



The Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 1

3rd Session

24th Legislature

HANSARD

Thursday, March 20, 1980

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor

Yukon Legislative Assembly

SPEAKER — Honourable Donald Taylor, MLA, Watson Lake
 DEPUTY SPEAKER — Geoffrey Lattin, MLA, Whitehorse North Centre

CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
Hon. Chris Pearson	Whitehorse Riverdale North	Government House Leader — responsible for Executive, Council office, Public Service Commission, Finance and Pipeline.
Hon. Doug Graham	Whitehorse Porter Creek West	Minister responsible for Education, Justice, Consumer & Corporate Affairs, Information Resources, Government Services
Hon. Dan Lang	Whitehorse Porter Creek East	Minister responsible for Highways and Public Works, Municipal and Community Affairs, Yukon Housing Corporation, and Yukon Liquor Corporation.
Hon. Meg McCall	Klondike	Minister responsible for Health and Human Resources and Workers' Compensation Board.
Hon. Peter Hanson	Mayo	Minister responsible for Renewable Resources, Consumer & Corporate Affairs, Tourism & Economic Development.

Government Members

(Progressive Conservative)

Al Falle	Hootalinqua
Jack Hibberd	Whitehorse South Centre
Geoffrey Lattin	Whitehorse North Centre
Grafton Njootli	Old Crow
Donald Taylor	Watson Lake
Howard Tracey	Tatchun

Opposition Members

(Liberal)

Iain MacKay	Whitehorse Riverdale South
Alice P. McGuire	Kluane

(New Democratic Party)

Tony Penikett	Whitehorse West
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(Independent)

Maurice J. Byblow	Faro
Robert Fleming	Campbell

Clerk Of Assembly
 Clerk Assistant (Legislative)
 Clerk Assistant (Administrative)
 Sergeant-at-Arms
 Editor of Hansard

Patrick L. Michael
 Missy Parnell
 Jane Steele
 G.I. Cameron
 Lois Cameron

Whitehorse, Yukon

Thursday, March 20, 1980

THE THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF YUKON CONVENED IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AT 3:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 20, 1980

Mr. Speaker: I have received the communication from the Administrator, in his role as Lieutenant-Governor, stating that he would open the Session at 3:00 p.m. today, Thursday, the 20th day of March, 1980.

We are now prepared to receive the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Administrator enters the Chambers

announced by his Aide-de-Camp

Mr. Administrator: Please be seated.

Mr. Speaker, it is a distinct honour for me to have the privilege of speaking to this Assembly today and to welcome you to the first Session of this decade.

You have been called to deal with a number of issues as we face new challenges, as well as the resolution of outstanding concerns in our journey through a new decade to build on the future.

We are confident that the political and constitutional advances of the past twelve months will provide a better opportunity for our citizens to determine the best manner by which government can improve the quality of life.

My Government is committed to the sound and reasonable growth and development of Yukon, whether it be through advances in economic opportunities for all citizens or constitutional and political evolution.

The Government is also aware that the social needs of our citizens must not suffer as the result of economic advancements and that we have a responsibility to ensure that our economic aspirations do not exceed our social capabilities.

The resolution of the Yukon Indian Land Claims negotiations will continue to be a major factor facing not only my Government, but also the Government in Ottawa. It is our hope that a mutually benefitting settlement act and the positive implementation of the terms of such an act will go a long way in promoting better understanding and outstanding advances for all our citizens.

A strong local economy is central to any efforts to improve our quality of life. The Government is committed to obtaining advancements in our economic structure and to ensuring that the best possible arrangements can be made for year-round employment opportunities and sound business investments.

During the next two years, this Government plans to use the recently signed \$6 million Canada-Yukon Tourism Development Subsidiary Agreement as one method of encouraging further investments in the Territory's history and wilderness and thus allow Yukon to become a major visitor destination area for the international market.

We will also increase our efforts to ensure that the Canada-Yukon Special Rural Development Agreement is more fully utilized to assist individual Yukoners of native ancestry in achieving their economic aspirations.

It is my Government's desire to foster private sector investment in our economy and much of the economic planning and policy formulation in the months and years to come will focus its greatest attention on mineral and energy development. These two areas are primarily under federal jurisdiction but are critical to Yukon's future.

Our concern for energy conservation will be reflected in an enabling ordinance which will be presented to you during this Session. This ordinance will permit the signing and implementation of two Canada-Yukon energy conservation agreements to achieve our long-term goals which were outlined to you at your sitting last November.

The Department of Highways and Public Works will continue with its program to re-insulate Yukon schools and effect monetary savings through energy conservation. In addition, all new buildings are being designed to keep energy consumption at a minimum and thus demonstrate the leadership we intend to show through the conservation of energy supplies, which are vital to the future well-being of every Yukon citizen.

The Yukon Housing Corporation is also concerned with savings and operating costs, which can be reaped through upgrading its housing for energy efficiency. Indirect benefits will be passed on to the general public through the experience gained by the Corporation and its contractors.

Pipeline related activity will increase this year, with Foothills (Yukon) Limited cutting and surveying the centre line of the Yukon route segment and conducting extensive geo-physical work.

My Government will continue its discussions and negotiations with the Government of Canada on the Yukon Heritage Trust Savings Fund and pipeline taxation. You will be asked to consider legislation related to these two matters during the coming fiscal year.

You will also be asked to consider enabling legislation related to the supply of natural gas to Yukon communities and the Pipeline Branch will continue its efforts to research the question of supply and delivery.

The Pipeline Branch is also negotiating an administrative agreement with the Northern Pipeline Agency to monitor Foothills' measures to meet environmental terms and conditions.

Other activities of the Branch this year will include continuing work on a socio-economic impact forecasting and monitoring program and an expansion of its community relations program.

Mr. Speaker, we anticipate the continued increase in Yukon's economic activity and the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs is proceeding with reviews of legislation affecting all sectors of our economy.

This legislative review will involve consultation with persons or groups which have a direct interest in any proposed changes designed to protect the relationship between industry and consumer.

The Government anticipates increased mineral exploration and pipeline construction in the years ahead and is giving priority attention to community and regional planning, conducted by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs, particularly in major centres of potential activity such as Beaver Creek, Haines Junction, Faro and Watson Lake.

Future land use in the East Klauane planning area and the Dempster Highway Corridor will be the subject of continued planning studies by the Department of Renewable Resources. The planning studies are being designed to provide a direct involvement for the Yukon public to determine the future land use of their regional area.

It is my Government's desire to improve training opportunities for persons living outside of Whitehorse and, to this end, we are preparing our first mobile vocational training unit for use, starting in September.

The Department of Education's Adult Education Branch will also continue its planning and study related to the establishment of a Yukon college and the general problem of youth employment opportunities will be addressed in a project initiative this year to consider vocational and career education for high school and vocational school students.

The Manpower Planning Branch is also contributing efforts to expand employment opportunities, improved working conditions and other benefits from development in the Territory, as well as developing policy and program initiatives related to affirmative action and fair practices.

The Public Service Commission is increasing its emphasis on local hire for technical, administrative and professional positions. A significant increase in local hiring over the past years reflects the willingness of departments to provide more on-the-job training and a greater availability of qualified Yukoners.

We have increased and will continue to increase local training courses to help our employees keep up-to-date in their fields, to assist in career development and, consequently, improve our service to the public.

The coming year will see a continuing review of staff recruitment and turnover to make the process more cost effective; a stronger emphasis on local hire to cut recruitment costs and meet job aspirations of Yukoners; the active pursuit and initiation of an affirmative action program in the recruitment and training of the handicapped, natives, and women and improvements to our staff training programs to assist career development.

The Department of Human Resources is conducting several reviews, with the objective of improving the delivery of services to Yukoners and involving more local residents in the delivery of those services.

The Department has a report in progress which, when completed, is expected to result in enlightened hiring practices for

social workers. It is anticipated that the report's recommendations will allow for flexibility in the hiring of local residents and require the Department to conduct on-going, in-service training programs.

My Government's determination to assist and foster economic developments within Yukon does not begin nor end within the Department of Tourism of Economic Development. Other departments have and will continue to introduce innovative programs which will benefit the Territory in total.

A most recent example came from the Department of Highways and Public Works with the introduction of a preferential bidding clause for northern contractors and changes in our policy to lease tanker trucks for our highway maintenance programs. Both will bring added benefits to the small business which may have had difficulties formerly, but can now look forward to long-term support for continued growth within our economy.

The Department of Highways and Public Works provides a vital link in the chain of Yukon's economic development and has several programs planned for the future.

Upgrading of the Skagway and Nahanni Range Roads, completion of the reconstruction program on the 60-Mile road, bridge replacement on the South Canal Road, and continued paving of the Klondike Highway are just some of the projects which will benefit the tourism industry, the mining industry and local business.

As announced earlier this year by my Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, a major review of our concept of local government institutions is in progress and this will likely result in significant, long-term impacts on the evolution of municipal government in the Territory. Concurrently, a new financial framework on revenue sharing with local governments, is being developed by my Government.

Changes to our assessment concept and principles has resulted in adjustments to property assessments in all Yukon municipalities. Efforts will continue in the months ahead to align the properties in the balance of the Territory, to actual value, and to maintain the values at current levels.

Two major significant facets of land management and development will demand the added attention of the Government in the future. We are about to embark on a program to meet years of requests by the citizens of this Territory to have access to recreational cottage and rural residential land. It is hoped that specific details of these programs can be outlined later during this Session.

The Department of Renewable Resources is engaged in new initiatives which will affect our campgrounds, proposed territorial parks, regional and cottage lot planning, resource inventories and wildlife management.

The Government intends to meet and serve the recreational desires of Yukoners through a continued planning for territorial parks and it will carry out a parks features inventory during the upcoming field season.

The Kusawa Lake area will be one of the first regions to undergo this inventory process.

New emphasis will be placed on refining game management areas through the use of hunter and wildlife population statistics, so that a more sophisticated method of management will result in our wildlife resource being maintained on a sustained basis.

The importance of the moose population in the pursuit of food and recreation by Yukoners will be the subject of a new research program to be carried out by my Department of Renewable Resources.

A program is also being developed to upgrade the guiding industry to benefit not only the outfitter and non-resident hunter, but also those involved in outdoor recreational pursuits within our tourist industry.

My Government has broadened its desire to obtain the views of all concerned Yukoners on the management of our wildlife resource by the recent establishment of a wildlife advisory committee. It is our hope that the committee will be a mechanism by which a wide spectrum of advice will be made available to the Department of Renewable Resources.

Our historic resources will be the subject of new inventory studies to assist in historic park planning for future restoration. Fort Selkirk, Forty Mile, Carcross and Dawson City are of particular concern.

The Department of Information Resources is conducting an internal review of this Government's approach to heritage resources, along with considerations for the preservation of our history, support for community heritage institutions and co-operation with similar federal programs.

A number of programs to improve the quality of school facilities

throughout Yukon and improve educational opportunities to students outside Whitehorse are being developed by the Department of Education.

We will be investigating the ways and means of establishing small, rural secondary schools and thus alleviate difficulties faced by some students who must relocate in larger communities to continue their education.

Students in Watson Lake, Haines Junction and Faro will soon benefit from the completion of school additions during the coming fiscal year and students in Whitehorse, Carmacks, Pelly Crossing and Old Crow will benefit for many years to come through the construction of improved school facilities.

The Recreational Branch will be increasing its emphasis and involvement with cultural groups and recreation boards.

The Department of Library and Information Resources is studying new and innovative methods of improving access by our citizens to information sources and technology.

Satellites can now connect us directly to a world in which people's lives are more and more involved in the creation, storage and retrieval of information. Libraries, archives and records services are more than a means of information storage. They can also serve to teach skills in using information systems, if they keep pace with change.

The Department is investigating a computerization of libraries, the relationship of public libraries to adult education and cultural recreation, the re-organization of audio visual services, a policy for community involvement in public library development, micrographic record systems applications and the best means to house our rapidly growing collections of government records and archives.

More efficient and progressive services for all government departments are the aim of two recent studies carried out by the Department of Government Services.

The first investigated transportation costs incurred by government for employee travel within Yukon and recommend the establishment of a central office to consolidate transport requirements and determine the best method for employees travelling on government business.

This new office will soon introduce policies and procedures that will increase the efficiency and reduce the per unit cost of employee transportation within Yukon.

Major changes will soon be introduced within government offices to meet current and future needs through the acquisition of computer/word processing equipment and services.

This effort is a subject of investigation now in progress to determine the word processing needs of all departments and will recommend the equipment which offers the greatest reduction while maintaining flexibility and general growth potential.

The Public Service Commission is currently engaged in contract negotiations with the Yukon Territorial Public Service Association and, as in the past, these negotiations are characterized by good judgment and common sense from both management and union representatives.

Contract negotiations with the Yukon Teachers' Association are expected to commence in September.

The Department of Justice is stepping up its efforts to improve judicial services throughout Yukon and will increase its emphasis on the training of justices of the peace.

The Department is also making provision to increase the frequency of territorial court circuits to all communities and will continue to provide for the orderly expansion of community based correction services, such as Probation, Community Work Programs, and Impaired Drivers' Courses.

My Government remains committed to the eventual transfer of medical services now delivered by the Department of National Health and Welfare in Yukon. A proposed transfer was interrupted due to political changes within the Government of Canada and it is our intention to vigorously pursue the reinstatement of the health transfer and bring this matter to a successful conclusion.

The Minister of Health and her officers have been working in close consultation with board members of the Crossroads Society in the development of a viable residential treatment program which is considered an essential component of the alcohol addiction treatment segment of the health care delivery program.

We are concerned for the termination of the lease of the Yukon Rehabilitation Centre in January, 1981. The Centre provides a very necessary service in enabling handicapped residents to remain in Yukon and obtain training which permits them to become independent members of the community. The Government intends to

work closely with the Rehabilitation Society to find suitable alternative accommodation.

The Human Resources Department recently completed an inventory of social services, including those delivered to youths, by a variety of government departments. The inventory has pointed out the need for a sophisticated information system to help more effectively plan and monitor the delivery of social services throughout the Territory.

Health and Welfare Canada has agreed to provide us with full-time consulting services to assist in establishing a suitable system to meet our needs.

The Human Resources Department is also conducting a review of legislation affecting its operations and departmental policies and procedures. This effort is being conducted to modernize our legislation, such as the Child Welfare Ordinance and the Social Assistance Ordinance, and make them more relevant to today's needs. Changes in these Ordinances will be submitted to you for approval at some later Session.

The Workers' Compensation Board is evaluating its operations to meet existing concerns for those injured, that they receive adequate benefits; for industry, so that compensation costs do not prejudice their ability to compete in the open market and, for the taxpaying consumer, so that their living costs are not unduly increased by greater compensation costs.

The Board's evaluation is intended to develop a new system which can be adapted to Yukon's needs and addressing all concerns.

My Government sees the development of viable housing markets as a more effective and efficient means of overcoming some housing problems, such as supply. Good, adequate housing for all Yukoners has been the objective of the Yukon Housing Corporation in its construction and maintenance of various forms of public housing.

One of the objectives of the Corporation is to provide accommodation for Yukon's senior citizens so that they may have affordable housing in their own community.

The Corporation is completing 36 self-contained units in Whitehorse and plans to construct self-contained units in Watson Lake and Mayo.

The overall objective of my Corporation will be to encourage the private ownership of housing, while recognizing that the traditional public housing approach cannot be entirely abandoned.

You will be asked to consider amendments to the Government Employee Housing Plan Ordinance, which will encourage more members of our Public Service to acquire their own homes.

Mr. Speaker, these studies and reviews by all departments of my Government are a clear indication of our desire to be a catalyst towards improving the quality of life of all our citizens.

In the weeks ahead, you will be asked to approve a variety of ordinances which will aid my Government in meeting the needs of the people. Foremost amongst these will be the necessary legislation to ensure the fiscal wellbeing of Yukon for the forthcoming year. There will also be legislation in respect of garnishees, small claims, summary convictions, the Whitehorse Credit Union, energy conservation, and fatal accidents.

Ordinances will also be presented to you to amend existing legislation, such as the Companies Ordinance, the Insurance Ordinance, the Condominium Ordinance, and the Evidence Ordinance.

I, and the people of Yukon, place our destiny in your hands today. May compassion and wisdom be with you and may the grace of God guide you in your deliberations.

Mr. Administrator leaves Chamber

escorted by his Aide-de-Camp

Mr. Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

At this time, I would like to inform the House of the Pages who will be assisting us during the forthcoming Session.

They are from Jeckell Junior High School and their names are: Pauline Craig, Teri Croy, Chris Larsen, Jill Lengerke, Jesabel MacKay, Philip Manson, Brent Pearson, Kevin Smith, Janet Styan, and Bobby Webb. It is indeed a great pleasure for me to welcome the Pages and I would invite the Pages to attend the House at this time.

Because of the large number of very distinguished guests nor-

mally attending the opening ceremonies of a Legislature, formal introduction of guests is, by tradition, seldom undertaken. However, on this occasion, I am sure that Honourable Members would wish me to draw to the attention, in the Speaker's Gallery today, of three very distinguished young athletes who have been chosen to represent the three contingents participating in the Sixth Arctic Winter Games.

I am pleased, therefore, to introduce to you Kelli Mues, as representative of the State of Alaska; Steve Westcott, of the Northwest Territories; and Beverly Charlie, of Yukon. I am sure that all Members would join me in expressing our sincerest welcome to these young athletes and the contingents that they do represent.

BILLS: INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs, that a Bill entitled An Ordinance to Perpetuate a Certain Ancient Right, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs, that a Bill entitled An Ordinance to Perpetuate a Certain Ancient Right be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

TABLING OF DOCUMENTS

Mr. Speaker: I also beg to inform the Assembly at this time that I have, in order to prevent mistakes, obtained a copy of the Speech from the Throne, which I would table at this time.

Hon. Mr. Pearson: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs, that the Speech from the Throne be considered on a day following.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Municipal Affairs, that the Speech from the Throne be considered a day following.

Motion agreed to

BILLS: INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Hootalinqua, that a Bill entitled Summary Convictions Ordinance, be now introduced and read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Education, seconded by the Honourable Member from Hootalinqua, that a Bill entitled Summary Convictions Ordinance, be introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

NOTICE OF MOTION

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, I would like to give notice of the following motion: moved by myself, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, that the Standing Orders of the Yukon Legislative Assembly be amended by adding the following sub-orders:

13.(3) on the first Wednesday of a Session and every second Wednesday thereafter, that Private Members' business is taken up, the Clerk shall place first on the Order Paper those Motions other than Government Motions and those Public Bills and Orders other than Government Bills and Orders standing in the name of Opposition Members.

13.(4) On the second Wednesday of a Session and every second Wednesday thereafter that Private Members' business is taken up, the Clerk shall place first on the Order Paper, those motions other than Government Motions and those Public Bills and Orders other than Government Bills and Orders standing in the name of Government Private Members.

Mr. Speaker: May I have your further pleasure?

Hon. Mr. Graham: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member for Tatchun, that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Education, seconded by the Honourable Member from Tatchun, that the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to

Mr. Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. Monday next.

Adjourned

