



# The Yukon Legislative Assembly

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Number 1

3rd Session

26th Legislature

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## **HANSARD**

**Thursday, March 13, 1986 — 3:00 p.m.**

(Including Prorogation of the Second Session of  
the 26th Legislature, at 1:30 p.m., March 13, 1986)

Speaker: The Honourable Sam Johnston

# Yukon Legislative Assembly

SPEAKER — Honourable Sam Johnston, MLA, Campbell

DEPUTY SPEAKER — Art Webster, MLA, Klondike

## CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
Hon. Tony Penkett	Whitehorse West	Government Leader. Minister responsible for: Executive Council Office; Finance; Economic Development, Mines and Small Business; Public Service Commission
Hon. Dave Porter	Watson Lake	Government House Leader. Minister responsible for: Tourism; Renewable Resources.
Hon. Roger Kimmerly	Whitehorse South Centre	Minister responsible for: Justice; Government Services.
Hon. Piers McDonald	Mayo	Minister responsible for: Education; Community and Transportation Services.
Hon. Margaret Joe	Whitehorse North Centre	Minister responsible for: Health and Human Resources; Women's Bureau.

## GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

### New Democratic Party

Sam Johnston	Campbell
Norma Kassl	Old Crow
Art Webster	Klondike

## OPPOSITION MEMBERS

### Progressive Conservative

Willard Phelps	Leader of the Official Opposition Hootalinqua
Bill Brewster	Kluane
Bea Firth	Whitehorse Riverdale South
Dan Lang	Whitehorse Porter Creek East
Alan Nordling	Whitehorse Porter Creek West
Doug Phillips	Whitehorse Riverdale North

### Liberal

Roger Coles	Liberal Leader Tatchun
James McLachlan	Faro

## LEGISLATIVE STAFF

Clerk of the Assembly	Patrick L. Michael
Clerk Assistant (Legislative)	Missy Follwell
Clerk Assistant (Administrative)	Jane Steele
Sergeant-at-Arms	G.I. Cameron
Hansard Administrator	Dave Robertson

<sup>01</sup> **Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**Thursday, March 13, 1986 — 1:30 p.m.**

**Speaker:** I will call the House to order. At this time we will proceed with prayers.

*Prayers*

**Speaker:** I wish to inform the Assembly that I have received, from the Chief Electoral Officer, a letter which I will table respecting the By-election held in the electoral district of Whitehorse Porter Creek West on February 10, 1986. The letter reads as follows, "The death on September 13, 1985 of Andy Philipson, the elected member for the electoral district of Whitehorse Porter Creek West caused a vacancy to occur in the Legislative Assembly. A writ calling for a By-election to fill the vacancy was issued on January 10, 1986, polling day being February 10, 1986.

"From the writ now returned to me I hereby certify the election of Alan Nordling as the Member to represent the electoral district of Whitehorse Porter Creek West in the Legislative Assembly.

"Yours sincerely, Patrick L. Michael, Chief Electoral Officer."

**Mr. Phelps:** I have the honour to present to you Alan Nordling, Member for the electoral district of Whitehorse Porter Creek West, who has taken the required Oath and now claims the right to take his seat.

**Speaker:** The Member may now take his seat.

*Applause*

<sup>02</sup> **Hon. Mr. Porter:** I would like to inform the House of the agreement that has been reached between the House Leaders as to the business which will take place at this sitting prior to the prorogation of the Second Session. It has been agreed that we should proceed with the presentation of Committee Reports, following which we will deal with the motion concurring in the report of the Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments on Bill No. 42, *Revised Statutes Act*.

Once the Motion of Concurrence has received the approval of the House, Third Reading of Bill No. 42 will be called. Following the passage of Bill No. 42, the Commissioner will be requested to grant assent to the Bill, and the House will then be prorogued.

I would now request the unanimous consent of the House to proceed in this manner, and specifically to waive those Standing Orders which require notice for the Motion of Concurrence and which require that there be a delay of one sitting day prior to giving Third Reading to a Bill which has been amended.

**Speaker:** Is there unanimous consent?

**Some Members:** Agreed.

**Speaker:** There is unanimous consent.

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Speaker:** I will now call for Reports of Committees.

## PRESENTING REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

### Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

**Mr. Phelps:** I have for tabling for the information of the House the report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, which was prepared during the life of the Twenty-fifth Legislative Assembly and adopted by the committee established by the Twenty-sixth Legislative Assembly.

### Report of the Select Committee on Human Rights

**Ms Kassi:** I have for tabling the report of the Select Committee on Human Rights.

### Report of the Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments

**Mr. Coles:** I have for tabling the report of the Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments on Bill No. 42, *Revised Statutes Act*.

## MOTIONS RESPECTING COMMITTEE REPORTS

**Mr. Coles:** I move that the report of the Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments on Bill No. 42, *Revised Statutes Act*, be concurred in.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Member for Tatchun that the report for Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments on Bill No. 42, *Revised Statutes Act*, be concurred in.

*Motion No. 32 agreed to*

## GOVERNMENT BILLS

### Bill No. 42: Third Reading

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** I move that Bill 42, entitled *Revised Statutes Act*, be now read a third time and do pass.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Minister of Justice that Bill No. 42, entitled *Revised Statutes Act*, be now read a third time and do pass. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

**Speaker:** I declare the motion carried and that Bill No. 42 has passed this House.

I wish to inform the Assembly that we will now receive the Commissioner to grant assent to the Bill which has passed this House.

## Commissioner Bell enters the Chambers

## ASSENT TO BILL

**Speaker:** Mr. Commissioner, the Assembly has at its present Session passed a Bill to which in the name of and on behalf of the Assembly I respectfully request your assent.

**Mr Clerk:** *Revised Statutes Act.*

**Commissioner Bell:** I hereby assent to the Bill as enumerated by the Clerk.

## Commissioner Bell leaves the Chambers

**Mr. Clerk:** It is the will and pleasure of the Commissioner that this Assembly be prorogued until three o'clock in the afternoon on this day and this Assembly is accordingly prorogued.

*The House prorogued at 1:40 p.m.*

## The following Sessional Papers were tabled March 13, 1986:

86-2-16

Letter from Chief Electoral Officer to Speaker re election of Alan Nordling as Member for Whitehorse Porter Creek West (Johnston - Speaker)

86-2-17

Sixth Report of the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (1985) (Phelps)

86-2-18

Report of the Select Committee on Human Rights (Kassi)

86-2-19

Report of the Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments on Bill Number 42, Revised Statutes Act (Coles)



**Whitehorse, Yukon**

Thursday, March 13, 1986 — 3:00 p.m.

**THE THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE YUKON CONVENED IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AT 3:00 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MARCH 13, 1986**

**Speaker:** I have received a communication from the Commissioner in his capacity of Lieutenant-Governor stating that he will open this Session at 3:00 p.m. today, Thursday, the 13th day of March, 1986.

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

**Commissioner Doug Bell enters the Chambers accompanied by his Aides-de-Camp**

**SPEECH FROM THE THRONE**

**Mr. Commissioner:** Please be seated.

<sup>06</sup> Mr. Speaker and Members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you to the Third Session of the Twenty-Sixth Legislature of the Yukon Territory.

This year Yukoners will present their view of themselves to the world. Expo '86 will display our efforts to create a pavilion which will show other Canadians and the rest of the world how we view our past and present and what vision we hold for our future. The territory's history is a unique one that has fashioned Yukoners from Whitehorse to Old Crow and from Beaver Creek to Watson Lake into a rich tapestry of cultures and lifestyles.

Next week, the Ninth Arctic Winter Games opens in Whitehorse. It is an event that recognizes the special relationship we share with our northern neighbours. These games will allow us to celebrate the identity of these northern jurisdictions and reaffirm our bonds in friendly competition where the best of each is tested. We are pleased to extend our hospitality to our friends from Alaska, the Northwest Territories, Alberta and Quebec.

Last November, our Government Leader traveled to the Far East to restore confidence in the Yukon's ability to participate competitively in world metal markets. As a part of the government's efforts to revive the Yukon's mining industry, this trip represented the first initiative by a Yukon Minister to meet with representatives from some of the Pacific Rim's leading corporations and potential customers for Yukon minerals. The trip was successful; our leader affirmed the continuing viability of Yukon mineral production and this government's willingness to help maintain the health of the industry through a period of low market prices and increasing production costs. It also demonstrated that we can more aggressively market Yukon products. To exploit these new opportunities, the government will examine the potential for future trade missions.

This commitment to our economic well-being was also demonstrated two weeks ago, when our Government Leader traveled with the Honourable David Crombie, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, to celebrate the re-opening of the mine at Faro. Together, these trips mark a new spirit of cooperation between government and industry and the economic progress that is resulting as we all work together.

Nineteen-eighty-six is a year of great promise for the Yukon. From the Yukon pavilion at Expo to the mine at Faro there is much for which we have worked and much of which we can be proud. Our economic forecast suggests that the Yukon economy could show real annual growth of five to six percent in 1986 and 1987. We are also confident that employment will continue to rise during this period. To further this recovery, our government will continue to implement its economic agenda.

Last fall I described a vision of a far better economic future — an economy that is more diversified, more stable, more self-sufficient, and more locally controlled. We continue to believe that only through economic diversification by sector and by region can we assure the stable economic base needed to truly enrich the lives of

all Yukon residents. We know that if we can expand economic opportunities we can do much to improve the quality of life for Yukoners in all regions of the territory.

To achieve this, our government continues to direct its economic and social programs and policies towards five basic goals:

- 1) targeted job creation;
- 2) economic diversification with local control;
- 3) open and accountable government;
- 4) equality of opportunity; and
- 5) improving the quality of life for all Yukon residents.

We believe our economic and social futures are firmly linked, that thoughtful economic development is the means whereby we can improve the living conditions of all Yukoners. We are proud that our starting point is the recognition of a sense of equality, a sense of community, and a sense of well-being, and that our economic strategies are helping to achieve these goals. These are the founding principles of economic democracy; all people must have the opportunity to participate in the economic structures and processes that affect their lives. Despite its imperfections, democratic choice, when it is allowed expression, best reflects people's needs and desires. Economic democracy allows all citizens to contribute to the well-being of their society while sharing in the economic and social benefits that attach themselves to a diverse range of development initiatives.

<sup>07</sup> It remains our belief that everyone in our society should have the right of access to, and use of, the goods produced by our economy, and thus we intend to continue striving for an economy based on justice. Our economic direction will continue to be informed by a moral vision that acknowledges the problems created in many of our communities when development has ignored their concerns and interests.

Honourable Members, our government is acting to prevent economic hardship and to overcome the Yukon's social and regional disparities by increasing the participation of Yukon residents in the economic life of the territory. We will do this through support for the evolution of local government, through a territory-wide training strategy, through a positive employment program, and through a Yukon hire policy. The government is working towards a Yukon development strategy that will involve all sectors of our economy in creating a long-range plan that will guide the territory's economic development into the next century. This strategy will be based on the Yukon's increased political and economic self-reliance. This means promoting the local manufacture of our natural resources as finished products and the increasing use of local labour to provide local services. As well, it means working with our communities to help them meet their own economic needs.

In summary, job creation, economic diversification, economic self-reliance, community control, equality of opportunity, and quality of life are the basic goals of the economic and social agenda I will outline today.

**Job Creation**

In times of economic hardship, government has the duty to act quickly. When this government took office, the Yukon was in a severe recession with nearly 2,000 workers on the unemployment rolls. We believe that at a time when so many of our citizens could not find work, we were obligated to draw upon our resources and cash reserves to stimulate job creation.

Twenty-five million dollars was immediately added to the current capital budget. This has created work and improved facilities in every Yukon community, from a health services centre in Carcross to a school gym in Elsa to sewer and water services in Old Crow.

We also created the Local Employment Opportunities Program. This \$2 million fund was made available to community groups for capital works projects of their choosing that would create the most work for local people. I am happy to report that this program has been very successful. Almost every community has participated and benefitted. More than 2,000 weeks of work were created over the winter, on projects ranging from community hall renovations in Haines Junction to a Band hall addition in Ross River to recreation facilities in Watson Lake.

To create even more jobs we have reviewed plans for Yukon College to increase the use of local materials and local labour. For example, we are encouraging the establishment of a laminated beam plant, which would create additional jobs through linkages between the construction, logging, and transportation sectors.

Changes in funding to local government will also result in new jobs in our communities. Capital block funding to communities should ensure that local businesses, labour, and materials are used to maximum capacity.

Honourable Members, one of our economic tools for short- and long-range job creation is the Economic Development Agreement. To further encourage and support new economic initiatives, this government is reviewing the rules and the appraisal process governing the EDA funding. In the past, this agreement has created some confusion for applicants because it is managed by four government departments. The responsible territorial ministers have agreed to create one joint agency, an EDA secretariat. This, like our other economic programs, will be available in one spot: the new Business Development Office. This should ensure increased assistance for applicants in developing their proposals. We are also undertaking a similar review of the Special Agricultural and Rural Development Agreement to make it more responsive to community needs.

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### **Yukon Development Strategy**

At the same time that the government is working diligently on the territory's most pressing need — the creation of more jobs for Yukoners — it recognizes the need for thoughtful, responsible long-term economic planning that will strengthen the economic and social bases of our communities. Thus, as promised, the government over the winter has created the framework of a Yukon Development Strategy and begun working out the details for its implementation.

The goal of the strategy is nothing more nor less than the enrichment of the Yukon. We believe the key is economic diversification, both by sector and by region, that is sensitive to the needs and aspirations of our various communities. While we recognize the continuing contributions of mining, tourism, and government to our economy, we are eager to develop in other areas: in forestry, in manufacturing, in food production, in energy production, and in renewable resource development.

As this diversification broadens and stabilizes our economic base we will become increasingly self-sufficient. For too long we have imported almost everything we use and exported almost everything we produce. This winter the Minister of Economic Development commissioned a study to identify what imported goods could be replaced by local goods. As part of this study, a workshop with local purchasing agents and suppliers will help us to determine what commodities can be produced locally. We are sure this consultation will yield valuable insights, and we look forward to the recommendations that result.

Honourable Members, I am also pleased to announce that this spring our ministers will be holding an economic forum with leaders from the different economic sectors and communities of the Yukon. The goals and objectives which arise from this will be incorporated into our economic planning process. The results will then be circulated for public review and comment. Together we will explore ideas to develop industries based on the strongest resources of each region of the territory. The final result will be an economic strategy that is comprehensive, responsible, practical, and, above all, economically democratic.

### **Local Manufacturing**

This government believes that diversification will lead to more projects such as the manufacture of local furniture commissioned last fall. As the Honourable Members will recall, a display of this furniture in the foyer of this building was especially well received by the public. We were able to create work for our local craft shops and obtain a superior product at a lower cost than imported goods. Because we can create local jobs, keep our tax dollars in the

Yukon, and get better value for those tax dollars, this government is committed to spending more of its \$500,000 annual furniture budget in the Yukon for Yukon products. With imagination and determination, we are creating opportunities where none existed before.

On a larger scale we have been negotiating with the federal government a new Small Business Incentives Sub-Agreement, worth \$4.6 million, to provide a new source of funding for manufacturing and processing activities in the Yukon. This means a more mature economy in areas such as forestry and agriculture. This low-interest loan program will fill a serious gap in the existing Economic Development Agreement.

### **Renewable Resources**

One of the Yukon's best prospects for economic diversification is the development of its renewable resources — such as its forests, fish, fur, and hydro — to bring them more into balance with its non-renewable resource sectors. Because these valuable resources exist throughout the Yukon, they hold great promise for our rural communities. Currently, projects valued at well over \$500,000, which encourage aquaculture, elk ranching, forestry, fur marketing, outdoor tourism, greenhousing, egg production, and sod production, are under way in Haines Junction, Dawson City, Mayo, and other Yukon communities. Our government will continue to encourage Yukoners, especially in the rural communities, to pursue these opportunities.

This winter the Minister of Renewable Resources released a green paper to promote public discussion of the use of our renewable resources. This was followed by the series of public hearings by the Select Committee on Renewable Resources recently completed in all Yukon communities. We look forward to receiving its recommendations.

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### **Agriculture**

Every year Yukoners spend \$40 million on food. Most of those dollars go outside the territory for imports. We are exporting not just dollars, but jobs — the very basis of our viability as a community. Thus, in the coming budget year, the Minister of Renewable Resources will establish a separate agriculture branch with a mandate to consolidate and expand the support offered by this government to Yukon agriculture.

To begin preparing the way for agricultural development, the Minister has commissioned a local study on potential conflicts between wildlife management, trapping, and forestry. Here, as elsewhere, we are committed to consultation and careful planning.

Despite the Yukon's climate, which presents a formidable challenge for agriculture, a number of innovative approaches are possible. Game farming, as it is practiced elsewhere, is another way we in the Yukon could diversify our agricultural base. Our officials have examined and been impressed by successful operations in other sub-arctic regions. We have, therefore, commissioned a study on the farming of wild game species, and we will soon be receiving its recommendations.

### **Forestry**

Our government remains committed to the use of more local materials and more local labour in the construction industry. We believe government can play a vital role both as the major builder in the territory and as the promoter of our forest resources. In communities such as Watson Lake the well-planned development of the forest industry can bring together several elements in the regional economy: resource development, local manufacturing, construction, transportation, and energy generation. For example, as already mentioned, we are designing Yukon College so that it makes greater use of local wood products. At the same time, we are working with the private sector to expand the production of saw lumber and to establish a kiln and a laminated beam plant. To aid development in this important sector our government has provided core funding to the Yukon Forest Association and is now working

with it to identify new ways to expand the use of our forest resources.

### Wildlife

Recognizing the importance of wildlife to our traditional economy and to our economic diversification, this government is taking steps to improve game management. As I have already mentioned, studies of game farming and of potential conflicts between forestry, trapping, and agriculture are already under way. Also, the Minister has held public meetings in Whitehorse and Ross River and met with the Wildlife Advisory Committee. Based on this consultation, he has made three decisions about predator management. Firstly, the program will continue with the Findlayson caribou herd on a limited basis. Secondly, predator control in Southwest Yukon is suspended. Thirdly, a final decision on overall predator control policy will await the report of the Select Committee on Renewable Resources.

Our government is also working with user and interest groups to protect some 800 Yukon trappers against the growing anti-fur lobby. We are working to publicly reaffirm the economic and social importance of trapping to Yukon communities such as Ross River and Old Crow. Recently, the Minister attended the meeting of Indigenous Survival International to represent Yukon trappers, and he informs me that the next meeting will be held in the Yukon.

### Fisheries

Fisheries, too, are not only vital to subsistence lifestyles in our communities but also offer opportunities for sound commercial development. In conjunction with user and interest groups, the government has developed a position for Canada/U.S. negotiations on the Yukon River section of the Pacific Salmon Treaty signed last year. Quite simply, our position is that the Yukon, where 40 percent of the salmon are spawned, must get a greater percentage of the Yukon River catch than we now get. These will be difficult negotiations, but we are determined to protect the Yukon's salmon fishery.

Through the Economic Development Agreement the government is encouraging aquaculture projects that will result in more local fish being made commercially available and will contribute to the overall effort to reduce imports.

### Energy

Honourable Members, last fall I mentioned that the largest single loss in the Yukon's overall economic ledger is the estimated \$100 million we spend on energy each year, much of which is for imported petroleum products. To reduce this massive and unproductive cash flow, this government continues to pursue the complementary goals of conserving more energy and developing local energy sources.

I announced last fall the intention to expand the Saving Energy Action Loan Program by raising the loan ceilings from \$1,500 to \$3,000 and by making businesses as well as homes eligible. In fact, we have done even more. For example, to make them more accessible, the Yukon Energy Alternatives Program and the Energy Fund will be available through the new Business Development Offices. With measures like these we can further reduce energy costs, as well as reduce pollution and improve services to rural communities.

Because the government is the largest energy consumer in the Yukon, it is pursuing increased energy efficiency in its own buildings. Thus, cost-effective retrofitting of most existing public buildings will take place over the next five years, and energy conservation has become an integral part of planning new public buildings.

The successful transfer of the Northern Canada Power Commission's Yukon operations to the territorial government will be a major step in gaining control of our energy future. The transfer will enable the government to initiate policies which better reflect local development needs and long-term energy and development

strategies. We will, for example, be able to look at using power rates as a tool for attracting investment to Yukon communities. Because of the importance of this transfer to our energy future, I am pleased to report substantial progress in preliminary negotiations for the transfer which should occur as scheduled within the next year.

### Oil and Gas

Honourable Members, despite the current drop in oil prices, petroleum production from the Beaufort Sea remains a bright prospect. Our Minister of Economic Development recently held meetings with the companies most heavily involved in the North and was assured that they remain committed to their oil and gas operations in the Beaufort.

This government is committed to maximizing the benefits of continued exploration in the Beaufort, where a large number of Yukoners work for Gulf, Esso, and Dome. Yukon will assume an even higher profile in September when the annual Beaufort Industrial Group's Conference and Trade Show is held in Whitehorse. With our support this important event will attract to the Yukon more than 400 delegates from business, government, and various community and interest groups.

Beaufort development is a catalyst for recent statements by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development on resource management and revenue sharing with the territorial governments. This is one of the several program areas in which our government is actively engaged in planning transfers from the federal government.

### Mining

While our Ministers are working hard with people in our communities to open up economic options in forestry, agriculture, energy, wildlife, and manufacturing, we continue to support and expand the two industries — mining and tourism — which are the backbone of the private sector and major employers in many rural communities.

Most substantially, the Mineral Industry Recovery Program is doing much to save the Yukon's largest mine. Our Ministers and officials continue to devote much of their time to the Curragh project in Faro. Nearly 300 workers, most of whom have been hired locally, are now engaged in re-opening the mine. By summer, Curragh's work force will increase to nearly 500, and we will ensure that there are more opportunities for Yukon workers and businesses. We take great pleasure in seeing the town of Faro come to life again and will do everything we can to support its continued existence.

<sup>11</sup> This government is also assisting other mines which are creating jobs in their regions. Earlier this winter, the Mount Skukum Gold Mine began production. It is employing 60 workers and creating as many or more indirect jobs. By rebuilding the Annie Lake Road, this government did its part to make this project viable.

More recently, our Ministers committed \$2.5 million to the new Resource Roads Program. This important initiative is already encouraging joint public and private efforts to build the roads needed for exploration, development and production of local resources such as our minerals and forests. The first beneficiary of the program will be Canamax's Ketz River Gold Mine near Ross River. Together the company and the government have negotiated a development agreement; in exchange for funds to upgrade their access road, Canamax will be working with us to maximize local hiring, training, and business opportunities. Next year, when this mine becomes a reality, it will provide 120 to 150 more jobs in the Yukon.

Two other mining programs will encourage small operators. One million dollars has been budgeted for the new Mineral Exploration Incentives Program. Similar efforts in northern Ontario and Quebec have helped bring closer to production reserves that might not otherwise have been developed. As well, this government is designing its own program to replace the Prospector's Assistance Program dropped by the federal government.

Finally, we are especially pleased to support the initiative of Dawson City and contribute to its first ever gold show, which will

be held this May. These programs show not only this government's faith in mining but also its commitment to consult with industry.

### Tourism

In the past few years tourism has offered us an excellent example of the value of diversifying our economy. When slumping world metal markets drastically reduced the output of our major industry, we put more and more effort into developing tourism. This government will continue to support these efforts in different regions with a comprehensive tourism strategy to be developed this year in cooperation with the industry.

In addition to our major efforts for Expo '86, we will encourage the expansion of those facets of the industry which emphasize our particular strengths: our unique heritage and culture, as well as our magnificent wilderness. This will be reflected within our own programs and in initiatives of the Minister with his counterparts across Canada. To this end, we have joined the new national Advertising Council on Tourism to coordinate international advertising efforts, and we will be participating in an interjurisdictional task force on tourism and culture.

### Small Business

Economic diversification will create many opportunities throughout the territory. Indeed, we are taking several steps to ensure that our small businesses will be able to fully benefit from this diversification as it occurs.

We are, for example, building on the success of the Business Development Office in downtown Whitehorse by opening regional offices in Dawson City and Watson Lake. Entrepreneurs in these areas will no longer have to travel to Whitehorse to get business information and assistance. If these new offices prove successful, the program could be expanded to the Haines Junction-Beaver Creek and Faro-Ross River areas. Access to all government business programs will be offered through these one-window community agencies. The professionals who staff these offices will not be just processors of application forms; rather, they will travel frequently to the communities in their regions and actively encourage new business.

Most small businesses are members of trade organizations in their fields. This government is constantly seeking the collective knowledge of these associations. To enable organizations like the Chamber of Commerce and the Yukon Forest Association to provide independent assessments both to their members and to government agencies, we will be providing them with core funding. By working together in this way we will create more economic opportunities throughout the Yukon.

<sup>12</sup> Our participation in the national planning for free trade talks with the United States reminds us that we must look outward as well as inward. This government believes there are some areas in which Yukoners can and will compete nationally and internationally. To this end, we will support activities in which small business could not otherwise engage. For example, our government will share costs with businesses seeking wider horizons by participating in trade shows within and outside the territory. As well, we will work with the business community in identifying the Yukon's best export products and services. Together we will develop a marketing strategy and then support joint trade missions to launch that strategy.

We recognize that a key to small business expansion is access to venture capital. Recently the Minister of Economic Development commissioned a study on improving access to capital, and he will receive its recommendations soon. This will document the difficulty small business has in financing new ideas and expansion, and it will examine both public and private ways to improve access to capital, especially in under-serviced rural communities. Meanwhile, our government is negotiating the transfer of the Northern Affairs' Small Business Loan Fund to the territory.

Because government contracts are such an important source of work for many businesses throughout the Yukon, they must be tendered and awarded fairly. The Minister of Government Services

has, therefore, consulted with contractors to update archaic and, in some cases, inconsistent practices into one well-defined set of contract directives. This has been approved recently by Cabinet and is now in place.

### Yukon Hire

As the largest employer in the territory, the government is taking the lead in local hire and training, beginning with its own employees. The Public Service Commission will begin offering more training and career programs that will develop employees for specific occupations within the Yukon public service, thereby reducing turnover and the need to hire from outside. It will also ensure that more Yukon public servants possess local knowledge and experience. Training opportunities at the entry level will also do much to help women and Natives achieve their career aspirations within the Yukon.

We have often said in the past that the Yukon public service should be more representative of the public it serves. To make it so will require removing barriers which have kept certain segments of our population from entering or participating equitably within it. Our new Positive Employment Programs are intended to increase the number of Natives and handicapped in our public service and the representation of women throughout all occupations and in management.

Last fall I told the House that the Minister of Education was reviewing all training programs offered in the Yukon, with the goal of creating an overall training strategy to help people in all our communities develop their economic potential. That process is nearly complete, and the government will soon bring forward a white paper on training for the consideration and comments of all interested Yukoners. We intend these new training programs to accurately reflect our overall economic strategy so that Yukoners are training for the future, not the past. During this process we will want to listen carefully to the advice of all those involved in training: to students, to workers, to educators, to employers.

The Positive Employment Programs, more career development training, reduced credentialism for entering the public service, and an overall training strategy together will increase local hiring - a major aspiration of this government.

<sup>13</sup> Another major concern is ensuring more equitable treatment for all Yukon public servants. In particular, this government will soon remedy the discrepancy in benefits and working conditions that exist between casual and permanent employees.

All the elements of this Yukon hire policy — training programs, positive employment, casual reform — as well as the many economic initiatives outlined today, are designed to make our communities better places to work, for those who have not been able to achieve their potential in the past, for those struggling with the challenges of the present, and for those still in school and seeking a future in the Yukon.

### Community Development

Honourable Members, we all know that enriching the quality of life in our communities begins with more local control and better services. The Minister of Community and Transportation Services advises me that he and his colleagues have created or improved several programs to achieve these objectives.

A major goal of this government is capital block funding for each community. A municipal infrastructure inventory and a forecast of needs has already been done. Based on this we have developed alternative funding formulas to provide directly to community councils the money that is now allocated by the government. We are consulting with individual communities and the Association of Yukon Communities to obtain consensus on the best funding arrangements, which we plan to have in place for the fall capital budget. This will enable communities to plan their own capital programs as early as the 1987-88 fiscal year.

As well, the *Municipal General Purposes Loans Act* will be amended to allow municipalities greater scope in obtaining capital financing.



As local responsibilities increase, communities will need more skilled personnel to plan and manage their services. To assist and encourage this, the Minister of Education is committed to developing a series of courses in community administration for both municipalities and Indian Bands.

To narrow the disparities in the levels of municipal services in the territory, this government will begin making services available to all communities on the same basis. For example, projects planned for the coming construction season include bituminous surface treatment of streets in the Carcross and Carmacks villages, improvements to the swimming pool in Pelly Crossing, and engineering studies for erosion control in Old Crow and Upper Liard.

We will also begin providing a number of other services to rural communities. Court registry services will be available in Watson Lake and Dawson City. A satellite work camp of the Corrections Branch will be located near Haines Junction. Confidential counselling services, which have existed for years in Whitehorse, will soon be available in rural areas to government employees with personal problems that hinder their work performance. Funding will be made available to help communities hire recreation directors.

In addition to creating the two community Business Development Offices mentioned earlier, this government is decentralizing the services offered by its departments. This summer, the Minister of Education will locate a regional school superintendent in the north Yukon area to better serve the students, parents, and staff in those communities. Yukon College has created a new community learning centre in Old Crow and will establish another one in Haines Junction this year. As well, a third mobile educational unit will provide municipal administrative training in communities that request it. These new college facilities will help meet the growing need and demand for adult education in the territory.

### Devolution

Honourable Members, you are all aware of the potential that the transfer of federal programs holds for your communities. I have already mentioned the transfer of the Northern Canada Power Commission and territorial involvement in resource management and revenue sharing. We are also actively working on forestry and fisheries management, health care, and other programs.

To ensure that our communities can benefit from transfers of these programs, we are creating an Office of Devolution within the Executive Council Office. Here, the devolution coordinator will work with a special program transfer committee created by Cabinet. Its mandate will develop Yukon priorities and a timetable for the transfers of federal programs.

<sup>14</sup> As a result of our Cabinet's recent meeting with the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development in Whitehorse, our two governments will soon come to a mutually agreeable framework for the devolution of programs and jurisdictions. From our point of view, transfers should proceed in a planned and orderly fashion with proper regard for the complex and serious financial, personnel, legal, and other implications for the Yukon.

### Land Claims

The resolution of Yukon Native land claims holds the potential for a new era in the development of our communities. We are proud to report major achievements in beginning a new land claim negotiations process since this House last met.

In December, the Yukon Government and the Council for Yukon Indians signed a memorandum of understanding which sets out a number of important provisions to facilitate the timing and orderly conclusion of negotiations. The federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development has also announced his government's intention to honour the memorandum, pending the results of a national land claims review.

Negotiations began early this year. The new process is built on a cooperative approach for bargaining in good faith and building trust. For the first time the Yukon Government is a full and equal party in negotiations. A new Native regional structure enables

communities to become involved and directly represent their interests in negotiations. These negotiations have been, and will be, held primarily in Yukon communities rather than in Vancouver or Ottawa. Working groups are focusing on specific topics, enabling the negotiations to advance on many fronts at the same time. To illustrate the new cooperative approach, the parties have agreed to hire a coordinator to develop public educational programs about land claims.

Out of this process we expect to see a number of agreements in the coming months. Of greatest interest to all Yukoners will be the development of land transfer policies and processes. The working group I announced last fall has made progress on a land transfer process to meet the immediate needs of people throughout the Yukon.

### Affordable Land and Housing

To meet the many land problems that have developed over the years, the government has created a number of new policies to make land available.

We will bring forward a new program for those people awaiting resolution of their land tenure. In most cases, occupants will be offered legitimate title at a reasonable price. To complement this, the Minister of Community and Transportation Services has announced a policy of affordable land. This will allow settlement in certain unserviced rural areas around communities. Moreover, the government has removed artificial interest charges against unsold lots for which no money was actually borrowed. This will make existing developed land more affordable to Yukoners in many communities.

Finally, an overall land development policy will be put in place to ensure the orderly, timely availability of land suitable for building at reasonable prices. In future, residential areas will be developed with proper testing for drainage and water supply.

For those unable to acquire decent housing on their own, this government is committed to a social housing policy that covers all communities. It is reversing past practices of dismantling public housing and has just commissioned a housing needs analysis.

### Education

At the heart of every community is its schools. In addition to the new community learning centres, mobile units, and training initiatives already mentioned, the Minister of Education is taking several steps to improve our educational system.

To better prepare Yukon students for today's competitive job market, more computer training, Sciences Technology 11, and Communications 12 will be added to the high school curriculum. As well, new learning materials, which better reflect our Yukon heritage and environment are being developed to help students relate their studies to their own lives.

The Honourable Members are aware that Yukon College is making the transition from a vocational school to a community college. It is no longer just part of the school system. The Minister of Education is committed to establishing governance for the college which will ensure that it will be more responsive to its community.

<sup>15</sup> We are developing a policy on distance delivery of adult education services to rural communities. Many programs can be available to provide training to citizens in remote communities who would otherwise not have access to it. Delivery alternatives, their costs, and effectiveness are being researched, and we look forward to receiving the recommendations, which will be made available for public discussion.

### Health Care

The quality of life in our communities is reflected in the health of our citizens. Canada has for decades been a world leader in providing public health care. Although the Yukon was among the last jurisdictions to provide medical insurance, our ministers are determined to improve the extent and quality of coverage.

This year we will include under the Yukon Hospital Insurance Plan a wide range of medical appliances and drugs. Benefits for treatment of chronic diseases and the number of such diseases eligible for coverage will be extended to fill in present service gaps.

To enable our elderly, disabled, and chronically ill to maintain more independent lives, the Minister of Health and Human Resources will introduce a new Home Care Program. This will provide for integrated delivery of such services as home nursing and homemaking, medical social work, and occupational therapy. Long-term care will be coordinated through one agency which will contract homemaking and nursing services to qualified local people. More significantly, home care will reduce the considerable costs for expensive institutional space both within and outside the territory. Moreover, home care will enable people in many communities to live with greater dignity in their own residences.

### Day Care

Honourable Members, a number of programs will support those who are entering or re-entering the work force and require care for their children. The Minister of Health and Human Resources has, therefore, taken a number of steps to improve day care services in the territory. The daycare coordinator's position has been increased to full-time to provide better service both to daycare centres and to clients. The Minister has introduced a new system of subsidy which allows payments to be made to either the individual recipient or to the daycare facility. Additional support measures will be announced during this sitting.

Honourable Members, this government continues to be committed to human rights protection for all Yukoners and will bring new proposals to the House for your consideration.

### Women's Directorate

Last fall I announced the upgrading of the former Women's Bureau into the Women's Directorate. In the coming year the government will continue to give a high priority to the roles and needs of Yukon women. To promote rather than isolate women's concerns, a new Cabinet subcommittee on women's issues has been created. Its goal is the development of a government-wide Plan of Action that will review and make recommendations on policies and programs that affect women. As well, groups and individuals will be consulted on the particular needs of women in each community. The result will be a strong public statement on how economic, social, legal, and gender equality will be advanced in the Yukon.

### Justice

The Minister of Justice is acting to promote a more responsive and accessible justice system, especially for rural communities and for victims of crime.

After consultation with and support from community leaders, the Minister is establishing a 20-person mobile work camp near Haines Junction. Here minimum security inmates will work on projects requested by the community and on trail maintenance in Kluane National Park. These work programs will benefit the community and will not interfere with normal job opportunities or potential earnings of local residents.

Another program to integrate the justice system into community life will be the establishment of a community release centre for inmates making the transition back to normal life. It will extend the long-term day-release program for academic or vocational training, employment, and medical treatment and counselling for alcohol abuse. While still ensuring public safety, it will be used as a bridge between the correctional centre and the community for low-risk inmates to move towards a less institutionalized and crime-free life. As a result, inmates will no longer be abruptly released into the community at the end of their sentences.

<sup>16</sup> As a further step to decentralizing government services to the communities, the Minister will contract qualified local groups and residents to provide bail and probation supervision in communities not served by local probation offices. In addition to creating local

employment, the contracts will benefit communities by providing better supervision of offenders. This will encourage more positive relationships among offenders, the justice system, and community members.

In the past, offenders who could not pay fines were incarcerated. This amounted to being sent to jail for being poor. The Fine Option Program, however, is designed to alleviate this situation. Beginning April 1, those convicted of minor offences will be able to do community service work instead of paying fines.

Many people who come into contact with the justice system are innocent members of the public. A number of programs are aimed at aiding victims and witnesses, as well as encouraging crime prevention. The Victim/Witness Administration Program will assist these people in dealing with the justice system. A coordinator will provide information on adjournments, appearances, and other procedures so that time is not lost needlessly, especially by those who must travel from outside of Whitehorse. Follow-up procedures will inform victims and witnesses of the dispositions of cases in which they were involved.

Further service to the public will be provided through work with community groups such as the Yukon Public Legal Education Association. Facilitation of public knowledge, interest, and involvement in the justice system will be encouraged by providing educational information.

### Family Support and Development

Last summer, our Ministers of Justice and of Health and Human Resources commissioned the Task Force on Family Violence. Its mandate was to investigate a disturbing but difficult to detect phenomenon: the violent abuse of spouses, children and elders. If their findings were disturbing, their recommendations are heartening. Among them was the need for safe houses to provide immediate escape and shelter for victims from violent and potentially harmful situations. I am proud to announce today a pilot project for just such a program. This will assist a community outside Whitehorse in setting up a local shelter service suited to its needs. As well, the safe house program will clearly express community condemnation of family violence and a commitment to assist and support its victims.

The Minister of Health and Human Resources has completed a similar community consultative process to determine the best ways of dealing with young offenders. Again, we have listened carefully to what communities have said and, of equal importance, we will act accordingly. The Minister has identified a need for alternatives to central institutionalization that removes young people from their home communities. Meanwhile, we have signed a cost-sharing agreement with the federal government for provision of services under the federal *Young Offenders Act*. As well, public awareness sessions on the Act are being provided to all grade seven, eight, and nine classes, and additional sessions are planned for next year among other age groups affected by the Act.

### Budgetary Address

Honourable Members, I wish to inform the House that this government's expenditure proposals are intended to enrich our economy and our communities. Our Ministers have set new priorities in their budgets to enable us to build on our traditional economic bases, mining and tourism, while encouraging Yukoners in every region to reach out and diversify in new economic endeavours. As well, this year's budget includes several measures that I have described which will improve the quality of life in our communities.

<sup>17</sup> We shall be asking the House to approve several money bills, including the year-end supplementary expenditures for the fiscal year 1985/86 and supplementary capital expenditures for 1986/87. The Operation and Maintenance budget for 1986/87 will also be introduced at this sitting, with the usual interim supply bill to afford the House every opportunity to examine the government's expenditure plan for the coming fiscal year.

The specific initiatives contained in the estimates will be

addressed in detail in the speeches accompanying their tabling. It is the hope of our Ministers that these discussions will be approached by all Members of this House in a constructive spirit and with the best interests of our citizens in mind.

### Government Bills

Our ministers will be bringing a number of legislative measures before the House, including *Maintenance and Custody Orders Enforcement Act*, *Foreign Arbitral Awards Act*, *An Act to Amend the Public Service Commission Act*, *Students Financial Assistant Act*, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly Act*, *Municipal Infrastructure Act*, *Municipal General Purposes Loan Act*, *An Act to Amend the Compensation for Victims of Crime Act*, *Gaming Commission Act*, *Land Titles Act*, *An Act to Amend the Pawnbrokers and Secondhand Dealers Act*, *An Act to Amend the Coroners Act*, *Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act*, *An Act to Amend the Apprenticeship Training Act*, *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*, *Change of Name Act*, *Gas Burning Devices Act*, *Economic Development Programs Act*, *An Act to Repeal the Cancer Diagnosis Act*, *An Act to Amend the Liquor Act*.

### Conclusion

Honourable Members, I began today by underlining this government's fundamental belief in democracy, in the right of all Yukoners to participate fully and equally in the economic and social future of the territory. More specifically, I outlined how this government has begun to achieve this through its continued pursuit of five basic goals: job creation, economic diversification, accountable government, equality of opportunity, and quality of life. This government is proud of how these initiatives today — such as the Yukon economic development strategy, the Mineral Exploration Incentives Program, the Northern Canada Power Commission transfer, the regional Business Development Offices, Yukon Hire, community capital block funding, and the Home Care Program, to name a few — build on and extend the economic and social programs that I outlined this last fall.

I have shown how these address not only the pressing needs we face today but also how they embrace the common vision we hold of our future. Honourable Members, some months ago I said that if we worked together we could meet the challenges ahead of us. We are working together. Let us continue.

I now take some of your time to personally say farewell in this Assembly, and from this Chair. My time in these Chambers has been far less than yours, but my role is far different from yours. We each represent an integral part of a governing process that is, without question, one of the best in today's world. One need only listen to the world news to fully appreciate that fact.

As with differing roles, there are differing understandings, complicated, in our case, by our neither fish nor fowl status. Nonetheless, it is heartening for me to say that we have, by convention and tradition, begun to establish the very structures and understandings that were developed at the beginnings of this nation. My office — the traditional apolitical, non-partisan head of state — and the government leader — as head of government — are joined together by foundations and beliefs inherent in our unique form of democracy in Canada.

Whether we have succeeded or not remains for history and the Yukon people to judge. I do leave this office with the feeling that we have taken some small, but significant, steps — and in the right direction. We have stumbled a time or two; we shall again. Our Chilkoot, as a territory, are the trials and tribulations of this day and the days to come. Our burdens individually will vary, but collectively are one. Our triumphs will bring us the betterment of our home, this place called the Yukon. One lesson remains clear: the individual matters, it is true, but the system is paramount.

I look back to beginnings out of respect, for what thinking person cannot respect peoples who dwelt on this land century upon century, developing an understanding and love for this land which few of us can hope to achieve. The Kwaday Kwadun, the long ago people: it has a ring about it, a sense of time, an implication of firm roots. The strength of a tree, they say, is in the roots. Perhaps it is

so of a land and its people. We shall then grow tall and straight and strong. The land that nurtured them, and now us, feeds us in new ways. Nonetheless, the land itself remains our strength. Our past is rich. May we have the wisdom to leave an inheritance as rich as we received.

I wish to publicly thank every Yukoner, the members of the media, the many organizations who have adopted us, with a special thanks to the Clerk and the Clerk Assistant and the Members, past and present, of this House for the personal support, encouragement, kindness and love shown to Pearl and to me. May your time here be fulfilling for you but, more important, of value to the Yukon and its people. They deserve no less than your best. May the process continue in the same spirit of cooperation I have received. May your efforts benefit all of the people of this territory and may the process mature step-by-step, carefully, surely and with wisdom, as we grow towards eventual and full partnership in the Canadian Confederation and become, one day, a province of Canada.

The Yukon has been good to me. I will continue to try to return it in kind.

**19 Commissioner Bell leaves the Chambers, accompanied by his Aides-de-Camp**

**Speaker:** I will now call the House to order. At this time, we will begin with Prayers.

*Prayers*

### Introduction of Pages

**Speaker:** It gives me great pleasure to introduce to the House the Pages who will be serving us this Assembly. They are Patrick Anderson, Pat McInroy, Tina Popyk, Tara Sheridan, Kelly Shopland and Tanja Yardley, all from FH Collins High School in Whitehorse. I would invite them to join us at this time.

### INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

#### Bill No. 1: First Reading

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I move that the Bill entitled *An Act to Perpetuate a Certain Ancient Right* be now introduced and read a first time.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the hon. Government Leader that *An Act to Perpetuate an Ancient Right* be now introduced and read a first time.

*Motion agreed to*

### TABLING SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

**Speaker:** I beg to inform the Assembly at this time that in order to prevent mistakes I have obtained a copy of the Speech from the Throne and now will lay it on the table.

**20 Hon. Mr. Penikett:** I move that the Speech from the Throne be considered on a day following.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Government Leader that the Speech from the Throne be considered on a day following. Are you prepared for the question? Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** I wish to inform the House, pursuant to Standing Order No. 26, that consideration of a motion for an address in reply to the Speech from the Throne shall take place on Monday, March 17, 1986.

**Speaker:** May I have your further pleasure?

**Hon. Mr. Porter:** I move that the House do now adjourn.

**Speaker:** It has been moved by the Honourable Government House Leader that the House do now adjourn. Are you agreed?

*Motion agreed to*

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

*The House adjourned at 4:06 p.m.*

**The following Sessional Paper was tabled March 13, 1986:**

86-3-1

Speech from the Throne (Johnston - Speaker)

