



The Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 1

3rd Session

23rd Legislature

Debates & Proceedings

Thursday, May 8, 1975

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor



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THE SECOND SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE YEAR 1975, BEING THE THIRD SESSION OF THE TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE OF THE YUKON TERRITORY WAS CONVENED IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AT 3 P.M. ON THURSDAY, MAY 8, 1975.

MR. SPEAKER ENTERS THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS, ANNOUNCED BY THE SERGEANT-AT-ARMS

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

The Commissioners presents the Speech from the Throne.

Mr. Speaker: I will now call this third session of the twenty-third legislature of the Yukon Territory to order.

I would like at this time to advise the House that I have now received a copy of the Throne Speech Address. May I have your further pleasure?

The Honourable Member from Whitehorse Riverdale?

Mr. Phelps: Mr. Speaker, I would move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek that the Speech from the Throne be considered on a day following.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Riverdale, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek that the Speech from the Throne be considered on a day following. Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare that the motion is carried. May I have your further pleasure?

Hon. Mr. MacIntyre: I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North

Centre for leave to introduce the bill entitled An Ordinance to Amend the Game Ordinance.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Mayo, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre for leave to introduce a bill entitled An Ordinance to Amend the Game Ordinance, are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare the motion is carried.

Motion Carried

Mr. Speaker: May I have your further pleasure?

Mr. Lang: Mr. Speaker, I move that we call it five o'clock.

Mr. Speaker: Is there a seconder?

Mr. McCall: I second that.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek, seconded by the Honourable Member from Pelly River that we now call it five o'clock. Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I declare the motion carried.

Motion Carried.

Mr. Speaker: This House now stands adjourned till 10 a.m. tomorrow morning.

(ADJOURNED TO 10 A.M. FRIDAY, MAY 9)

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Sessional Paper No. 1
[1975 Second Session]

Mr. Speaker
Members of Council

I have the honour to welcome you to this, the third session of the 23rd wholly-elected council of the Yukon Territory.

At this time of year, Yukoners are concentrating on activities that will take full advantage of the fine weather and long hours of sunshine. Nature is a great rival to government at this time of year. But there are matters of some urgency that require your attention, so it is necessary to divert your thoughts to the serious business of government. A number of legislative items concerning the municipalities will occupy much of this session.

At the March session, council approved of the community assistance program - a program designed to enable local government institutions to provide an acceptable level of services to the community. Delivery systems for these services depend on a corps of municipal employees. The Yukon association of municipalities and the Northwest Territories association of municipalities have requested the territorial governments to establish a comprehensive benefits plan for municipal employees and local improvement district employees. Legislation will be introduced this session to provide a disability, retirement and death benefits plan for Yukon municipal employees, comparable in scope to provincial schemes. Similar legislation will be introduced in the council of the Northwest Territories.

It is envisioned that the benefits plan will be a joint venture of both territories. Municipalities and their employees will contribute to a single plan. To my knowledge this is the first time both councils have acted in concert on legislative matters.

Other legislation concerning municipalities includes the proposed amendments to the taxation ordinance and the municipal ordinance. The majority of changes in these ordinances have been requested by the Yukon association of municipalities. The taxation ordinance amendments are proposed chiefly to clarify sections of the ordinance. An additional change permits the municipalities to increase the minimum tax on vacant property. There are a large number of amendments proposed to the municipal ordinance. Chief among them is provision to waive the requirements for municipalities to obtain taxpayer approval on capital expenditure by-laws where the municipality's contribution toward the total expenditure does not exceed an amount equal to 5 mills applied on the taxable municipal assessment. This change is requested in respect of projected expenditures by a municipality under the community assistance program. The fast-paced growth of the tourism industry in the territory has been often noted in the past few years. Yukon has the highest annual growth rate of tourism in all of Canada. The development and use of this resource requires careful planning, which must in turn, be founded on the characteristics of tourists who come to Yukon, what

they are looking for in Yukon, and the social and economic impact tourism has on the territory. To these ends, council will be asked to approve the travel industry development ordinance, which will enable the territory to enter into cost-sharing agreements with the federal government for the conduct of research and preparation of long-range plans.

The value government places on the human resource, is most apparent in the education and health care programs available to its citizens. Two items of legislation to be introduced at this session reflects this government's long-standing commitment to the social well-being of Yukoners.

Post-secondary education at universities and technical institutes for Yukon students has been encouraged by a system of grants and bursaries funded by the territorial government under regulatory authority. This entitlement is recognized by the government. Legislation is being introduced this session to clarify financial assistance programs to Yukon students for continuing education and to put the programs on a permanent basis. To establish one statutory basis for students financial assistance, council will be asked to repeal this student grants ordinance.

Travel to other jurisdictions for specialized medical treatment is an important aspect of the territory's health care plan. In 1974, the present scheme for subsidizing such travel to Yukon residents was introduced by regulation. Over the course of the past year, these regulations have proved satisfactory. The government is proposing to define this entitlement in legislation. The travel for medical treatment ordinance will be presented for your consideration at this session.

Also at this session, council will be asked to consider an ordinance to establish a society of industrial accountants for Yukon, on lines similar to societies in provincial jurisdictions. The main purpose of the ordinance is to allow persons to obtain professional qualifications issued in Yukon.

Amendments will be introduced to the legal professions ordinance in two areas.

The first area covered deals with the protection of the public and introduces certain procedures relating to lawyers' files and accounts. Provision will be made for dealing with accounts and files when a lawyer dies or retires from practice.

The procedure will be under the supervision of the supreme court.

The other area to be dealt with concerns a discipline code for the legal profession. A discipline committee will be established to be composed of lawyers and full jurisdiction will be given to this committee over all members of the legal profession. The procedures to be followed will be largely the same as in other parts of Canada except that, because of the small number of lawyers in practice in this territory, it is necessary to include on the discipline committee lawyers from outside the territory. An appeal system will be provided to the courts from decisions of the discipline committee.

It is also necessary to seek supplementary funds to implement the disciplinary sections proposed in the amendments to the legal professions ordinance.

Funds for enforcing the discipline sections are contained in the second appropriation ordinance, 1975-76. The appropriation will also finance the construction of a new school in Mayo. I'm sure all members are aware of the circumstances of this appropriation.

At the March session, an information paper on proposed game management zones was tabled in council. To implement the proposal, amendments to the game ordinance will be sought at this session.

Several changes to the fuel oil tax ordinance will be brought forward this session. The thrust of the amendments is to simplify collection procedures by transferring the tax liability from the user to the purchaser of fuel oil. The proposed changes also extend the exemption privileges in two categories: farm equipment and food preparation.

By motion of council last session, the membership of the historic sites and monuments board was increased from 7 to 12 members designated by council. An amendment to the ordinance will be introduced this session to change the legislative authority for this board to conform to council's wishes.

At the request of the credit union, an amendment is sought to the credit unions ordinance increasing the maximum interest rate chargeable on loans from 1 per cent per month to 1 1/2 per cent per month.

In addition, a number of "Housekeeping" amendments will be sought in the following ordinances:

--An Ordinance to Amend the Co-Operative Associations Ordinance:

The purpose of the amendment is to limit the statutory power to revoke an association's registration.

--An Ordinance to Amend the Judicature Ordinance:

The amendment proposed is to make clear the legal authority of the Commissioner to appoint small debt officials.

--An Ordinance to Amend the Housing Development Ordinance:

There are 2 purposes of this Ordinance. One is to enable the Commissioner to appoint local housing

authorities whose task would be to manage and supervise public housing projects. The second purpose of the amendments is to increase the upper limit of capital costs payable by a municipality in respect of a housing project agreement from 10 1/2 per cent to 12 1/2 per cent.

--An Ordinance to Amend the Territorial Employees Superannuation Ordinance:

All territorial employees are contributors to the Canada Superannuation Fund and to the Public Service Death Benefit Plan. Occasionally, the definition of "contributor" changes in the relevant federal statutes. To guarantee continued coverage of territorial employees in these plans, an amendment is proposed to the definition of 'contributor' in our local ordinance.

Members are aware that in December, the Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development had forwarded for council's consideration, proposed amendments to the territorial land use regulations. It was council's wish that consideration of the proposed amendments be deferred until this legislative session. I have recently been informed by the department that further changes are being contemplated as a result of consultation with other interested agencies. Therefore, I request that consideration of the regulations not be undertaken until all proposed amendments are available to council.

Mr. Speaker, all members are aware of the current vacancy on the Executive Committee. I know that the nomination of a member of council to the Committee will be a priority item of this session. I would like to take a moment now to express my appreciation of Mrs. Watson's valuable contributions to the Executive Committee over these past 5 years.

Indeed, Mrs. Watson has been a member of the committee since its inception in 1970. Her performance as a member of the committee has established a precedent of dedication and precise thinking a successor will have difficulty in matching.

Mr. Speaker, I trust the material placed before you at this session will be sufficient for you to pursue your deliberations towards fruitful conclusion.

My officers and I stand ready to assist council in any way we can.

J. Smith
Commissioner.

May 8, 1975



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