



# The Yukon Legislative Assembly

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Number 5

1st Session

26th Legislature

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## **HANSARD**

**Monday, September 30, 1985 — 1:30 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 Penikett	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 Kassi	Old Crow
Art Webster	Klondike

## OPPOSITION MEMBERS

### Progressive Conservative

Williard 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

## 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

**01 Whitehorse, Yukon****Monday, September 30, 1985 — 1:30 pm.**

**Speaker:** I will call the House to order. We will begin with a prayer.

Oh Heavenly Father, we are gathered here today to pay our respects to Andy, our friend and colleague. We offer our thanks for his dedicated service to this House and to the people of Yukon. We ask that you give comfort and strength to his wife, his three sons, his parents, and all who loved him. Amen.

It is my sad duty, pursuant to Section 19 of the *Legislative Assembly Act*, to officially inform the House of the death of Andy Philipsen, Member for Whitehorse Porter Creek West, and to table a notice of vacancy in the representation of that electoral district.

**Hon. Mr. Penikett:** On behalf of all of us in Yukon's Legislative Assembly, I wish to express our deepest sympathy and condolences to Pam Philipsen and the children on the tragic and untimely loss of a fine husband and a devoted father.

<sup>02</sup> For 23 years, Andy lived and worked in this territory. There are few among us who can claim as great a sense of duty to the Yukon. In 1982, to the benefit of this society, Andy committed himself to public life, and since that time has served his Yukon with untiring devotion.

Those of us who worked with Andy — and this number includes his fellow MLAs — during his terms as Minister of Health and Human Resources and as Minister of Justice, speak of his willingness to listen to those around him. This ability, complemented by common sense, gave Andy the qualifications best suited for the portfolios for which he was responsible.

Andy's personal efforts to enlarge Macaulay Lodge are indicative of our colleague's commitment to helping people to live their lives fully. Moreover, his participation in heated debate over the *Children's Act* revealed a strong sense of personal conviction which must be respected.

All Yukoners mourn the loss of a man so genuinely committed to the public good. The Andy Philipsen who sat among us in this Chamber was the same Andy Philipsen who drank coffee with friends in his favourite haunt, at the Klondike Inn. In both places, Andy took heed of the thoughts expressed by others and gave, in turn, his judgment and understanding.

Yukoners who sit in the gallery and listen to the proceedings of the House during the course of sessional debate hear arguments between adversaries with clashing perspectives on what is best for their society. From a gallery seat, few can know of the close ties which develop among those on the floor of the House. Unfortunately, the mutual respect that we feel for one another is seldom revealed but at times of sorrow, such as this.

Although we are divided by philosophical beliefs, our mutual commitment to the people of Yukon and a dedication to the good of the society are the strong ties which bind us together. Andy's commitment added great strength to those ties. Without him we are weakened.

<sup>03</sup> Today, I have the honour to announce the dedication of the administrative wing of our new Justice Centre in Andy Philipsen's name. This is a fitting tribute to a man who was committed to improving the lives of those less fortunate than himself.

Mr. Speaker, I would as well, at the request of the Commissioner, like to read into the record the following letter:

"Dear Commissioner: On behalf of all the family, I would like to express our thanks and gratitude to you and ask that you convey the same sentiments to the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the Civil Servants of the Yukon who have all been so supportive in the family's recent tragic loss.

Yours very sincerely, Arnie Philipsen".

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say that Andy Philipsen will be missed by all of us. Our time with him added immeasurably to both the proceedings of this Assembly and to the lives of those in this House who sat with him over the past three years. This is, indeed, a tragic event in the Yukon's history.

May God bless him.

**Mr. Phelps:** Mr. Speaker, I would like to express the deepest sympathy and condolences to Andy's wife, Pamela, and their three children, as well as to his father and mother and other members of his immediate family.

Mr. Speaker, Andy was a colleague and friend, and a Yukoner in the truest sense. He was a quiet man. When he spoke, everyone listened. His sense of fairness, honesty, integrity and common sense made him invaluable to our caucus and to this Assembly.

He was a dedicated Yukoner, a man who worked long hours, content to do his best for the wellbeing of others. He brought to his work and to all of us a unique sense of humour and a unique understanding of the common person.

Mr. Speaker, we shall miss him.

<sup>04</sup> **Mr. Coles:** It is with great sadness that I rise in the House today to pay tribute to Andy Philipsen on behalf of our caucus, because Andy was more than just a colleague of mine for the last few months, he has been a personal friend of my family in Carmacks for many years. He had a basic, common sense approach to life which he brought with him into this Legislature, and I am sure that it was this common sense approach which helped him win his first election in 1982. It was this that made Andy so popular with the people in the Territory.

When he became a cabinet minister, he did not allow himself to get out of touch with the average Yukoner. He was down to earth, sincere, and always put people first. Whatever, he did, whether it was in politics, or in the workplace, he put his best effort into it and he did it well. I believe the greatest tribute we can pay Andy is to adopt some of the outlooks that he had toward the Yukon and its people. To Andy's wife and sons, our deepest sympathy. We all share your loss. Thank you.

**Mr. Lang:** I would like to bring forward a message from a former colleague of Andy's, as well as a good friend, Mr. Chris Pearson, former Government Leader and the MLA for Riverdale North:

"The death of Andy Philipsen on September 13, 1985 is a tragic loss to all Yukoners. My deepest sympathy goes out to his wife Pam, and his three sons, Patrick, Drew and Joshua, and all members of the Philipsen family. Andy had so much potential to offer. This electrician, truck driver, cum politician, was one of the most sincere individuals I have ever had the privilege to know. He wasn't a politician in the classic sense, he was a man of the people, dedicated to improving the lot of his fellow Yukoners.

"Only a very few Yukoners, his family and colleagues, can really appreciate how much work that entails. Andy genuinely cared about people, and he had many special attributes that made him such an outstanding representative: basic human understanding, civility, compassion and an abundance of common sense.

"These attributes were clearly evident when Andy became a member of the Yukon Legislative Assembly for Porter Creek West in the June, 1982 election. He was subsequently named Deputy Speaker and Chairman of the Committee of the Whole by the House and, on the government side, he became chairman of the Conservative caucus and member of the Priorities, Policy and Planning Committee.

"Andy's political star continued to rise. His dedication and hard work made him a prime ministerial candidate and I appointed him minister of Health and Human Resources and of Government Services on June 30, 1983.

<sup>05</sup> "He became the Minister of Justice, as well, on July 18, 1984. As a minister, Andy soon won the respect and high regard from his federal and provincial counterparts. He served the people of Yukon well. His unfortunate death is a terrible loss to me, personally, and to the whole territory. He will be sorely missed by all who knew him".

As the member for Porter Creek East, I would like to convey my deepest sympathy to Pam, the three boys and other members of the family.

As all members know, from 1974 to 1978, I represented the constituents whom Andy had the privilege of representing from

1982. I know, from personal experience, that the people of Porter Creek West had absolute confidence in Andy's ability to represent their interests in this public forum. On their behalf, I want to convey their condolences to Andy's family.

As already stated, Andy was very easy to work with, as well as work for. For the record, I would like to convey the regrets of the staff of the Legislature who worked with him in a number of capacities, and including that of Deputy Speaker. Andy's ready wit, his sincerity and his integrity are going to be missed by all of us. Andy, may God be with you and may God bless.

**Hon. Mr. Kimmerly:** Today, I rise in personal sadness and rise to add three points. First of all, Andy and I were matched up in the Legislature on many issues, primarily social issues. We were adversaries in a political sense, but I wish to say that Andy is an adversary whom I will miss deeply in a very personal way.

I know why Andy went into politics because he told me in a quiet moment. It was from a conviction within his heart that things should be better. He fought for that. He is a challenging, exacting and dedicated adversary and I compliment him for that, and rise in personal sadness.

Secondly, I am now the minister of two departments that Andy once had. The civil servants have expressed to me their desire that I particularly mention that he was an easy person to work with. He was well liked in a very sincere way.

Thirdly, I wish to express, generally, and add my voice to others, that Andy will be missed in the Legislature and in Yukon. This is now a poorer place.

**Mr. Brewster:** This is, without a doubt, the saddest moment I have ever had to rise and speak in this Legislature. I suppose, as politicians, Andy and I were probably closer to one another than anyone else in the Assembly.

Both of us entered the political arena basically for the same reasons. We wanted to improve the image of our government and bring the political process closer to people. That Andy succeeded in this task is very apparent when you see the tribute being paid to him today by all members of this House.

Andy, whether as a political novice or a mature politician, determined that he would never lose the common touch, and he never did. In his heart, he was always a trucker.

I can recall him coming to my office many times just to talk and get away from the pressures of being a government minister. He always had a twinkle in his eye when he came through the door, and I knew he would like a good argument. He used to bait me into a verbal scrap on the different views we had on many topics. We both thoroughly enjoyed it.

In spite of his heavy portfolio responsibilities, Andy remained Chairman of the Committee on Statutory Instruments in order to stay in contact with the MLA's who, in many instances, are closer to the man on the street.

I recall travelling with Andy in minus 60 below weather while he was trying to diffuse the emotional debate surrounding *The Children's Act*. His explanations were straightforward and he paid careful attention to what people said. Andy as a trucker, an electrician, a legislator, or minister never changed and saw no reason to change. He was a good MLA who put people first and the government red tape second. He listened, and the he acted. He always did what he perceived to be fair.

Andy's loss is Yukon's loss. He had so much yet to give. Why these things happen, who can say. I have no answer, but in my time I have seen many good people cut down in the prime of life, and Andy was one of the best.

In closing, I can only say that I will miss Andy dearly as a personal friend and as a political colleague. His performance as a member of the Legislature was admirable, and an example we would all do well to follow.

Words are so inadequate at times like this to express our true feelings, but I would like to convey my condolences to the Philipsen family, and thank them for all the time Andy had to spend away from them while he was acting on Yukoners' behalf. It was an honour and a privilege to know him and call him a friend.

Mr. Speaker, I have another tribute from Mr. Clarke Ashley: "Through his humour, intelligence, common sense and quiet spoken manner, my colleague, Andy Philipsen, contributed to Yukon's political life and history.

"As a minister, he made significant, tangible improvements in two areas of political concern: health and human resources and justice. He was personally and politically committed to completing the construction of the Yukon Law Centre and to major renovations to Macaulay Lodge.

"Andy's genuine interest in the clients and staff associated with his departments is well known and will not be forgotten or diminished. He will be best remembered by his political associates as a reasonable and considerate person who would listen, and was not afraid to consider new ideas. He will be remembered by his constituents and other Yukoners for his dedication to the duties entrusted to him, as well as a commitment to and belief in Yukon's people.

"Andy has made his contribution to Yukon, and it is our responsibility and privilege to formally continue, recognize and remember that contribution.

In closing, I would strongly urge this House to recall Andy's special achievements and to find an appropriate way to honour his memory and legacy".

**Mrs. Firth:** Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay my respects today to Andy Philipsen, MLA for Porter Creek West, caucus colleague and friend, and to extend my deepest sympathies to Mrs. Pam Philipsen and the family of Andy Philipsen on the tragic and untimely loss of their husband, father and son. I am sure all MLA's and Yukoners wish to express to his family their very deep appreciation for the dedicated public service of Andy in helping so much to improve the quality of life in our territory through his service in this Legislative Assembly. Mr. Philipsen's career reflected a high degree of personal and family sacrifice in public service to his constituents as well as to all Yukoners.

Andy Philipsen will be missed by all of us who care about the future of our territory.

I also have, Mr. Speaker, a tribute from the former member for Old Crow, Kathie Nukon:

"In all the time I worked beside Andy, he always gave me a sense of wellbeing. He has been a great influence on me during and after my tenure in the 25th Legislative Assembly. He has taught me a great deal.

"Mr. Speaker, let us follow the example of Andy Philipsen and the leadership he demonstrated. He will be greatly missed by myself and his many friends in Old Crow.

"All in all, Andrew Arnold Philipsen was a true friend and colleague. May he rest in peace."

**Mr. Phillips:** Mr. Speaker, I rise today as all of you have before me, to pay my respects to a friend and a colleague, Andy Philipsen. I have had, unlike many others in this House, the opportunity of working with Andy prior to his entering politics. So many times, we politicians are accused of changing once we are elected. Mr. Speaker, you could never accuse Andy of that. Before I entered this House, I was also impressed with Andy's dedication and determination in dealing with all issues. He was also prepared to listen to the people and change his position if necessary.

Andy had a genuine feeling of concern for the elderly and took a great deal of pride in his accomplishments in that field.

Mr. Speaker, although I had an only too brief opportunity to work with Andy in the House, I can clearly recall many times when he offered his assistance. All of us will miss Andy's quick wit and his unique sense of humour.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to express my sincere condolences to Andy's wife, Pam, and their children, and the immediate members of the family. Today, Mr. Speaker, along with many others, we mourn the loss of a friend, a colleague and a Yukoner.

Mr. Speaker, I also have today two messages, which I would like to read, from former Members of this House.

The first one is from Al Falle:

"Andy Philipsen was a friend and colleague who worked hard for

his constituents and all Yukoners. He was easy going and had a great deal of common sense. People were important to Andy. He was always available to listen and to talk with other caucus members and was interested in hearing their ideas.

"As chairman of several committees, he was reasonable, fair and tried to understand many sides and issues. His sense of humour and decency were amongst his best characteristics and are the qualities that most of us will remember when thinking of Andy.

"Yukoners admired Andy's achievements and abilities and will miss this hard working people's politician. We are saddened and made poorer by his loss, but we are encouraged and remain richer for his commitment and contributions."

I would like to read a message from Howard Tracey, a former member of this legislature:

"The loss of Andy Philipsen in the accident on the Dempster Highway is not only a tragic loss for his wife Pam and their three sons, to whom I express my deepest sympathy, but to Yukoners as a whole. Andy was my friend, as well as a co-worker, a friend who had a strong sense of justice and fair play. Through the years, I had many conversations with Andy about many different aspects about life in Yukon. During these conversations, I came to admire his strong sense of fair play and just and equitable treatment of everyone in our society.

"I was very happy to see Andy join the Cabinet of our government, as it offered him the opportunity to express his opinions in a forum that could implement his suggestions. We all enjoyed working with him and although he did not win all his arguments he had a great deal of influence on government style and performance. His views were influential in the final decision on the reconstruction of the Macaulay Seniors Lodge and instrumental in the advancing of construction and the final design of our Justice Centre, now under construction.

"Andy was a man with a large heart for those less fortunate in our society. Yukoners will be less well represented in government through his passing. I and many others will sorrowfully miss him. Thank you."

**Speaker:** I would like to inform the House of messages which I have received.

From the Right Honourable Brian Mulroney, Prime Minister of Canada:

"Today, the Yukon Legislative Assembly has set aside their deliberations to pay tribute to an esteemed colleague. The death of the member for Porter Creek West, Andrew Philipsen, was a loss to your Chambers, to Yukon and to Canada. He was a caring member of the Yukon Legislature and a distinguished Minister of Justice and of Health and Human Resources. Andy Philipsen served his constituents and fellow Yukoners with pride and with selfless dedication. He will be fondly remembered and missed by us all."

From the Honourable Erik Nielsen, Deputy Prime Minister:

"Fellow Yukoners, Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, today, as the Yukon Legislative Assembly convenes, it is with heavy hearts that the House meets in the absence of the member for Porter Creek West.

"The hon. Andrew Philipsen was a fine Yukoner, a caring representative of his constituents, and a truly honourable member of the Legislature. Our colleague, our friend, Andy, will be missed in all communities of Yukon and no less so within the Legislative Chambers of Yukon.

"I join you today in offering a prayer of thanks for the opportunity we have shared in working with Andy Philipsen, who was so vigorously motivated to achieving a better life and future for Yukoners."

From the hon. Jake Epp, Minister of Health and Welfare Canada, Ottawa:

"Andy Philipsen was an example of the best of our citizens who enter public life. He retained the spirit of the great possibilities that marked the Yukon. While representing 27,000 Canadians, his perspectives reached beyond the horizons of his immediate community. At meetings of Ministers of Health, his knowledge of complex issues and forceful yet polite representation of the Yukon was appreciated by his colleagues. As a friend, I will miss Andy. I

express my heartfelt condolences to his wife and young family.

"Andy Philipsen's exemplary contributions to the people of Yukon will serve those who follow him. We are saddened by our loss but rejoice in the opportunity of having called him a friend."

From the Right Honourable Bill McKnight, Minister of Labour, House of Commons:

"I was deeply saddened to learn of the tragic accident which took Andy Philipsen's life. I met him in 1982 and he quickly won my lasting respect and admiration. The Legislative Assembly and his constituents will miss the valuable contributions Andy made as a dedicated and committed representative.

"Please convey to Pam and the Philipsen family my heartfelt sympathy. Canada, Yukon and I have lost a friend."

**Speaker:** To honour our departed friend and colleague, I would now ask the House to observe a moment of silence.

*Silence*

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

*The House Prorogued at 2:00 p.m.*

**The following Sessional Paper was tabled September 30, 1985:**

85-1-11

Vacancy in electoral district of Whitehorse Porter Creek West (Speaker)

