported on — \$49,000; the chiller unit condenser — \$73,000; district heating upgrade and planning — \$134,000. These are all investments that the gas tax has made available to our community.

The City of Whitehorse — which is a big player, as far as gas tax is concerned — is investing in lagoons; Livingstone Trail sewer outfall pipe, that's upgrades — we're talking \$5.8 million; bike racks and lockers, efficiency upgrades for Fire Hall No. 2, \$3 million; water cross-connection and bleeders, \$25,000; ground temperature monitoring stations, \$50,000; sewer lift station improvements, \$235,000; transit bus replacement, \$900,000 to upgrade the bus system, so that's an investment in transit. Heat recovery at the Canada Games Centre, another massive improvement to the Canada Games Centre, a quarter of a million dollars; public transit, public engagement — those are meetings and things that we do — Selkirk water pumphouse replacement, \$7.4 million; Riverdale south well expansion, \$1.8 million; downtown reconstruction phase R-3 underground, \$2.6 million; downtown reconstruction phase R-3 streetscape, \$550,000; downtown reconstruction S-2 Hanson Street, \$440,000.

You can see that the gas tax comes in very handy, even for our bigger municipalities. First Nation investments: CTFN, sewer truck garage, \$180,000; bus shelter and street lights, \$72,000; early child development centre construction, \$150,000; purchase and installation of centralized solid-waste collection vessels, solid-waste vehicle, \$311,923.

Kluane First Nation: house relocation 20 Old Allen Street, \$81,000 — they've had an issue in the community there of permafrost and structural problems with buildings they had put there; boiler installation, \$174,000; insulation of chief and council chambers, \$10,000; build two Arctic entries for individual water supply storage systems, \$24,000; install new water line from well to community buildings, \$12,000; build four Arctic entries for individual water supply storage systems, \$48,000.

Liard First Nation, their portion of the gas tax: Albert Creek subdivision water quality project — in other words, upgrades of the existing water system they have — \$87,000; groundwater monitoring, Upper Liard solid-waste facility —

that's an obligation they have — \$141,000; Little Salmon-Carmacks First Nation infrastructure planning, \$73,000; water truck shed, which is \$331,000; Nordenskiöld subdivision expansion of the water supply, another \$331,000; old stock housing, indoor air quality pilot project, \$217,000; NND community centre geo-exchange heating system and central water supply system, \$535,000; NND central service building phase 2, just under \$500,000 — \$491,000.

So, you can see how these investments are going to good work in our communities. Selkirk First Nation piped water system, \$233,000; Ross River Dena, in Ross River, they're going to invest another trailer renovation of \$79,000; addition to sewer truck and utility room, \$198,000; laundromat renovations, \$150,000; community infrastructure plan — that again in an obligation — \$54,000; TKC community infrastructure planning, \$70,000; TTC monitoring of residential fuel spills, \$91,000; purchase of 24-passenger bus, \$85,000; airport west subdivision sewer development, another investment of \$516,000.

THFN — community hall infrastructure and energy retrofit is \$324,000 and the old daycare energy retrofit is \$231,000.

All of those figures I rounded off, but I've given you a cross-section of some of the investments that have been made in our communities to benefit the communities. As I remind the House, the resources that are put under the gas tax or the investments on the ground are much-needed investments. Those resources would have to come from somewhere else if in fact we didn't have access to the gas tax. As I was clear, the gas tax — 2014 is the final agreement, so it's important that we move forward and we invest on the ground as quickly as we possibly can.

I guess another thing that we have to discuss here this afternoon is about the programs that we have for Yukon citizens. The homeowners grant was paid to 74 Yukon households, averaging \$415 each. That is money in the pockets of the homeowners in the territory. The Building Safety branch completed 5,243 inspections for building, plumbing, development, electrical gas and boiler and pressure vessels in 2010-11, so the department was fairly busy. In 2010-11, Motor Vehicles issued over 35,000 vehicle registrations and had over 25,000 active operators' licences — again, a very busy component to the department.

Last year Community Affairs transferred a total of \$20.59 million to Yukon municipalities and communities — again, another large investment in our communities.

Community Operations operate 20 solid-waste sites. We've gone through some of them. In rural Yukon, it delivers water to approximately 500 customers in Carcross, Keno City, Old Crow and Ross River.

In 2010-11, Corporate Affairs registered over 45,000 transactions related to corporations, partnerships and business names, personal property, security, societies and securities.

Last year, Consumer Services licensed over \$3,395 professionals and 178 insurance companies. Staff also issued 125 bingo and raffle licences that enabled charitable groups to raise over \$1 million in funds.

In 2010-11, Employment Standards fielded 3,400 inquiries and 75 formal complaints, and collected \$115,000 in unpaid wages on behalf of Yukon employees. In 2010, the FireSmart program created 28 projects in Yukon communities to help reduce risk of fire. So, as you can see, the department has many facets to it. Certainly, I have a lot more that I can put on the floor here this afternoon. So, I'll sit and respond to questions.

Mr. Cardiff: The minister was talking about how little time we have until the end of the sitting, but I can see we're going to spend a lot of time listening to him read briefing notes. I have a number of questions for the minister.

It would be my hope that he would respond to the questions that are asked and cease and desist when it comes to reading briefing notes.

I would like to begin — or attempt to begin again — on another issue of importance, and that is young worker protection. I raised this issue with the minister responsible for the Yukon Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board. But the minister just talked about the Employment Standards branch, and I applaud the work that they do. I applaud the work of all employees in government, and especially Community Services, as that is the department that we are dealing with at this time.

The Employment Standards branch and the Employment Standards Board were supposed to be working toward regulations around minimum working ages in certain industries. It was supposed to be ready for review by the end of 2010, and implementation was actually supposed to be January 1 of this year.

The minister responsible for Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, back in October, said that they were working with Community Services to get it in place. There was one sticky situation they were working on, but they still intended to meet that deadline of January 1, 2012.

Can the minister give us an update on where those regulations are with regard to minimum working ages in certain industries, and an actual minimum working age for Yukon youth?

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. 24, *First Appropriation Act, 2011-12*. We will now continue with general debate in Vote 51, Department of Community Services.

Hon. Mr. Lang: The member opposite was talking about the *Employment Standards Act*, governing employment and the government. Certainly, Community Services has been working in conjunction with the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board. The relationship, hours of work, rates of pay, for example — it is not an act intended to establish minimum ages in certain sectors. That would be done by the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board. I imagine

the minister responsible for Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board could answer that question.

The book that Community Services put together — I think it was a year or two years ago — was very well-received in the community. It's not only for students, but it's very important for parents to understand when their children or young adults go out looking for work what the obligations of the employee and the employer are. Certainly, it covers the rights and responsibilities, and what the *Employment Standard Act* is — it addresses that — and who is covered by the *Employment Standards Act* — covers that — and who isn't covered by the *Employment Standards Act* — it covers that.

Does it matter if an individual works part time? That is covered, as are employee rights and employer expectations. So those are some of the things that are covered.

Employee responsibilities — it's very important that these young workers understand their responsibility too, as a part of a team in the workplace. Are there any age restrictions for employment in the Yukon? There are different age things — Energy, Mines and Resources covers some. Workers' compensation, as I said — those are other issues. I was told that the public meetings that went on through the territory — the reception to the age issue was a very questionable one. It was one of the contentious issues. So, that's where that's at. Again, we do work with Workers' Compensation Board. Of course, you have a responsibility to work and act safely while at work. That's important that the education aspect of this is done.

Complementing the work that was done on this information book that was put out, the Filipino community, on their own, is translating this so that their workforce — the individuals that are of Filipino descent — can also be informed through this type of information. It is being totally funded by the Filipino community so it certainly has caught on.

Of course, getting the job is important. Where do you look? How should you apply for a job? That's important that individuals get the background on that. That would be — how to write a resumé, walk in off the street, contact employers directly, go to the job-finding club — those kinds of recommendations. How do you let employers know you have what they want? In other words, how do you put out in front of the employer your strengths when you are applying for work? What does an employer need to know about you? What do you have that they should know? That covers quite a gamut of things: are you reliable, honest, responsible, punctual, good customer service, initiative — takes on initiatives while getting along with others, thoroughness, safety-conscious and those kinds of things. Again, what should a resumé contain? What should you put in your resumé? Do you need references? How do you get your references? What is the process when you apply to individuals to refer you? Do you make sure that these individuals are —

Some Hon. Member: (Inaudible)

Point of order

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

Mr. Cardiff: On a point of order, Mr. Chair, I believe this could be cited as a case under Standing Order 19(c). I asked the minister about the legislation around minimum ages,

and he's reading the pamphlet that he read during the last sitting when I asked the same questions. He has already read the pamphlet and for the benefit of members here in the Legislature and *Hansard* staff, I don't think he needs to read it to us again.

Chair's ruling

Chair: On the point of order, there is no point of order. It is just a dispute between members.

Hon. Mr. Lang: Yes, the member opposite asked the question and I am addressing the question. A lot of the questions the member opposite asks I have answered at different sittings, and he asks the same questions. I'm just reviewing what this booklet puts out for youth and for individuals looking for work. We were talking about references and the importance of not only contacting people to give a reference, but making sure you are very clear that you are going to use them as a reference. That's very important. It's a very important judgment call on who would make a good reference, because there are certain things you should focus on on specific jobs.

Those are important. Do you need permission to use someone as a reference? That's very important and, yes, you do. What should I say in a cover letter? That's very important. What should an individual say as they approach this application? They put some samples in there.

Interviews — how do you address an interview? How can I prepare for an interview? What kind of work do we have to do to make sure that, when we do our interview, we approach it in the proper fashion? What questions will an employee ask me? They have a list of questions that might come up at your interview. What can I expect on my first day of work? Those kinds of things are important. Remember, that for a lot of these individuals — youth — who go to work, this is their first job. So this kind of thing is very important.

What can I do to feel more involved on my first day at work? In other words, how should I approach my first day of work on my side of the ledger? Wages and deductions — why do I need a social security number? That's an important question. How do I apply for a social security card? Why do I fill out a TD1 form? Those are important questions. What is the minimum wage? Those are questions that should be answered.

How will I know if I was paid properly? Those are questions that youth might have on getting their first paycheque. I mean, obviously there are deductions. What are those deductions and other things. How often should I be paid? That's important. It's important that everybody knows that they're working biweekly or whatever it is — whatever the flow of compensation is. How long do I have to wait for my final pay? Those are questions. How much vacation time do I get? Those are questions. Do I get paid for vacation days? Another question. When do I get my vacation pay? Do I get paid for statutory holidays? That's a very important question because most of these young workers are there because they're working part time and they are available on statutory holidays, so how are they compensated for that holiday? When do I get paid overtime? How many hours do you have to work before you're compensated for overtime? How much do I get paid for overtime work? Do you get 1.5 times your hourly rate of pay?

Those are questions that the individual will probably want to know. Do I get overtime, no matter what job I'm doing? That's another question. What if I report to work and my employer sends me home? What compensation is in place for that? Can my employer make deductions from my wages? Well, there's a very important question. Those questions are under the *Employment Standards Act*.

They should be aware of that. Can my employer deduct room and board from my wages? Those are the kinds of questions the individual should know. Obviously, it has to have written consent from the employee. Are there things I have to pay for when I start working? That's another question that should be answered. The conditions of employment — am I entitled to a coffee break? Am I entitled to a lunch break? Are lunch breaks paid for? What if I don't get a lunch break? Averaging agreements — shift work — how long should my rest period between shifts be? Can I work a split shift? Those are all questions to which a young employee should have access to the answers. Why is the 24-hour clock important? Can my employer enforce dress codes? That's important. Can I get time off, besides holiday and vacations? What about unions? How do we work with unions if the place is a union establishment? Am I entitled to sick days? If someone dies, can I go to the funeral? What if I'm injured at work? Where do we go? What does workers' compensation cover? Important steps to take if you are injured at work — these are important questions for individuals to take into consideration.

Getting along at work is another important thing; problem solving; what if I don't like the shift my employer schedules me for? Seniority — how does that work in the system? Why is teamwork so important? What if someone at work is impaired by alcohol or drugs? What are the actions the employee can take? What if I have a problem with another worker? How do you address those issues?

What if I believe I've been discriminated against? What are the steps there that you can take and put into consideration to make sure you're not discriminated against? Training and promotion — what is apprenticeship training? There's a question: what is apprenticeship? We talk about it, but what is apprenticeship training and what does it involve? How do I register to become an apprentice? What's the first step? How will I know how well I'm doing on the job? How do you monitor that?

How can I improve myself at work, individually? Is training available to improve my skills? Can I get promoted? That's another question. Terminating employment: can I be fired? There's a question. What do you do in that case? What does pay in lieu of notice mean? Can I apply for other jobs while still working for my current employer?

In other words, can you go out and apply for jobs elsewhere without informing your employer? Should I let my current employer know if I applied for a different job? Those are all questions that should be answered. How much notice should I give an employer when I leave a job? What do I do with things given to me when I started the job? In other words, uniforms and other things that are put in your possession and you were to quit the job — who owns that?

What's an exit interview? Records to keep — will my employer send me something to help me fill in my income tax form? Yes, that's a very good question. What if my past employer doesn't send me a T4? What are the steps to make sure that's followed through with? Do I need to keep record of what I learned on each job — a very good question. Do I need to keep a record of time I worked on each job? It's a recommendation that I would recommend we all do. How do I get a letter of reference? — those kinds of questions.

In addressing the member opposite on the obligation Community Services has, we're committed to work with the Workers' Compensation Board to address the questions the member opposite has asked.

If you were to look at the timelines, the January 2011 meeting of the ministers of labour, we recognized the high risk and unique challenges facing young workers in the workplace. That's on a national level. We agreed to collaborate and develop best practices for prioritizing occupational health and safety awareness among young workers — a Canada-wide commitment. These strategies will be ready to launch in 2012. The strategies will include social media and public education. As you can see, there has been a lot of work done on this and obviously through the leadership of the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, we will be monitoring it as it moves forward. I would say to the member opposite that we are serious about youth at work. I am very impressed.

I would like to thank the department for putting the pamphlet out for youth: *You need more than a job to start work*, and also the work that we are doing inside our schools to promote this pamphlet so that individuals in the school systems can take advantage of this publication.

I hope that was a review of what we are doing and how we are working with our federal counterparts, as well as with the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board, to go further and to address the issue about age and other issues that have been brought forward.

If we were to look at Community Services, infrastructure development, the Ingram subdivision is a very important development. It was completed and is making 40 single family units, nine multi-family units, eight duplexes and 72 townhouse lots available in the territory. We're looking forward to the improvements you'll see there over the next couple of years. Whistle Bend is one of our bigger investments and the connecting road is approximately 45 percent complete and that's important. Clearing, grubbing and salvage of wood for all phase 1 and 2 roads is complete — another part of Whistle Bend that's complete — and the first set of lots are scheduled to be released in 2012.

The Willow Acres subdivision in Haines Junction is nearing completion; that's working with the municipality and will feature 27 country residential lots, 49 single-family, three multi-family and two commercial lots. These lots will be released for sale in the spring and fall of 2011, so they're ongoing.

Seven Carcross waterfront projects — again, we have talked about that this afternoon — are finished, including the most recent project, the *SS Tutshi* memorial, and four more

projects are currently underway. I explained earlier in the afternoon some of the projects and how they're being funded throughout the budget.

There are four Whitehorse waterfront projects that are completed; 13 are underway, including the KDFN cultural centre and the Whitehorse Public Library project. The Whitehorse Public Library will occupy lease space in the new KDFN cultural centre, once it is completed this coming fall of 2011. The estimated cost is \$22.4 million, with Yukon's commitment of \$7.4 million in support of this project — again, another partnership with KDFN on their cultural centre.

To date, more than \$177 million in federal — again, another partnership with the federal government — and territorial investment have been allocated for Yukon infrastructure projects from Building Canada base funding. We went through a long list of them and we had questions about the municipal rural infrastructure fund. That included the Champagne and Aishihik First Nations cultural centre having begun; 13 projects are complete with the remaining to be finished before the end of 2012.

Five communities will receive improved public water treatment systems through Building Canada — another investment for Ross River, Haines Junction, Teslin, Carcross and Marsh Lake. Protective Services: one of the earliest fire seasons — we talked about that, about the 88 fires that challenged Wildland Fire Management personnel. Crews were successful in protecting Yukoners without serious injury or loss of home or infrastructure. That's a very important part of the department.

All branches of Protective Services division worked in collaboration to prepare for and manage a potential wildlife threat to Junction 37, as well as the communities of Watson Lake and Upper Liard. That was mitigated with the partnership between us and the Province of British Columbia.

I'll finish with this: the Ross River volunteer fire department took delivery of a \$309,000 state-of-the-art fire pump in August 2010. The Marsh Lake volunteer fire department took delivery of a new \$185,000 pumper tanker in October 2010. These trucks incorporated the latest in firefighting technology and will increase fire response capacity in their communities. Understanding the situation Ross River found itself in, this is a big asset for the community of Ross River. I'd like to thank the Ross River fire department and the Faro fire department for the work they did to minimize the impact of the fire at the rec centre there a week ago.

So that's a job well done. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

Mr. Cardiff: What can I say? First of all, I would like to apologize to the Member for beautiful Southern Lakes for instigating the reading of *You need more than a job to start work* pamphlet for the second time during — since it has come out, I believe. I'm sure that the next time I ask a question about young worker protection, the minister will probably read it backwards.

It's almost embarrassing when you ask questions like this about important subjects and the minister doesn't take them seriously.

So we'll see how seriously he takes this question. The *Landlord and Tenant Act* was proclaimed by the Commissioner in 1972 when legislation in the Yukon was called "ordinances".

There have been very few amendments dealing with things like interest rates. In 2006, the department did an internal review of the act. A few years ago, we did Motion No. 850, and we established the Select Committee on the *Landlord and Tenant Act*. In that motion, it had the reporting times, and it also had a time for when the government had said it would bring forward legislation. In fact, the Premier said that the legislation would be brought forward expeditiously to rectify the many problems with this outdated and cumbersome act. That's what the Premier said.

Some of the recommendations for changes in the report that was tabled last fall were: the enforcement of minimum housing standards; a clarification on the relationship between the *Landlord and Tenant Act* and the *Public Health and Safety Act*; the establishment of a formal hearing process for evictions; a mediation process for conflicts between landlords and tenants; protection of tenants who complain about their housing; and a redrafting of the whole act in plain language.

Now, a commitment was made by this government to that select committee, and the committee did the work, and there was an expectation, both in the motion and on the part of members on this side of the House and obviously the Premier, that the legislation would be brought forward expeditiously. This is an important issue, and I still hear from people — when I'm in the stores and when I'm walking down the street — who want to know when the changes will be made because they are still having the same problems they've had. There was a commitment made by the government to do it expeditiously, and I don't hear anything from the minister. I asked them this question at the beginning of the sitting. In fact, I think I asked it on the very first day of the sitting. So the minister has had lots of time to think about this and to get briefed and get up to speed on it. Is there money in the budget for the drafting of that legislation, and when can Yukoners expect to see it?

Hon. Mr. Lang: I have to applaud the work that the select committee did on this bill. Of course, the select committee tabled its final report to the Legislature here on November 9, 2010. The government is reviewing the select committee's final report on the *Landlord and Tenant Act*. Once that review is complete, further decision will be made on how to proceed. If we were to look back on it, a number of the NGOs have lobbied for changes to the act. In February 2009, the department received 15 recommendations ranging from changes to regulation on the condition of some rental units, to extending termination notice periods. A Select Committee on the *Landlord and Tenant Act* was established by order of the House on November 18, 2009. A final report was tabled in the Legislature on November 9, 2010. It contained eight recommendations.

I would say to the member opposite that it's a work-in-progress. The department is reviewing those recommendations. I'm waiting for that review to be finalized so that we can move forward.

Mr. Cardiff: The minister needs to talk to the Premier, because the Premier made a commitment that the report could

be tabled and the legislation could be brought forward in the same sitting. I recognize that the report didn't get there until the end of the sitting, but there were several months that passed between sittings when that work could have taken place.

It's basically about political will. It's about the political will of this minister, it's about the political will of his Cabinet colleagues, and it's about the political will of the Premier. I guess we can just tell landlords and tenants they are going to have to wait and that commitments from this government don't really mean a lot.

I'd like to ask the minister about another commitment that was made by this government, which is in this minister's area of responsibility, as he's responsible for consumer services.

On December 9, 2009, the Yukon Legislative Assembly unanimously passed an amended motion establishing a committee to study and report on introducing legislation to establish credit unions or allowing credit unions incorporated in other provinces to operate in the Yukon. It mandated a committee made up of representatives of the government, the Official Opposition, the Third Party, labour, business, and Credit Union Yukon to report to the Legislative Assembly by November 30, 2010.

In order to clear up any confusion, I would have to remind the minister, the NDP caucus, when asked to name its member to the committee, said it would be an MLA selected from our caucus.

Members of Credit Union Yukon are wondering why there is yet to be a meeting. In the interest of providing accurate information and not wanting to alienate community members who have been interested in the issue — they put time into a petition drive, they're ready to serve or assist this committee — I'm looking for some information from the minister. What is the government's plan to get this committee up and running? Have all the stakeholders put forward their representatives? What is the time frame for the first meeting? What is the revised plan for reporting to the Legislative Assembly on options for the establishment or operation of credit unions in the Yukon?

Hon. Mr. Lang: The credit union legislation — understanding that we did make a commitment — the Whitehorse Credit Union Limited closed. The history of it — we did have a credit union, and it was closed in 1979 due to financial difficulties. A motion was passed again, like the member opposite said, that called for a committee with representation from all parties: labour, business, and interested citizens to study and report on introduction of legislation in the Legislative Assembly by November 30, 2010, enabling the establishment of a credit union in the territory. That is the commitment.

A federal bill, C-9, received royal assent on July 12, 2010, and has provisions to enable credit unions to incorporate federally and operate as chartered banks. Part 17 of the bill deals with matters pertaining to federal credit unions, including amendments to the federal *Bank Act*, providing a framework for credit unions to incorporate and operate across all provincial and territorial borders. The federal regulations are in development. Two letters, dated in August and October 2010, have been sent to the NDP caucus inviting it to provide a repre-

sentative, but the NDP caucus has yet to do so. The Yukon Federation of Labour has also failed to provide a name to sit on the committee, so it is a work in progress.

Mr. Cardiff: Have I got the floor? I think the Premier wants to speak.

It doesn't appear to be a work in progress at all, Mr. Chair. It appears that the government is yet again dragging its feet. I'd like to ask the minister — this is a discussion that we've had in the past.

First of all, I'd like to thank the Department of Community Services for the support they provide to various communities. The minister mentioned, when he was addressing minimum ages for young worker protection, the addition of equipment to the volunteer fire departments in Ross River and Marsh Lake.

Volunteer fire departments are very important in our communities. Last Wednesday, we discussed a motion about bringing forward amendments to the workers' compensation health and safety act to provide for presumptive legislation, because these folks put their lives on the line on a daily basis — 365 days of the year, they're ready to go. I think that it's important that we recognize that through changes to the *Workers' Compensation Act*. But there are other ways, and I'd like to especially thank the volunteer fire departments and the emergency responders in Golden Horn and Mount Lorne — the riding that I'm representing currently — and the volunteers who work in the City of Whitehorse and respond to fires throughout Whitehorse, including those within the riding of Mount Lorne.

I would also like to thank the neighbouring crews from Marsh Lake, Tagish and Carcross. It's all about the mutual response agreement. When their brothers and sisters up the road call and need a hand in their community to fight a fire, they're on the road and they're coming to assist, and that mutual aid agreement is something that is very valuable.

I have a couple of questions in this area. The first one is with regard to a request I have made of this minister on several occasions. I believe I even asked the Minister of Finance about this when we were debating Finance.

The Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs have had a proposal in front of the federal Finance minister that would give volunteer firefighters and their employers a tax credit as a small thanks for their service. Several years ago, I wrote a letter in support of that and I'm pretty sure that the Official Opposition did as well. As I said, I've raised this issue with the minister before, I've raised it with the Minister of Finance — and this is about a small show of support, this is about a tax credit that volunteer firefighters and their employers would get for releasing them from their employment to go and save homes and save lives. Every time, the answer I got was, "We'll have to talk about it and get back to you," but nobody has ever gotten back to me on this issue.

I have a question for the minister: is the minister prepared to support the Canadian Association of Fire Chiefs and their pitch to the federal government?

Hon. Mr. Lang: Certainly, you should ask the Minister of Finance about that kind of a plan going forward. I appre-

ciate the fact that these volunteer firemen do put themselves into harm's way.

Going back to the credit union — and somehow the member opposite sort of brought it back on us that we're not serious about the credit union. I can't see how the NDP is serious about it. We wrote a letter in August 2010 and October 2010. We haven't got a response back for a member to sit on it. So how serious is the NDP on the credit union file? We haven't received an answer back from the Yukon Federation of Labour, either. So let's not blame the government when they themselves do not answer correspondence and a request to have a member sit. So I'm not quite sure the NDP is very serious about the credit union question in the territory.

I know the member opposite will be interested in these statistics on the fire marshal's office. The fire marshal's office supports 17 volunteer fire departments in unincorporated communities with infrastructure, equipment, and training and provides all fire and fire safety inspections.

The investment we made in the communities like Ross River and Marsh Lake for new equipment and modernization of those facilities is a large investment, and the modern equipment makes those communities safer.

With our fleet of ambulances, we replace roughly 10 percent of our ambulances a year. That would be a ballpark figure, but roughly that is the case. Last year we purchased three ambulances, and that benefits all our communities.

The fire marshal's office works with unincorporated communities to provide proper firefighter training, which is very, very important, when required to perform fire and life safety inspections. Yukon fire departments responded to 810 incidents/situations based on current statistics, of which 243 were fire-related. You can see where our communities are taxed when it comes to managing the fire-related issues.

The fire marshal's office provides 102 fire and life safety inspections in the Yukon — again, another job that the fire marshal's office does. If you were to go through our budget when you think about the investment we make, of course you can't — I'd like to acknowledge our volunteer firefighters and this gives me an opportunity to do just that. Community Services supports the 17 volunteer fire departments by providing the resources they need to maintain the fire department on a moderate level. Training is very important so that of course comes from Community Services. We also provide an honorarium for emergency responders and have worked closely with Yukon's Association of Fire Chiefs to show our support for the work of our firefighters. Let's acknowledge them for the job well done. We have budgeted \$500,000 for a Mount Lorne fire hall in the 2011-12 — another investment we're making in a Yukon community. First of all, I'd like to thank the administration of our EMS and the hard work they did to — the first time we've had an agreement with the volunteers on their honorarium on a three-year commitment.

That was another milestone in how we deal with our volunteer EMS staff. The statistics — EMS provides emergency pre-hospital care and transportation for residents and non-residents. In Whitehorse, the ambulance station is staffed 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In 15 rural communities, EMS

services are provided by volunteers. In addition, EMS has two full-time primary care paramedics in Dawson City and Watson Lake.

Outside the City of Whitehorse, there is a large contingent of volunteers who actually run the EMS. It's a commitment the government has made in training and replacing equipment and building new and improved buildings and access. You only have to look at what we're going to be doing at the top of Two Mile Hill with the roughly \$8-million investment over the next couple of years, to ensure we have proper EMS facilities so we can service that part of the City of Whitehorse.

In 2010 — here's an interesting thing — we responded to 4,565 ambulance calls in the City of Whitehorse. That's quite substantial. What's that — 15 calls a day? In rural communities, we had just 1,307 ambulance calls. So, they have been fairly busy.

We provided 683 medevacs by air from communities to Whitehorse General Hospital and to hospitals outside Yukon. That's 683 medevacs, whether it's inside the Yukon or being directed to hospitals outside our jurisdiction.

EMS is one of five branches within the Protective Services division of Community Services. The others are the Emergency Measures Organization, the Fire Marshal's Office, Safety and Training, and the Wildland Fire Management. So, you can see that it's an intricate part of a bigger picture.

The branch's mandate is interesting. EMS is dedicated to providing safe, rapid and highly skilled emergency medical care and transportation for sick and injured clients. EMS works cooperatively with Yukon communities with, again, a large contingent of volunteers throughout our territory. Of course, the RCMP are a part of that and other pre-hospital care providers to ensure a coordinated and safe working environment when responding to medical emergencies. EMS works cooperatively with other Protective Services divisions — branches — to assist the management of emergency events that affect Yukon communities. Of course, that is in that organizational chart that I tabled this afternoon.

A notable accomplishment in 2010-11 — Protective Services is proceeding with design for an integrated emergency facility, which I've explained a couple of times this afternoon. Community Services purchased three new ambulances, which replaced aging equipment, providing communities with modular units as they become available. The process in that — for the members opposite — when we acquire these ambulances, we utilize them in the City of Whitehorse and move them out as we work out any issues the individual ambulances have, so that we're confident that the ambulance will do the job that it's assigned to do.

Emergency Measures Organization — interesting statistics: in 2010-11, Emergency Measures Organization — EMO — supported eight volunteer search and rescue teams across Yukon — they're volunteers too — and trained over 50 Yukon government and community members in emergency management and the incident commands system. In other words, modernizing working inside the government to make sure that we're prepared for any kind of an emergency that would arise.

EMO is one of five branches within the department, but as we move forward here this afternoon and look at the investments we made, EMO and EMS and the other four or five parts of the emergency measures team, which is extensively represented throughout the territory on a volunteer level, I'd like to thank my colleagues and the Minister of Finance for the vote of confidence they've given the department, giving it the resources to invest on the ground in the territory and seeing the importance of these investments.

I think if you were at the Association of Yukon Communities meeting in Dawson City last year, I made a commitment with the department that we would go to work and on the situation of how the territorial government deals with our municipalities and charge the department, in conjunction with the Association of Yukon Communities, and to start a committee called "Our Towns, Our Future".

We partnered with the Association of Yukon Communities on the Our Towns, Our Future committee, which was important. Recent discussions with all municipalities, interested First Nations and local advisory councils have been held in every Yukon community. We appreciate all the individuals who came out to our public meetings to talk about what their vision was for their community. We appreciate the collaborative work that is being done with our partners and look forward to seeing the findings, the report from the Association of Yukon Communities annual general meeting. This year in Haines Junction we will be coming out with the final review of what has been decided with Our Towns, Our Future. The amazing thing about it was the fact that the questions were generally generic questions which were very important to the individual communities, and they weren't all about money.

That was interesting because the municipal grants and transfers we do are very important for our communities, but the communities themselves were very focused on what we could do as senior government to make their life easier, understanding that our municipalities outside of Whitehorse involve mostly volunteers. There is very little compensation for being mayor or councillors, and they are very responsible jobs. How can we as a senior government make their job so it isn't as hard as it could be? We understand that a lot of the federal issues like potable water, solid waste — all of these things are adding more and more management on to our municipalities, which, in turn, put more cost on the back of the communities. It's going to be interesting, and I look forward to the Association of Yukon Communities meeting and also the briefings I'm going to get over the next period of time to see where this government and the municipal governments can work more effectively together.

If you were to look at the Our Towns, Our Future schedule here that I have in front of me — I know there were questions about whether there would be public meetings or whatever.

Haines Junction, November 5, 12 to 1:30 at the convention centre with a free lunch; Watson Lake, 12:00 to 1:30 at the convention centre, free lunch; Watson Lake, November 8, 7:00 to 9:00, Watson Lake recreational centre; Teslin, 7:30 to 9:00 with refreshments; Carmacks recreational centre, 12:00 to 1:30, free lunch; Faro, Sportsman's Lounge, free lunch, 12:00 to

1:30; Mayo curling club, free lunch, 12:00 to 1:30; Dawson City, 12:00 to 1:30; and Whitehorse, 7:00 to 9:00 in the Whitehorse Public Library. So there were opportunities for all concerned to get out and voice their concerns about Our Town, Our Future.

The *Climate Change Action Plan* sets out how Yukon government is responding to climate change. Examples of Community Services activities that contribute to the action plan include: working with the City of Whitehorse to undertake energy efficiency improvements to the Canada Games Centre — again, I talked about the investment that was being made there; and the Na Cho Nyäk Dun First Nation to utilize a heat recovery system to improve energy efficiency in their administration office — that's being done, and it was explained in the budget; working with the Kluane First Nation to engineer and construct an expansion to their district heating system to take advantage of deep well geothermal heat for its public buildings — another investment working in partnership with the Kluane First Nation; making improvements to water infrastructure in a number of Yukon communities such as Marsh Lake and Carmacks; implementing the *Yukon Solid Waste Action Plan*, which we talked about and went through over the last couple of hours; transfer facilities for domestic waste; disposal of a number of existing landfills to meet the no-burn objective of 2012. That is something that is certainly high on the radar screen because 2012 is the end of burning in the Yukon.

If you were to look at the fire marshal's office — they have budgeted \$405,000 for six projects: \$50,000 for fire-fighting equipment; \$30,000 for turnout gear; \$20,000 for communication radios and pagers; \$35,000 for breathing apparatus; \$230,000 for a new pumper tanker truck; and \$40,000 for breathing apparatus. Additionally, there would be \$188,000 for fire hall maintenance and \$500,000 to build a new truck bay at Mount Lorne fire hall. These are all investments the government has made. But as you can see, Mr. Chair, it's an ongoing issue when you look at the investments we make, either in buying new ambulances, putting a new bay on an existing fire hall and the improvements to the existing fire halls that we have throughout the territory.

As we buy all this equipment and as some of this equipment becomes obsolete because of the nature of the industry — and certainly we want to take advantage of the fact that modern equipment is very important to our crews because not only does it keep them safer, it upgrades their expertise in being a firefighter, wherever it is. Whether it's volunteer or it's a permanent job, these kinds of investments will certainly go a long way to making the individual more confident when they are doing their job and also safer and better trained. If they were to move to another community somewhere other than the Yukon, they would be trained to a level that would certainly benefit them in their ongoing desire to be firefighters, either volunteer or full-time firefighters. I hope that that cleared up some of the questions the member opposite had this afternoon. I look forward to any other questions he has.

Mr. Cardiff: Well, that was quite something — another 20-minute speech from the minister. It was a simple question about the minister supporting the Canadian Association of

Fire Chiefs and their pitch to the federal government about tax credits. Once again, the minister failed to answer the question and he's not prepared to make a commitment or write a letter of support. Instead, he read briefing notes on a variety of topics, some of them not even related to the issue. In his remarks, he also indicated the NDP caucus hadn't named its member to the committee for Credit Union Yukon. If he had listened when I asked the question, I made it clear that we had communicated to the government offices that our member would be an MLA chosen from our caucus.

He didn't seem to. Well, we've been waiting around for so long for the government to take some action on this that it could have been one of three, but the minister chooses to see things his way and only his way.

The minister actually almost raises more questions the more comments he makes. If he continues to do that, we'll never get out of here and we'll never finish debating Community Services. One of the things that he raised — and I know that the community of Mount Lorne is thankful for and it has been a long time coming — is an addition to the fire hall there, an additional truck bay for the fire hall in Mount Lorne. It's much needed because in the wintertime it's really hard to get the EMS vehicle into the building between the tanker and the pumper.

There are a number of issues that I'd like to ask the minister about in this regard. He mentions the \$500,000 in the budget. It's my understanding that a lot of that money is going to go to planning and design. I'd like the minister to give me some assurance that the fire chief and the volunteers at Mount Lorne would be involved in that design work as well. Just as an example of this — and I'm sure the minister knows this and if he doesn't, he should be aware of it — the new protective services building at the top Two Mile Hill that the City of Whitehorse built incorporated a lot of input from firefighters so that the building works for them.

I believe the same thing could be said about the new fire hall at Golden Horn at the Carcross Cutoff. There were firefighters and volunteer firefighters and community members who had input into the design of those structures. When we are spending money on designing these projects, it is important to get the input from the community and especially from the people who use the facility on a regular basis. They have their meetings there; the equipment is kept there; they run their practices out of there; they run their table-top exercises out of there, and it is very, very important. I know that there is a dedicated group at Mount Lorne who would jump at the chance to participate in an exercise around designing an addition to the structure out there.

The minister mentioned money in the budgets, and I believe it was in past budgets — he is reliving the past a little bit here today. I'll just give the minister an opportunity to listen to this side of the House. He was talking about tankers and pumpers in the communities of Ross River and Marsh Lake. I know this has been an ongoing issue in the community of Mount Lorne for many years with the tanker — I believe it's a tanker truck that was formerly with the Department of Highways and Public Works and it has been in and out of the shop

many, many times. This is once again about public safety, community safety and the ability to respond in a timely manner.

The reality is that when a pumper truck rolls out of the fire hall and shows up at a fire, it has very limited capacity to carry enough water to extinguish a fire. That's why we have tankers in our volunteer fire departments. But if the tanker can't get to the fire, that pumper truck is going to run out of water rather rapidly.

I know it works kind of on a rotational basis so that when a new truck or piece of equipment goes to a community, an existing piece of equipment often goes to another community in need. That way everybody is constantly getting upgraded and some of the worst pieces of equipment are being replaced.

Seeing the time, I'd like to continue this discussion with the minister at a later time, so 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 Chair

Speaker: I will 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. 24, *First Appropriation Act, 2011-12*, 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. Members: Agreed.

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

The House adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

The following Sessional Paper was tabled March 21, 2011:

11-1-210

Yukon State of the Environment Report 2008 (Edzerza)

The following document was filed March 21, 2011:

11-1-173

Yukon Film & Sound Incentive Program Annual Report (April 1, 2009 to March 31, 2010) (Kenyon)