



The Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 1

5th Session

24th Legislature

HANSARD

Wednesday, March 24, 1982 — 1:30 p.m.

(Includes Prorogation of the Fourth Session of the 24th Legislature)

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor

Yukon Legislative Assembly

SPEAKER — Honourable Donald Taylor, MLA, Watson Lake

DEPUTY SPEAKER — Grafton Njootli, MLA, Old Crow

CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
Hon. Chris Pearson	Whitehorse Riverdale North	Government House Leader — responsible for Executive Council Office, Public Service Commission, Land Claims and Intergovernmental Relations.
Hon. Dan Lang	Whitehorse Porter Creek East	Minister responsible for Renewable Resources, Tourism and Economic Development.
Hon. Geoffrey Lattin	Whitehorse North Centre	Minister responsible for Municipal and Community Affairs, Highways and Public Works, Yukon Housing Corporation and Yukon Liquor Corporation
Hon. Meg McCall	Klondike	Minister responsible for Health and Human Resources, Education and Heritage & Cultural Resources
Hon. Howard Tracey	Tatchun	Minister responsible for Justice, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Government Services and Workers' Compensation Board.

GOVERNMENT MEMBERS

(Progressive Conservative)

Al Faile	Hootalinqua
Robert Fleming	Campbell
Doug Graham	Whitehorse Porter Creek West
Peter Hanson	Mayo
Grafton Njootli	Old Crow
Donald Taylor	Watson Lake

OPPOSITION MEMBERS

(New Democratic Party)

Tony Penikett	Whitehorse West
Maurice Byblow	Faro
Roger Kimmerly	Whitehorse South Centre

(Liberal)

Ron Veale	Whitehorse Riverdale South
Alice P. McGuire	Kluane

Clerk of the Assembly
Clerk Assistant (Legislative)
Clerk Assistant (Administrative)
Sergeant-at-Arms
Hansard Administrator

Patrick L. Michael
Missy Follwell
Jane Steele
G.I. Cameron
Dave Robertson

Whitehorse, Yukon
Wednesday, March 24, 1982

Mr. Speaker: I will now call the House to Order.
We will proceed at this time with Prayers.

Prayers

Mr. Clerk: It is the will and pleasure of the Commissioner, in his capacity as Lieutenant Governor, that this House be now prorogued, and this House is accordingly prorogued. eh?

The House Prorogued at 1:31 p.m.

Whitehorse, Yukon

Thursday, March 24, 1982

THE FIFTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF YUKON CONVENED IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AT 3:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 24, 1982.

Mr. Speaker: I have received communication from Mr. Commissioner, in his capacity as Lieutenant Governor, stating that he will open the Fifth Session of the Twenty-Fourth Legislative Assembly at 3:00 p.m. today, Wednesday, the 24th day of March, 1982.

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

Mr. Commissioner enters the Chambers announced by his Aide-de-Camp

Mr. Commissioner: Please be seated.

Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly.

I welcome you in our sovereign's name to this opening of the Fifth Session of the Twenty-fourth Council.

You are reconvening at a time when difficult economic conditions prevail in our country and, indeed, throughout much of the western world. Yukon cannot expect to be completely insulated from the impact of policies which are the responsibility of the Federal Government. While this Legislative Assembly cannot by itself reverse the present economic trends, my government is determined to continue to introduce measures which will help to minimize adverse effects on Yukon's economy and to cushion its more vulnerable citizens from hardship. My Government plans to emphasize three broad priorities during this Session:

1. ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

My Government reaffirms its priority to building Yukon in the fullest sense of the word. For the present, measures will be introduced which will help to stimulate the economy by maintaining existing and creating new employment and by enhancing opportunities for our citizens. In the longer term, we must act today in order to facilitate economic growth and diversity so that our children may share in an even better Yukon, a Yukon that fulfills the hard work and faith of our pioneers.

2. SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES

My Government recognizes that healthy, skilled and productive citizens are essential to the success of its economic policies for building Yukon. The government will increase funding for programs to assist citizens so that they may contribute more fully to society and to provide the best possible social services for those in legitimate need. You will be asked to support legislation which will help many of our people, including students, workers, renters, homeowners and senior citizens.

3. CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

My Government will further demonstrate its unaltered commitment to building Yukon, step by constitutional step. It will do so by elaborating on the progress which has been made in the negotiations of the Indian Land Claim. It will also outline to Yukoners measures which it considers necessary and desirable to take during the next two to three years. And the government will introduce legislation to establish in our law the significant alterations which it has been able to achieve with respect to the powers and functions of this Legislature and Executive over the last four years.

ECONOMY

While my Government is disturbed by present economic conditions, it is pleased that its policies did contribute significantly to a strong

Yukon economy during 1981. The Territory has therefore entered the more difficult economic climate (which it must share with the rest of Canada) with a relatively stable economy. The Government notes, for example, that average weekly earnings for November 1981 were 28.5 percent higher than earnings in November 1980 and that the earnings were 49.8 per cent higher than the Canadian average.

Employment in December 1981 stood 25 per cent higher than the figure for December 1980. Employment was higher at the end of 1981 in every major sector of the economy with the exception of forestry. Even though the value of mineral production was down, mineral exploration was 22 per cent higher in 1981 than in 1980, which was a record year. My Government draws attention to the buoyant year just passed in order to keep the present negative indicators in perspective and because it wishes to share its confidence — based in part on a number of committed construction programs — that present conditions will shortly improve.

Even now, we can look ahead to the impact on our economy of my Government's largest capital budget in history. It is fully 46 per cent larger than the budget for the past year.

In addition, we have identified 44 million dollars which have already been committed for capital investment by the private sector and other governments. There are some clouds in the sky but there also is much cause for optimism.

In three ways, my Government deeply regrets the failure of the Conference of First Ministers on Canada's economic problems. It regrets that the Federal Government's planning did not allow for any form of participation by Yukon. It regrets that the conference did not adequately address the development of megaprojects which are a topic of prime concern to my Government. Finally, it regrets the rigid adherence by the Federal Government to its present harmful economic policies in face of the evidence of hardship which was presented by the provinces without exception.

In the absence of a voice in First Ministers meetings, my Government met with the Federal Minister of State for Economic Development, the Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce, the Minister of Regional Economic Expansion, the Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources, and the Minister of State for Mines as well as the Federal Ministers with special responsibility for Yukon to impress upon them the Territory's special economic needs.

My government is extremely concerned with the recent statement by the Prime Minister of Canada that the principle of co-operative federalism in the conduct of federal provincial relations is dead. Our concern is heightened by present economic conditions. Yukon could only be the loser if the federal government were to follow a principle of increasing centralization at the expense of regional governments.

We believe in, and actively pursue, partnership among all governments in Canada. With this in mind, we are seeking clarification of the Prime Minister's comments, with particular reference to their application to Yukon.

The public should be aware that my government has limited financial capability and regulatory authority to implement fiscal programs which are required to expand our economy. Nevertheless, such initiatives as are available to us will be taken to support our economy.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Legislation will be placed before you to establish the Yukon Heritage Savings and Investment Fund. Initially, the Fund will be supported by revenues accruing from taxes on the Alaska Natural Gas Pipeline. In due course, it is anticipated that additional new sources of revenues may be added.

The Fund will permit the Government of Yukon to undertake economic development on a scale which is impossible at present. When that happens, the government will be in a stronger position to exercise more control over Yukon's affairs and to influence our economic climate. The fund will provide our citizens with a tangible and lasting benefit from the pipeline project. Once the Yukon Indian Land Claim is settled, the fund could also provide a mechanism whereby joint ventures might be undertaken with co-operation among the Indian community, the private sector, and the Government of Yukon.

Negotiations are nearing completion for the transfer from Ottawa to

Yukon of a Small Business Loan Fund. Legislation required to transfer the program will be brought before you. The program will provide loans and loan guarantees at rates below those available at chartered banks. This program is expected to provide a positive stimulus to the business community hard hit by the federal government high interest rate policy.

My government is negotiating a new Special ARDA agreement to replace the present agreement expiring on March 31 under which a total of 1.4 million dollars was available for 29 projects. We are proposing under the new agreement that financial assistance be made available to all Yukoners outside our major centres.

As its continuing support of the private sector in the tourist industry, my government has allocated 1.4 million dollars for the next two years, including visitor centres at Watson Lake and Carcross.

The aggressive joint marketing tourist program with Alaska has been highly successful; it will be maintained and strengthened.

My government's vision for the future includes the maintenance of the railway and extension north from Whitehorse into the Ross River area. The government this month made the last payment, 500,000 dollars, of a one million dollar loan which it provided in a program of support for the White Pass and Yukon Railway.

⁰⁶ Last spring, when members approved the *Municipal Finance Ordinance*, the government stated its intention to strengthen local government by providing a substantial increase in funding. You will be asked to approve an increase of almost one million dollars — a 34 per cent rise — in funds which will be available to help the economies of our communities. We believe that strengthening local government is essential to the growth of responsible government.

My government is gravely concerned about energy prices and supply. It welcomes the long-delayed recent federal announcement about construction of the fourth turbine at Whitehorse.

Nevertheless this essential project is no substitute for a comprehensive energy program whose purpose is the provision of power supplies at competitive rates to meet the present and future needs of industry and consumers throughout Yukon. We will continue to press strongly for further action by the Government of Canada.

Meanwhile, we are successfully encouraging energy conservation. Our Energy Conservation Incentive Program has resulted in net savings of 1,300 dollars per audit. As well, more than 727,000 dollars in fuel costs have been saved.

Planning is proceeding well for the implementation of the government's policy of establishing, assisting and encouraging a viable and economic agriculture industry suited to Yukon's special needs and conditions. Details of progress will be made available to members.

Legislation will be introduced to establish limited partnerships in law, thereby opening a new channel for residents outside Yukon to invest in the territory.

The Department of Highways plans to apply bituminous surface treatment to 272 kilometers of highways and reconstruction work is planned on several highways this year.

My government will make a presentation to the Senate Pipeline Committee studying hydrocarbon development in the Beaufort Sea.

LAND SALE

My government is planning to sell 96 recreational lots at Tagish Lake. The sale will be by lottery, providing all interested with a fair opportunity to purchase a lot. The average price of lots is about 1,200 dollars and the sale will be held in early spring.

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RESOURCES

The future of Yukon ultimately rests on the quality of its people. We must invest fully, therefore, in the education of our young people so that they will have the increasingly varied and complex skills necessary to continue to build Yukon. You will be asked to amend the *Students' Financial Assistance Ordinance* to help a larger number of Yukoners obtain post-secondary education at Canadian colleges and universities. Amendments will also provide increases in the order of upwards of 50 per cent to cover tuition, books and cost-of-living expenses incurred during academic terms.

The Department of Education will provide increased funding for the Native Language Program as it implements the governments determination to strengthen the program.

⁰⁷ My government is committed to fostering the independence of Yukon's senior citizens while recognizing their continuing valuable contributions of talent, experience and skill. To this end, two new programs will be introduced. We will implement a Yukon Income Supplement Plan to provide a varying sum of up to one hundred dollars a month to those citizens in receipt of the Federal Guaranteed Income Supplement. We also plan to implement an Extended Health Benefits Plan which will provide certain services, not covered under existing schemes, free of cost to senior citizens.

To ease the impact of rising utility costs for senior citizens, the Pioneer Utility Grant will be raised substantially.

The Yukon Housing Corporation is contemplating construction of a senior citizen's apartment building.

Problems related to alcohol continue to plague our communities and cause deep concern to my government in terms of human suffering and waste. The operating grant to Crossroads Treatment Centre will be increased substantially for the purpose of improving and extending the programs which the centre can make available to those in need of treatment. At the same time, increased emphasis will be placed on community alcohol programs.

You will be asked to amend the *Motor Vehicles Ordinance* in order to provide the courts with authority to deal more harshly with alcohol-impaired drivers. The amendment will require jail terms for all those convicted of driving with a blood count over the allowable limit.

In recognition of the problems arising from the increasing number of rental mobile homes, amendments will be introduced to bring those homes under the *Landlord and Tenant Ordinance*. The government proposes to strengthen the statute in several ways. One way is by establishment of an officer who may investigate and mediate disputes between tenants and landlords. A second way is by more precisely defining the rights of tenants and landlords.

My government will propose major alterations to make our system of Workers' Compensation more equitable. Under the most basic change, pensions will no longer be based on clinical evaluations of disablement in percentage terms because that approach to the problem has been inequitable. It overcompensated some and undercompensated others. Instead, there will be a two-phase approach. In the first phase, a lump sum will be paid relating to the severity of the handicap and regardless of the actual earnings impairment. In the second phase, actual earning power will be reviewed annually and compensation will be based on the actual loss resulting from injury.

My government has demonstrated its commitment to meeting the need for day care services which has resulted from the increased involvement of women in the work force and the growth of single parent families. The program of financial assistance which was undertaken last year has proven successful. The government's commitment will be maintained and greater efforts will be made to ensure that citizens are aware of the program's benefits.

The benefits of the government's buy-back housing plan for employees will be extended to municipalities so that their employees will also have the same measure of security as the government's employees.

A discussion paper on heritage resources legislation will be tabled during the session with the intention of stimulating public discussion on the question of protection and interpretation of our heritage.

CONSTITUTIONAL DEVELOPMENT

My government will place before you three statutes which will be within your legislative competence and which do not offend upon the Yukon Act of the Parliament of Canada, for the following purposes:

1. An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act will more accurately reflect our existing legislative reality by providing that statutes are henceforth known as acts rather than ordinances. Ordinance is a word indelibly associated with the previous form of appointive

executive council and committee.

2. An Act to Amend the Yukon Council Act will establish in our law the existing reality of this council as an elected Legislative Assembly of Yukon.

3. An Executive Council Act will establish in our law the reality of the Executive Council and its power.

These legislative changes, which you will be asked to approve, relate to existing powers which derive from Yukon statutes. Together, they constitute another stage, one of consolidation, in the continuing evolution of Yukon toward Responsible Government subsequent to and in accordance with the Federal Letter of Instruction to the Commissioner (1979).

My government will continue to press the federal government for the transfer of responsibilities which would be more appropriately answerable to this assembly.

After repeated delays in Ottawa, there is reason to believe the transfer of recreational lots will occur soon. When that happens, Yukoners will have the opportunity to purchase their leased lots at an attractive price based on 29 per cent of assessed land value.

My government shares the relief of all Canadians in the resolution of most of our country's constitutional differences. We look forward to the imminent visit of Her Majesty the Queen and the beginning of a new chapter in our national history.

We look forward equally and with commitment to participating in the conference of First Ministers to complete our constitutional accord by defining and entrenching the rights of our aboriginal people.

My Government is honoured to serve the people of Yukon at this challenging time in their history.

May divine providence attend your deliberations.

I thank you in our sovereign's name. God bless Canada.

Mr. Commissioner leaves the Chamber escorted by his Aides-de-Camp

⁰⁹

Mr. Speaker: Before I call the House to Order today, it gives me a great deal of pleasure to invite all those assembled in the public gallery to join with the Members of the Assembly, following these proceedings, for tea in the lower cafeteria.

I will now call the House to Order.

We will proceed at this time with Prayers.

Prayers

Mr. Speaker: I would at this time like to introduce to you the pages who will be serving the House at this session. From the G.A. Jeckell Junior Secondary School. Stacey Darling, Verena Hardtke, Shirley Hill, Cathy Mackill, Judy Pollock, and David Wallace. I would invite our pages to attend the service of the House at this time.

In addition to the pages who have now been introduced, we will have on Monday afternoons, during this session, from the St. Elias Community School, also serving the House, Happy Brewster, Deveron Hurlburt, Sandra Johnston and Gwen Watson. I am sure all Members of the House would join me in wishing them a welcome at this time.

Applause

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 1: First Reading

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Human Resources 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 Health and Human Resources 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: At this time I beg to inform the House that in order to prevent mistakes, I have obtained a copy of the Speech from the Throne, which I will now lay on the Table.

MOTIONS

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I move, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Human Resources, 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 Health and Human Resources, that the Speech from the Throne be considered on a day following.

Motion agreed to.

NOTICES OF MOTION

Hon. Mr. Pearson: I would like to give Notice of Motion, moved by myself, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Human Resources, that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Health and Human Resources that this House approves in general the budgetary policy of the government.

*Motion agreed to.**

Hon. Mr. Lang: I move, seconded by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs that the House do now adjourn.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Minister of Economic Development, seconded by the Honourable Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs that the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to.

The House adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

*CLERK'S NOTE:

In fact, the question should not have been put and is deemed not to have been put.

The following Sessional Paper was tabled March 24, 1982:

82-5-1

Speech from the Throne

