

future generations, one where the lives and contributions of Yukon aboriginal women are fully honoured, fully valued and considered.

I rise today in honour of the Yukon aboriginal women who have come before me and those who will come after me. I rise today in hopes of a better history and a better tomorrow. Finally, I rise today in solidarity and support of a national inquiry on missing and murdered aboriginal women in Canada.

Mr. Silver: I would like to also rise today and I am going to rise on behalf of the Liberal caucus to pay tribute to Women's History Month. Women have played a huge role in shaping the Yukon's history — from First Nation women being matriarchal societies to Martha Black being a pioneer in more than one way during the Klondike Gold Rush in making history as the second female ever to be elected to the House of Commons and, more recently, Yukon's first female Premier — Pat Duncan — who was only the second female Premier in Canada's history to become the leader of a province or a territory in a general election.

There are countless other great leaders who have shaped the history of the territory that we know and love today — too many to list.

I would also like to take the opportunity to recognize the great contributions that women with disabilities have made, and continue to make, in our community. Yukon will never be for the faint of heart, Mr. Speaker, and Yukon women with disabilities take on an even greater challenge than most of us in this often harsh corner of the world. I would like to echo the words from our minister responsible for the Women's Directorate for women like: Joyce Hayden, whose disabilities never deterred her from her political role within this Chamber; Judy Johnny as well for her tireless work advocating for women with disabilities; and, of course, the incredible Stephanie Dixon, seven-time Paralympian, who, as was mentioned, was named the assistant chef de mission for the 2015 Parapan American Games.

These women are absolutely an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be celebrating Women's History Month with the ability to look back on all that women have accomplished in this territory. I commend the Women's Directorate for all the hard work that they do year after year to address the challenges that women face in a world and in a country where we still have a long way to go toward moving toward equality.

That being said, I urge the House and all Yukoners to further support and enable the work of the Women's Directorate and important organizations like the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre, the Yukon Status of Women Council and many more. By continuing on this trajectory toward a more inclusive Yukon for all women, we will make it better for all of us and we will have a much more inclusive and democratic society with much more to celebrate next October.

In recognition of Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in application for UNESCO World Heritage Site designation for Dawson City

Hon. Mr. Nixon: I rise today to pay tribute to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and their application for UNESCO World Heritage Site designation for Dawson City.

The Yukon government continues to support the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in application for this important status. The World Heritage Site program was adopted by UNESCO in 1972 and aims to protect the world's cultural and natural heritage sites. World Heritage status would provide international recognition and understanding of the shared heritage of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in culture and the story of the Klondike Gold Rush.

World Heritage status would also further enrich the social fabric of Yukon in highlighting the area's fascinating culture and its history. The world's fascination with this area is summed up best by the advisory committee, which calls the Tr'ondëk Klondike one of the most legendary places on Earth.

This area has been home to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in for thousands of years. Of course, at the end of the 19th century, it was the epicentre of the Klondike Gold Rush, an international event that changed the land and people of the north forever and echoed around the world. Today this area continues to resonate with its challenging environment, dramatic historical changes and the bringing together of cultures. From rich, archeological landscapes to thriving arts communities, Dawson City and the Klondike are like nowhere else in the world.

The Yukon government contributes to the research of the advisory committee that was set up to explore the impact of gaining status for this area. This committee, formed in August 2013, includes representation from the Yukon government's Department of Tourism and Culture.

In April I was pleased to receive an update from the committee that aims to have a nomination proposal submitted to the UNESCO World Heritage Committee in 2017. Earning this designation would provide a significant benefit to Yukon's tourism industry and has potential to increase the number of visitors to the territory both from Canada and internationally. An economic impact study has already been completed and predicts benefits to the region and Yukon generally through increased visitation and associated visitor spending.

There has been much talk over a number of years about the status for Dawson City. The Klondike region was placed on Canada's tentative list of potential World Heritage sites in 2004. There are 17 World Heritage sites in Canada. Out of 978 in the world, Yukon currently has one UNESCO World Heritage Site, the Kluane/Tatshenshini/Alsek park system. It would indeed be an honour and very fitting to see the Klondike receive this status. The Department of Tourism and Culture will continue to assist the community of Dawson and Parks Canada as they move toward this goal.

In closing, I reiterate the government's support for the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and their application for the World Heritage status for Dawson City.

Mr. Silver: I rise on behalf of the Liberal Party and the Official Opposition to also pay tribute to the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation and its ongoing leadership in working toward a UNESCO World Heritage designation for the Klondike.

A diverse community-based advisory committee was assembled for this project and is reflective of the significant economic opportunity that a UNESCO designation would present at a local and territorial level.

A UNESCO World Heritage Site is defined as, and I quote: "places on Earth that are of outstanding universal value to humanity and as such, have been inscribed on the World Heritage List to be protected for future generations to appreciate and enjoy." I think we can all agree that the Klondike fits into this description alongside Kluane.

A UNESCO designation is a very rare opportunity, and even being considered is a tremendous honour. The Klondike has been on Canada's tentative list since 2004. Mr. Speaker, 150 were also reviewed and whittled down to a mere 11. Four of these have subsequently gained UNESCO status. A designation would put the Klondike among such great icon locations as the pyramids in Egypt and the Grand Canyon. The interesting thing about this designation is it is a tribute to a thriving First Nation community existing and mutually benefitting with a thriving and proud placer miner community.

Having the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in take the lead on this project is a tremendous boost and shows just how significant this designation would be. The support that Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has received comes from both our major private-sector industry associations, the Klondike Placer Miners' Association and the Klondike Visitors Association, showing just how broad this support is.

This designation was identified as a key component as part of the regional planning and the implementation of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's Final Agreement and I offer my personal support to their efforts. This designation, Mr. Speaker, would spur economic development and would help bolster tourism in our region and add to our already-strong community pride. The benefits of this designation are clear and the community support for this has never been stronger.

Speaker: Are there any visitors to be introduced?

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Ms. Stick: I would just like to take the opportunity and ask the House to join me in also welcoming Haley Halushka and Vicki Wilson to the House this afternoon.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any returns or documents for tabling?

Are there any reports of committees?

Are there any petitions to be presented?

Are there any bills to be introduced?

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 76: *Act to Amend the Fuel Oil Tax Act — Introduction and First Reading*

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I move that Bill No. 76, entitled *Act to Amend the Fuel Oil Tax Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 76, entitled *Act to Amend the Fuel Oil Tax Act*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 76 agreed to

Speaker: Are there any further bills to be introduced?

Bill No. 77: *Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act and Other Enactments — Introduction and First Reading*

Hon. Mr. Pasloski: I move that Bill No. 77, entitled *Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act and Other Enactments*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier that Bill No. 77, entitled *Act to Amend the Financial Administration Act and Other Enactments*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 77 agreed to

Speaker: Are there any further bills to be introduced? Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Ms. White: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to keep its commitment to Trails Only Yukon Association and create the necessary regulations for the *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* to allow them to protect sensitive areas that are vulnerable to the current levels of unrestricted off-road vehicle usage.

Ms. Stick: I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House calls on the Government of Yukon to oppose federal changes to the employment insurance program, which took effect on Sunday, October 12, 2014;

THAT this House communicates to the federal government that reducing employment insurance access for precariously employed and unemployed Yukoners will place undue demand on the social and community program resources of the Yukon government, NGOs and community organizations; and

THAT this House requests the federal government to protect workers' contributions to the EI program and respects the EI account as a dedicated resource for the EI program.