



The Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 1

2nd Session

26th Legislature

HANSARD

Tuesday, October 1, 1985 — 3:00 p.m.

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 Kimmery	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.

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New Democratic Party

Sam Johnston	Campbell
Norma Kassi	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
Doug Phillips	Whitehorse Riverdale North

Liberal

Roger Coles	Liberal Leader Tatchun
James McLachlan	Faro

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01 Whitehorse, Yukon

Tuesday, October 1, 1985 — 3:00 p.m.

Speaker: I have received communications from the Commissioner, in his capacity as Lieutenant-Governor, stating that he would open the Session at 3:00 p.m. today, Tuesday, the 1st day of October, 1985.

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

Commissioner Bell enters the Chambers, accompanied by his aides-de-camp

02 Mr. Commissioner: Mr. Speaker and members of the Legislative Assembly, I welcome you to the Second Session of the Twenty-Sixth Legislative Assembly of the Yukon Territory.

In September, Yukoners welcomed with great pride Her Excellency Jeanne Sauve, Governor General of Canada, and the Most Reverend and Right Honourable Robert Runcie, Archbishop of Canterbury. During these visits Yukoners displayed a common pride that transcends differences of belief, race, gender and culture. Our distinguished visitors discovered in the Yukon a people who, despite a climate of economic adversity, are working together to achieve our common aspirations and dreams.

To better understand those dreams and aspirations, our ministers have, since taking office, consulted widely with communities across the territory. They have seen the frustration and anxiety that marks the lives of many Yukoners who have faced economic hardships in the last few years. Our ministers have carefully studied the ideas local people have expressed about rebuilding the economic base of our communities. They have heard local people speak of their desire to re-assert local control over the path of development in their regions. As a result of this consultation, our government will work in partnership with Yukoners to help them meet the challenges that lie before us.

This partnership is one that is rooted in gender, racial and economic equality and in the democratic principle that affords all people the opportunity to participate in the decision making that so profoundly affects our lives. Our government intends to devote itself through the remainder of 1985 and through 1986 to strengthening this partnership to support and enhance the hopes that Yukon men and women hold for their future.

This government recognizes that the future of our community is linked to the future of the larger Canadian community. We are therefore pleased to co-operate with the Government of Canada, particularly in joint efforts which will further promote the economic and political development of our respective jurisdictions.

But we are also northerners and, as such, recognize a special bond with the people of the Northwest Territories and the State of Alaska. We are especially pleased therefore that in Whitehorse this winter the Arctic Winter Games will give us an opportunity to extend our hospitality to our northern neighbours.

Honourable Members, our government will be an open government and it will work with Yukoners from every corner of the territory to build an economy where jobs are plentiful and consistent with the cultural traditions Yukoners embrace. Yukoners are entitled to feel secure and at home in their own land. Our government has already begun to build a Yukon where Yukoners can have faith in the future, faith in an economy that offers employment and security. To do this, Honourable Members, to secure economic prosperity and social and racial equality, we present today a broad range of economic and social programs which, taken together, will do much to ensure a brighter future for all.

The Yukon economy remains in recession. Historically, federal/territorial fiscal relations have come to rest heavily on the contributions of mining to our economy. With the downturn in the mining sector over the last three years our reliance on the federal government has risen accordingly.

In 1984/85 transfers from Ottawa comprised more than 60 percent of the Operations and Maintenance Budget of the Government of Yukon. About 30 percent of all jobs in the Yukon were either

directly provided by the federal government or financed via transfers to the territorial government and local governments. In spite of this support some 3,000 Yukon jobs, largely in the private sector, have been lost over the last three years.

It is our conviction we have relied too heavily on mining and government to provide us with our economic well-being, that we have for too long suffered from the boom and bust cycle that has gripped our economy since the last century. Honourable Members, it is time for our economy to mature. While working to rejuvenate the mining sector, we must diversify. Thus, our government will strive to develop a mixed economy that rests on a partnership between the private and public sectors, between traditional renewable resource users and non-renewable resource users.

Our government recognizes the significant and historic contribution mining has made to our community. We recognize the hardships that have faced small and large mining operations across the territory. Our government is and will remain committed to this important industry. We wish to offer what assistance we can to enhance the viability of the industry through this difficult period of depressed world mineral prices.

Since assuming office, our government has been working tirelessly towards the re-opening of the Cyprus Anvil Mine. We hope to table in the Legislature measures to help secure this important goal. With the adoption of this legislation and the conclusion of the necessary agreements with the Government of Canada and Curragh Resources, the mine will open this month. If we are successful, more than 1,000 direct and indirect jobs for Yukoners will result.

03 Recently our officials reached an understanding with the State of Alaska about the Skagway road. Essential to the future operations of the Cyprus Anvil Mine, the year round operation and maintenance of the road will offer the Yukon new jobs in transportation, further developing the Vancouver-Skagway-Whitehorse corridor. In turn, the development of this corridor will offer the Yukon transportation sector new opportunities in the services it can provide to Beaufort Sea industries.

Under the Canada/Yukon Agreement on Mineral Resources, \$3.9 million has been allocated to three programs prepared in response to industry requests. Through its representation on the management committee, the industry has participated in these budget allocations.

As part of the Geological Mapping Program three projects were undertaken during the summer: geological mapping in the Rancheria area, detailed geological studies in the Keno Hill area, and a mining study in the Whitehorse Copper Belt. Under the Geochemical Surveys Program the field sampling has been completed for the first four mapping areas, and the results should be published early next year. Four projects approved for funding under the Placer Mining Program are just getting underway: a study of the recovery of gold from sluice-boxes, a study of settling pond technology, a study of material handling technology, and a study of the use of flocculants at recycling operations.

As well, through the fuel tax exemption our government has tried to offer some relief to mining operators. In addition, we hope to finance through our capital budget an extensive roads program that will be of support to mining exploration activities.

Honourable Members, we believe that many of these studies will be of long term benefit to the mining industry. We are prepared to actively work with the industry to support its growth even in a period of economic restraint.

Our government is working with Erickson Gold Mines to ensure that the Mount Skukum Gold Mine develops for the maximum benefit of the Yukon. It is anticipated that the mine will enter production in early 1986, with an operations work force of 55 and an annual payroll of \$5 million.

To better serve the needs of mine, residential and recreational traffic in the area, our government is currently upgrading the Annie Lake Road. We believe that with careful management the benefits associated with a development project such as Mount Skukum can flow to a wide range of people.

Currently, the Yukon Government administers four economic development agreements in the areas of renewable resources, mineral resources, tourism and economic development planning.

The total value of these economic development agreements is \$18.7 million which is cost shared by the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, the Department of Regional Industrial Expansion and the Government of Yukon.

Our government will use these agreements to facilitate expansion and diversification of the Yukon economy and to create permanent, stable jobs for Yukoners. In turn this will further improve the opportunities for the people of the Yukon to participate directly in the economic renewal and regional development of the Yukon.

Development that responds to social, environmental, and economic concerns is a priority of this government. Thus, we will work immediately towards the creation of a Yukon Development Strategy. This strategy will provide the means for linking all social and economic activities across the territory in a manner that enhances job creation. The Department of Economic Development has begun to initiate planning with support from the federal government. It will also assist in the diversification of the Yukon's economic base by identifying new economic opportunities in each region of the territory.

As well, under the Yukon Economic Development Agreement, \$670,000 has been allocated for economic planning initiatives. Our government will encourage community planning initiatives which identify local opportunities and resources that will lead to the creation of jobs for people from Whitehorse to Old Crow, from Haines Junction to Watson Lake.

Our government respects the enormous contribution that tourism has made to sustaining our development during these past three years. Indeed, tourism has emerged as the leading private sector contributor to the Yukon economy. But, despite heavy public investment in promoting Yukon attractions, real Yukon income from tourism has dropped up to 25 percent in the last decade.

Honourable Members, we believe that our government can provide the kind of support that will ensure that tourism continues to grow in the Yukon. The Economic Development Agreement provides \$10,000,000 for the development of the Yukon tourism industry.

To date, the Klondike Gold Rush has been the Yukon's main tourist attraction. Our government will continue to support and enhance this mainstay of Yukon tourism; it has, for example, already begun major restoration of the Old Territorial Administration Building in Dawson City. Also, our Minister of Tourism informs me that this fall his department will be initiating a two year inventory of historic sites. This project will allow the government to assess the extent and significance of these sites in the territory for the benefit of Yukoners and our tourist visitors.

Honourable Members, I am pleased to announce that there will be a number of new projects designed specifically to enhance local participation and job creation in community based tourism. These will be introduced in the 1986-87 capital estimates.

This government has also noted with great interest the dramatic growth of the wilderness travel market, a growth expected to increase six-fold over the next twenty years. It is particularly keen to support new initiatives that will help meet this growing market demand.

As well, the native community has much to contribute to tourism in the Yukon. Our government will give full support to the efforts of native people to become more involved in the industry and to work co-operatively with other sectors, thereby increasing benefits to all of us.

The tourism industry offers rural Yukon a new opportunity to participate in the economic life of the territory. Our government supports community based tourism initiatives which encourage the maximum participation of local people and the full use of local resources in development projects. We are, for example, pleased to assist the Champagne/Aishihik Band with the clearing of portions of the historic Dalton Trail so that guided packhorse tours can begin this coming summer.

Our government views the development of our renewable resources as a way to break the boom and bust cycles that have historically dominated Yukon economic life and to pursue a path of sustainable, stable economic development.

The Economic Development Agreement offers \$4.2 million for

the development of renewable resource based activities and demonstration projects.

In particular, our government will support renewable resource development that furthers the participation of rural Yukon in the economic life of the territory. As well, it will provide risk capital for renewable resource ventures which are under-financed or denied financing by southern financial institutions.

To date, our government, in consultation with the federal government, has approved more than \$100,000 for feasibility and pilot development projects under the Renewable Resources Sub-Agreement. Additionally, it will pursue a co-operative arrangement between the Departments of Tourism and Renewable Resources to promote business ventures and job creation in the wildlife viewing and wilderness adventure industry. Environmentally sound use of our wildlife will be a major thrust of this co-operative effort.

As a result of discussions with the Carmacks community, our government has approved construction of a recreation road in the Frenchman-Tatchun area. As well, a contract has been signed with the Carmacks Band to conduct the research necessary for an interpretive history of the area's cultural heritage. These contracts have resulted in Carmacks residents obtaining employment near their home community, and we are looking forward to participating in similar ventures with other Yukon communities.

The future of our renewable resource sectors depends on strengthening traditional activities as well as developing new opportunities in a broad range of areas. It also depends greatly on our ability to link renewable resource economic development with community development.

The link between the social well-being of our rural communities and renewable resource economic activities is particularly evident in the case of the trapping industry. Our government is strongly committed to supporting and defending trapping in the Yukon, both for its social and its economic value.

We will continue to work closely with Yukon trappers in all aspects of their trapline management and harvest. And at the same time, we will strengthen the present and future economic prospects for trapping through our work with groups such as the Government of the Northwest Territories, the Council for Yukon Indians, Indigenous Survival International, and the Fur Institute of Canada. Honourable Members, we do this because we recognize trapping is more than an industry, it is a traditional way of life.

Our government is as aware of the social value of resource harvesting to communities as it is of the economic potential of our renewable resource sectors. In this respect I am pleased to indicate significant progress toward the signing of the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement. This agreement, which will be signed in the near future, will benefit all users of the herd, contribute to co-operative wildlife management in the north, and ensure input by communities like Old Crow to the management of the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

Renewable resource development has the potential to create stable employment and also to provide products and produce now being imported from other regions.

In the case of agriculture, our government is working closely with the agricultural community through the Agricultural Planning Advisory Committee and through programs such as the Economic Development Agreement and our Agricultural Extension Services. Already this year the Economic Development Agreement has provided over \$150,000 in funds for greenhousing and other agricultural feasibility and production projects.

As well, agricultural products legislation is being drafted with input from the agricultural community to provide for produce standards which will provide security to consumers and safeguards for producers. Honourable Members, the Department of Renewable Resources is also co-operating with Agriculture Canada and the Yukon Livestock and Agricultural Association on a new crop development program that will be of a long term benefit to crop and vegetable growers.

Energy represents the single largest expense in our economy. In fact, over \$90 million in energy leaves the Yukon annually. Our government has expressed its concern that the jobs and the spin-off benefits which might go to Yukoners from such massive expendi-

tures are being lost. Our concern over energy is shared, we believe, by Yukoners of all political persuasions.

Therefore, our government will continue to support the energy programs introduced by the previous government, programs which we wholeheartedly supported at the time of their introduction. But we will broaden these programs and make them more effective in promoting energy savings and increased self-reliance for Yukoners. In all of this our goal has been job creation: jobs as a direct result of programs and as a spin-off benefit from reduced energy costs. The Savings Energy Action Loan Program offers \$1,500 interest free loans to upgrade residences. But the program has received only limited public support and our government intends to overhaul the program so it will better meet Yukon needs. We will raise the loan ceiling from \$1,500 to \$3,000, remove much of the red tape currently involved in applying for the loans and open the program to the business community.

By expanding the scope of this program, we hope to double its participation rate and, by doing so, create four times the number of jobs previously created by the program.

As well, the SEAL Program will help us to move towards energy self-reliance. We are a long way from that goal at present, but we can make significant measurable progress by decreasing our energy needs.

We also can make progress by looking for ways to use the Yukon's own energy resources. Our government will continue to support the Yukon Energy Alternative Program, which provides funding for feasibility studies of alternative energy sources.

In addition, we hope to create during this session of the Legislature the Energy Development Fund to develop those alternative sources of energy proven to be economically feasible and labour intensive.

The development of indigenous sources of energy will require appropriate forms of technology: technologies which meet the needs of Yukoners; which rely on renewable, local resources; and which will generate employment in the Yukon. In short, we want small scale technologies which generate economic development and not debt.

The Energy Development Fund will ensure that Yukoners have assistance in implementing those energy projects which are demonstrably feasible and which will help develop a more secure energy future for the Yukon.

Our government, with its numerous public buildings and large transportation fleet, is currently the largest energy consumer in the Yukon. While the Internal Energy Management Program has been compiling data on energy consumption by government, it has historically failed to act in a concerted fashion to reduce energy costs.

The Government of Yukon owns and operates some of the least energy-efficient buildings in the territory. We heat and light these buildings with taxpayers' money and we wish to ensure that tax revenues are spent responsibly in ways which will eventually reduce the tax burden, not increase it.

Each million dollars spent in the Yukon to buy oil produces approximately three jobs. A million dollars spent to reduce oil consumption produces, by comparison, some forty jobs. The same amount of money used to purchase local fuels will produce as many as forty-five jobs here in the Yukon.

By implementing an energy conservation strategy in the public sector, our government will create jobs, stimulate economic development and promote economic diversification.

While this government believes we must reduce our energy consumption, it also believes that the cost of energy, particularly electricity, can and should be lower. In June our government established a new working group to begin negotiations with the federal government to transfer the Northern Canada Power Commission to the Yukon.

Such a transfer would result in greater accountability of the Commission to Yukon regional needs and concerns. This could give Yukoners control over utility regulation, planning and operation. In turn, this would lower energy costs and provide additional incentive for further economic development, particularly local job creation.

The possible transfer of NCPC will require us to venture into an

exciting new area: the creation of a Yukon Crown corporation. This Yukon Development Corporation will be a developmental tool with the capacity to involve itself in partnership with private investors in other major Yukon projects.

The Yukon's unemployment rate continues to remain high with more than 1900 people receiving unemployment insurance and hundreds more employable people on social assistance. This government has stated before and reiterates now, the future of the Yukon is dependent upon the commitment of all our citizens, opportunities for all our communities, skills for all our workers and the initiatives of our small business community.

The Government of Yukon is deeply committed to small business and recognizes that the government can do much to ensure that there is equal opportunity for all of us to share in the wealth and promise that abounds in the Yukon.

This month our government will fulfill an election promise and open the Yukon Business Development Office to assist Yukoners across the territory with their business development initiatives. This office will occupy a store front in downtown Whitehorse and will provide a central one-stop service for clients seeking government assistance with business development.

The service will give Yukoners access to government programs, funding and financial advice thereby ensuring that business initiatives are supported and encouraged. The Business Development Office will also promote local resources and local people in offering assistance to business development projects that will create more jobs for Yukoners.

Honourable Members, our government believes in the skill and energy of local people and the utility and beauty of our local materials.

We are therefore carefully studying ways our government can effectively promote local hire and the use of local materials. As a pilot project local carpenters have been contracted to produce office furniture to determine the feasibility of furniture production in the Yukon.

On July 1, 1985, our government exempted from taxation fuel oil used off-highway for mining, trapping, logging, commercial fishing and hunting. We did this because we believe that the greatest possible tax relief should be afforded those sectors of the economy most in need.

The fuel tax remission order will expire on December 31, 1985. Since the last session, our government has been reviewing tax policy and revenue sources and has determined that this change should be made permanent. To this end, we will introduce legislation to the House. It is our government's conviction that this form of support for economic development in rural Yukon is essential if many resource-based businesses are to remain viable during this period of economic recession.

Our government has set in motion specific program initiatives with a view to job creation over the long term.

Our Minister of Education informs me that his department is developing a comprehensive training strategy intended to promote employment development and training. The lack of such an overall training strategy in the past has created a large gap that has prevented Yukoners from achieving their economic potential.

As well, during this session, our government expects to announce a human resource development agreement with the federal government. The agreement will provide funding that will allow the Yukon to initiate programs which will secure and retain stable employment for our citizens, assist them in making the transition from school or home to the labour market, provide for training and skills development in critically short trades, and establish and enhance employment opportunities within Yukon communities.

Key among these programs is a new one which will provide training and job experience in community supported economic development projects. Also included is a new small business training program which will allow employees in small businesses to obtain much needed skills training in response to changing technology and markets.

In addition to these Canada-Yukon initiatives, our government will introduce a new youth employment and training program to provide work and job experience for the one out of every five

recipients of unemployment insurance who are less than 25 years of age. We believe our youth deserve their chance to contribute to Yukon society. As well, we will continue to support the initiative of small business to retain employees during this continued period of uncertainty by extending the Small Business Job Retention Program for this winter.

Our Minister informs me that the Department of Education is continuing to develop a Yukon-wide community college system. Already the government has moved to provide a new community learning centre in Old Crow. Centres in Haines Junction and Burwash Landing are also planned.

Furthermore, this fall we are undertaking major planning efforts that will enhance the autonomy and accountability of the entire college system. As well, our government is also working on a major new college facility in Whitehorse for 1988, more community learning centres, increased emphasis on distance education and a greater role for Yukoners in making decisions about post secondary education.

In response to the needs of the communities, the Department of Education has developed new programs in community administration, social services, basic electronics and basic home repair. Further efforts will be made this year to expand course offerings to meet the needs and requirements of Yukon communities as expressed through the extensive system of local advisory committees established in conjunction with the community learning centres.

Approximately 85 percent of social assistance clients in 1984/85 were considered employable or potentially employable. In order to promote economic self-sufficiency and social self-determination, our government has approved the expansion of the Yukon Opportunity Plan. By adding a second staff member our government will further support the job counselling, labour market and training information, and job referral services this plan offers. Thus, this service will better facilitate access of employable social assistance recipients to Yukon based employment and training opportunities.

Our Minister of Human Resources has informed me that in order to encourage and facilitate local hire wherever possible, the Department of Health and Human Resources is developing a training program for junior social service staff living and working in communities throughout the Yukon. The program will integrate formal accredited social work and social science courses with on-the-job work experience in departmental operations. This will better prepare local people for social service in their communities as well as ensure that sensitive community needs are better understood.

Honourable Members, during these challenging economic times we must not forget our duty to work for the social as well as the economic wellbeing of our citizens. I have already mentioned that this government is committed to social, racial and gender equality and to the right of Yukoners to participate in their government. To better accomplish this we will be implementing a wide range of social programs.

The protection in Yukon law of our basic human rights has been too long ignored. Our government intends to rectify this by introducing a comprehensive human rights act. This act will set the legal groundwork to stop unjust discrimination in all its forms and promote the rights of individuals in a truly free and democratic society.

On August 5th of this year our government appointed a negotiator who has been given the important task of resuming negotiations with the Government of Canada and the Council for Yukon Indians for a just and equitable settlement of Yukon land claims. Currently all three parties are working on a memorandum of understanding.

Today our government is pleased to advise the House on significant progress at the land claims table with regard to land. The issue of land disposition to Yukon people is a matter this government takes very seriously. We have demonstrated a growing need for land disposition to meet the legitimate needs of all Yukon people. Consequently, we have asked that this delicate question be addressed at the land claims table. We are pleased with developments. The parties have now agreed on two fundamentally important matters related to land.

Our Ministers wish to report that, with the Council for Yukon Indians and the federal government, we have agreed to explore arrangements to transfer land to beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries before a final settlement on all matters is reached. A working group representing all parties has been established to deal with land use problems and to explore arrangements to begin transferring land to all Yukon people including Yukon Indian Bands.

These developments have special significance for those Yukoners desiring access to land for a variety of purposes. Rather than delay access to land until a final agreement can be reached, both beneficiaries and non-beneficiaries will be able to pursue their interests in acquiring lands for hunting, fishing, agricultural, commercial and residential uses.

Honourable Members, it should be noted that it is the stated position of the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development that consultation with Yukon Indian Bands must take place prior to any land transfers. The process referred to does just that.

Our government is pleased to say that the committee has begun its work and we hope to have its recommendations before the end of this year. We stress to the House that this committee represents the parties at the land claims table and will function with full knowledge of ongoing negotiations. However, it is clearly not intended to interfere with those negotiations.

Consequently, all Yukon people will benefit from the results of this process while the important land claims negotiations continue toward final settlement.

Our government hopes to report to the House at the earliest opportunity on positive developments brought forward by the committee.

Recently the Public Service Commission undertook a job classification study of all Yukon government positions below the level of deputy minister. Our government has reviewed the study and its recommendations and is proceeding to implement them.

The introduction of the new classification system will remove wage disparities and artificial barriers to employment. Through a decreased emphasis on educational and professional credentials and an increased emphasis on training and experience, the implementation of the recommendations will improve access for under-employed groups to the public service.

Currently our government is negotiating comparable worth pay schedules with the Public Service Alliance. If we are successful in reaching joint agreement, the Yukon will have the first job classification system in Canada that considers comparative worth. Parallel to the implementation of the Job Evaluation Study, the Public Service Commission has contracted a study to examine affirmative action within the public service. In particular, the study will examine barriers to handicapped persons, women and natives.

In addition, a working group has been established under the chairmanship of our Minister of Justice to examine the issue of local hire.

Honourable Members, our government also recognizes the unfair situation that many casual workers, especially seasonal employees, have had to tolerate. Currently our government has opened discussions with the Public Service Alliance of Canada and the Yukon Government Employees' Union towards the resolution of issues governing the conditions under which casual workers are hired and employed by their government.

In June the Minister of Health and Human Resources and the Minister of Justice jointly announced the creation of the Task Force on Family Violence. This task force is studying many forms of family violence as well as reviewing existing services to victims and correctional programs for offenders. The government hopes that the report of the task force, to be presented later this year, will be a first step towards the eradication of this social injustice.

We recognize that more and more parents need to work and therefore require secure, quality day care for their children. At the same time we recognize that the costs of day care can be crippling, particularly for the less advantaged members of our work force. Honourable Members, our government will increase the maximum monthly amount payable per child to permit full subsidization of day care for lower income Yukoners.

Honourable Members, our government recognizes the important role the Women's Bureau occupies in ensuring that the rights of women are acknowledged and respected. We have introduced significant changes to the bureau and re-established it as the Women's Directorate, directly accountable to the Minister responsible. Two more staff people have been hired on contract to expand the services the Directorate can deliver to Yukon women. As well, a new office has been established to make the directorate and its services more readily available to women.

Our government recognizes that for our youth to participate fully in this society they must have access to quality, relevant education and training. It has already begun to address the concerns many parents have regarding the busing of their children and it is committed to introducing a new school busing program which will more efficiently meet the needs of those students who depend on this service.

To enable parents to participate more fully in the decisions that affect their children's education, our government is committed to clearly defining and revising the power and authority of the school committees and the Education Council of the Yukon. In the coming months the government will begin consultation regarding these committees so that revisions can be instituted as soon as possible.

As well, the government has initiated a number of other measures intended to expand the quality of public education. The French First Language Program has been expanded to Grades 7, 8 and 9; additional teachers have been hired to provide alternative education programming in Mayo and Watson Lake; in the Core French Program, Grades 5 and 6 have been improved with the addition of more French language instructors.

In the field of native language education, the government is committed to greater involvement in native language education and we have committed an additional \$100,000 in 1984/85 to expand the programming at the Native Language Centre. Further enhancement to the service is expected in the coming years.

As well, during this session the government will establish a native education task force with a mandate to investigate the entire realm of native education in Yukon's communities. The results of this task force will be combined with the work of the Sharp Report and other studies to provide a framework for revisions to the education system in the Yukon's rural communities.

Recently our Minister of Health and Human Resources announced the government's intention to proceed with extensive consultations about programs for young offenders. This consultation will focus on the range of options identified in the *Young Offenders Act* for dealing with young people who come into conflict with the law.

Fruitful and informative meetings organized by the Minister have been concluded with a variety of interested groups and individuals including for example, the Diversion Council and Committees, the Education Council, lawyers and judges, the R.C.M.P., Indian people and the Bands. Community visits will begin in October.

Such consultation will give us the opportunity to develop a Young Offenders Program in the Yukon which will truly reflect the special needs of northern youth and northern communities.

In the July session of the Legislature our Minister of Health and Human Resources announced the re-activation of the Community Addictions Program which extends alcohol and drug prevention and counselling services to most Yukon communities.

Recruitment of Addictions Workers is proceeding well for positions in Dawson City, Old Crow, Mayo, Ross River, Carmacks, Teslin, Watson Lake, and Carcross. The Community Addiction Workers will work as members of Health and Human Resources social service teams based in the communities. They will be responsible for developing programs and services which reduce alcohol and drug abuse in the territory.

We are committed to achieving 100 percent Yukon hire for these new job opportunities while accelerating concrete action in the area of alcohol and drug abuse.

Honourable Members, I have already mentioned this government's desire to be open by increasing Yukoners' participation in the decision making that affects their lives. To this end, we support vital, active local government. Our government has moved quickly to extend the terms of municipal councils to three years and to study

the feasibility of block capital funding to municipal governments.

As well, in co-operation with the Association of Yukon Communities, we have established Municipal Awareness Week and promised funding for an executive director for the Association. Such developments will do much to ensure that decisions concerning local development are made locally.

⁹ Honourable Members, I wish to inform the House that the thrust of our expenditure proposals will be toward improving the infra-structure of our communities, including those outside of Whitehorse, which for too long have been neglected in the budgetary process. As well, there will also be initiatives aimed at improving our economic and business environment and the social and educational well-being of our citizens.

We shall be asking the House to approve several money bills including operation and maintenance main estimates and supplementary capital estimates for the current fiscal year and capital main estimates for 1986/87. The capital estimates will reflect that portion of our budgetary review which maximizes local job creation and purchasing that we have completed to date. The specific initiatives contained in the estimates will be addressed in detail in the speeches accompanying their tabling.

These will be the principal objectives of the appropriation bills that we will be discussing in the coming weeks. It is the hope of our Ministers that these discussions will be approached by all Members of this House in the spirit and co-operation and with the best interests of our citizens in mind.

Our government will propose a heavy legislative agenda. In addition to the measures already mentioned amendments will be proposed to many acts including the *Legal Professions Act*, the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*, the *Apprenticeship Training Act*, the *Employment Standards Act*, the *Insurance Act*, the *Pharmaceutical Chemists Act*, the *Business Corporations Act*, the *Partnership Act*, the *Sale of Goods Act*, the *Summary Convictions Act*, the *Noise Prevention Act*, the *Reciprocal Enforcement of Maintenance and Custody Orders Act*, the *Retirement Plan Beneficiaries Act*, the *Income Tax Act*, the *Motor Vehicles Act*, the *Ministerial Finance Act*, the *Financial Administration Act*, and the *Homeowners Grant Act*.

In addition, there will be new acts proposed to provide for agricultural products inspection, the control and regulation of funeral services, new revised statutes and a fine option act.

Honourable Members, ours is a new government, eager to pursue the social and economic programs I have outlined. This is a government that will practice fiscal responsibility. This is a government that will remain open and accessible to all Yukoners. This is a government that is conscious of the grave responsibilities entailed in maintaining those democratic institutions which guarantee social and economic justice for all Yukoners.

Honourable Members, it is the deep conviction of this government that we can, by working together, meet all of the challenges ahead of us.

¹⁰ There is an old Chinese proverb that says that one generation plants trees, the next generation enjoys the shade. May your deliberations and your decisions be such that the next generation of the people you serve enjoy your shade.

May God be with you.

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

Speaker: I will now call the House to order.

Prayer

Speaker: At this time I would like to draw to the members' attention the presence in the Speaker's Gallery of Sir Charles Kerruish and Lady Kerruish who are visiting us from the Isle of Man. Sir Charles has been a member of the House since 1946. He has been the Speaker of the Assembly since 1962. This makes him the Dean of all Speakers in the Commonwealth. Sir Charles is also the immediate past president of the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. We are indeed honoured by his visit, and on behalf of

all the members I would offer a warm welcome from our Assembly.

"

INTRODUCTION OF PAGES

At this time I would like to introduce to the House the Pages who will be assisting the House during this Session. They are: Heidi Koschzeck, Andrea Koschzeck, Erin Bagan, Ian Perry, Dominic Lloyd and Robert Kaill from F.H. Collins School in Whitehorse.

It is a pleasure for me to welcome at this time these Pages to the services of the Assembly. I would invite them at this time to join us on the floor.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Hon. Mr. Penikett: I move 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 a bill entitled *An Act to Perpetuate a Certain Ancient Right* has now been introduced and read a first time.

Motion agreed to

TABLING SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

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

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

Speaker: It has been moved by the hon. Government Leader that the Speech from the Throne be considered on a day following.

Motion agreed to

Hon. Mr. Porter: I wish to inform the House, pursuant to Standing Order 26, that consideration of a motion for an address to reply to the Speech from the Throne shall take place during tomorrow's sitting.

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 hon. Government House Leader that the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to

Speaker: This House now stands adjourned until 1:30 p.m. tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 3:55 p.m.

The following Sessional paper was tabled October 1, 1985:

85-2-1

Speech from the Throne (Speaker)