



The Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 1

7th Session

23rd Legislature

Debates & Proceedings

Tuesday, November 2, 1976

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor



The London Hospital

Debit & Credits

London, January 2, 1874

James Watson & Co. Bankers

THE THIRD SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE YEAR 1976, BEING THE SEVENTH SESSION OF THE TWENTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE OF THE YUKON TERRITORY, WAS CONVENED IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AT 3:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 2, 1976.

The Members present were:

The Hon. D. Taylor, Speaker
 The Hon. D. Lang
 The Hon. J. K. McKinnon
 The Hon. F. Whyard
 Mr. A. Berger
 Mr. R. Fleming
 Mr. J. Hibberd
 Mr. W. Lengerke
 Mr. S. McCall
 Mr. G. McIntyre
 Ms. E. Millard
 Mrs. H. Watson

(Mr. Speaker enters the Assembly Chambers, announced by the Sergeant-at-Arms.)

Mr. Speaker: Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen. In a very short time, we shall be hearing the speech from the throne, following which it will be my pleasant duty to call the House to order for the very first time in these new Chambers.

While it is recognized that, formerly, the Yukon Council occupied permanent quarters in Dawson City, your Legislature has survived a pillar-to-post existence for many years now, sitting in widely scattered communities and in a variety of board rooms and community facilities across our Territory.

It is, then, historically significant that your new Legislative Assembly take occupation of these Chambers this afternoon, November the 2nd, in the year 1976.

Also significant today is the presence in these Chambers of your Mace, as borne by the Sergeant-at-Arms, and which denotes and symbolizes, as does the Chair itself, the authority of the people of the Yukon.

The freedom that we have here as your Assembly to shape and guide legislation is, indeed, part of the very freedom we cherish in this country of ours. It is here in the Yukon Legislative Assembly to which all the people of Yukon must look for just laws, properly considered and properly made, as Yukoners in every part of our Territory must look for the greater part of their freedom and for the assurance of that type of government which will be, in itself, a full expression of the freedom which has come down to us through so many generations of sacrifice and tremendous effort.

Among our distinguished guests today are many men and women who have in the past given unselfishly to the service of the people of the Territory in relation to its legislatures. It is therefore the will of the Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly that those people be honoured today, on this most important occasion.

It is further the will of the Members of the Yukon Legislative Assembly that these Chambers be dedicated to all the people of the Yukon, whom we are indeed honoured to serve, and as a servant of this Assembly I

am indeed at this time honoured to so proclaim.

I have now received communication from the Commissioner in his role as Lieutenant-Governor stating that he is now prepared to deliver his speech from the throne.

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

(The Commissioner presents the speech from the throne.)

OPENING ADDRESS 1976 THIRD SESSION

Mr. Speaker

Members of the 23rd Wholly Elected Council of the Yukon Territory

It is my pleasure to welcome you to this, the Third Session in 1976, and to wish you every success in making it a particularly fruitful one.

Mr. Speaker, when I left this Territory a few years ago, little did I think I would have the privilege of giving the first opening address to be delivered in these magnificent new Territorial Legislative Chambers. That we are here today is the product of the work of the Members of this Assembly and of the Executive Committee — and some fine work by the Department of Public Works and others in both governments. These chambers, along with the whole building in which they are contained, stand as a symbol of what Mr. Jim Smith and his staff accomplished during his years as Commissioner. I am particularly pleased that he and his wife, Dorothy, are sitting here in the gallery today along with the many other illustrious and welcome guests of this occasion.

To any group of people, the present seems the most important time in their historical development. For the people of Yukon, I have no doubt that the last few years and the next few years will prove to be the most important period for Yukon since the days of the gold rush. History will show this to be the case in political, economic and social terms.

We are now at a watershed. We can advance or we can fall back. There are forces at work pushing us in both directions. We have to reconcile these forces and come out winners.

At the moment, Yukon's economy poses an immediate and pressing problem. After a lengthy period of sustained economic growth, followed by this last year during which the economy levelled off, Yukon now finds itself in a recession which is going to touch almost all Yukoners. Strikes have caused grave difficulties beyond the means of some individuals and businesses to cope. Tourism has been a levelling force but even it has fallen off somewhat this summer. The Territorial Government itself has experienced severe financial austerity and so has been unable to pick up the slack left in other sectors of the economy.

The most devastating economic event in recent months has been the Cyprus Anvil strike. The Unions and Management are continuing to meet, however, and we wish them every success in finding a solution soon that will lead to a sustained period of stability and an atmosphere of co-operation between management and labour.

If we are to survive and prosper in the long run we must become flexible enough not only to take advantage of economic upswings but to cope with the downturns as well.

There is evidence that Yukoners are facing up to this challenge. Over the last year, for example, major efforts have been made by the Whitehorse Chamber of Commerce, the Yukon Visitors' Association and, more recently, the Klondike Visitors' Association by investing money in managerial assistance. They are getting organized. The formation of the new Yukon Federation of Labour established on firm democratic principles to guarantee a voice to all segments of the labour force is another example. We are not backing away from adversity and in the process we are investing in the future. The growing pains have not been easy but the problems that have surfaced have to be met head on.

For its part, the Yukon Territorial Government is in the process of establishing an economic research and planning unit. As this unit develops it will give all of us the ability to recognize, analyze and adjust to major economic trends. It will also help us respond in an orderly fashion to major events such as the prospect of a pipeline through the Yukon, new mining ventures, the closing of old ones, hydro developments, changes in the service industry, and so on. I am confident that in future we will be in a better position to respond not only to the problems we face but to the opportunities that present themselves.

A review of our economic situation is not complete unless attention is drawn to the fact that there are groups within our society that are not participating in the mainstream of economic activity. Yukon must encourage all its residents to play a meaningful role in our economy if it is to maintain its image as a proud and viable community looked up to by all Canada.

Various steps have been mentioned but they will not be sufficient to overcome the economic problems we face. Each of us has his own interests to look after and a right to look after them. Collectively, though, we also have a responsibility and will only develop the kind of Yukon we want if we temper our individual interests and go out of our way to listen to and accommodate the wishes of all Yukoners. The Yukon Government is dedicated to that principle and the need to ensure that the decisions made by Government are in the best interests of all who reside here, now and in the future.

Native Land Claims is the priority issue we have to deal with. I think we all recognize that it is an issue which could tear the Yukon apart. This will happen if the groups operate unilaterally and solely in the context of their own self interests. On the other hand this same

issue presents the greatest opportunity that has ever come before Yukoners to achieve harmony and equality of opportunity for its residents. Before we can accomplish this, though, we must rid the Yukon of the suspicions that exist. This can only be done if we communicate.

Finally, I wish to say a few words about constitutional development in Yukon. Clearly, substantial progress has been made in this direction over the last few years. Equally clearly, much more remains to be done.

It has been known for some time that the next step in this direction would occur with the removal of one of the two Assistant Commissioner positions. The timing of that event has now been determined by the announced intention of Mr. Merv Miller to resign his position as Assistant Commissioner (Administrative) effective January 16 next year. I know we all appreciate and respect the solid service Mr. Miller has provided the Territorial Government and Yukon. We will be sorry to see him leave the Government. On the other hand I would like to inform you that I am strongly recommending to our Minister that he take the opportunity to drop the position from the Executive Committee. This will leave a committee comprised of two appointed positions and three elected members. There will then be a majority of elected members on the Executive Committee. This marks a substantial step forward toward responsible government.

The removal of one position from the Executive Committee requires a redistribution of portfolio responsibilities among the Members. This will be accomplished after consultation with Members of the Legislature and I am hopeful a decision will be reached before this session prorogues.

As the Yukon assumes an increasing amount of responsibility for its own activities it is necessary to ensure that our legislation provides the necessary guidance to our society. To ensure that we are providing efficient and effective government for the people of Yukon several of our present ordinances have been modified to reflect Yukon's needs.

The Insurance Ordinance has been redrafted to provide the residents of the Yukon with a set of guidelines that will help to further protect their interests. The new ordinance conforms closely to the standard insurance legislation that is present in all the provinces. It will provide for better control of the activities of companies, agents and adjustors and contain advanced protective clauses to protect the public's interest.

The Liquor Ordinance is being amended to incorporate the expressed wishes of Yukoners. Public drinking sections have been drafted to provide for local control over the use of alcohol. In addition, the Yukon will be taking a further step forward by creating a liquor corporation that will have more autonomy.

The Assembly will be asked to consider the Electrical Protection Ordinance which has been drafted to ensure

increased protection for the public and to adapt to Yukon circumstances with special provisions for remote areas and recognition of electricians who are currently working in Yukon.

Another proposed ordinance will establish an Institute of Chartered Accountants for Yukon on lines similar to those in provincial jurisdictions. The main purpose of the ordinance is to allow persons to obtain professional qualifications issued in Yukon.

A new Financial Administration Ordinance will be introduced this session. It reflects this Government's dedication to an efficient administration and provides the tools we need to cope with the complexities of modern administration.

Emergency medical aid will be presented for the Assembly's consideration. It reflects the Government's concern for the "Good Samaritan" and offers individual protection against legal action for medical assistance in an emergency situation.

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

— An ordinance to amend the Highways Ordinance - the purpose of the amendment being to change the unit of measurement to the metric system.

— An ordinance to amend the Justice of the Peace Ordinance - the amendment is designed to permit the Territory to appoint Juvenile Court Judges.

— An ordinance to amend the Insurance Premium Tax Ordinance - this amendment is proposed to change the reporting date to conform with the Insurance Ordinance.

— An ordinance to amend the Public Service Staff Relations Ordinance - the intention in making this amendment is to make an administrative change to ensure the Yukon Public Service Staff Relations Board conforms with the Federal Board.

In addition, a number of sessional papers have been prepared for the Members' consideration.

The Government will submit Green Papers on legal advice to Council Members and an appointment to the Territorial Water Board. A proposed new Recreation Policy will also be presented. Its aim is to increase local participation and control of recreation throughout Yukon. Guidance from the Legislature is requested on these matters.

In response to the Assembly's questions there will be White Papers tabled for your information on Pipeline Community Hearings, Insurance Companies, Territorial elections, Western Canada Lottery and on the Coroner's Ordinance.

My officers and I stand ready to assist you in any way

we can to help make this a productive session for all Yukon.

A.M. Pearson
Commissioner.

Mr. Speaker: At this time, I would call the House to order. We will proceed with prayers.

(Prayers)

Mr. Speaker: I would like at this time to announce our new Pages, so that they may take their seats and positions in the House, and our new Pages will be Laura Pearson, Shay Ryan, Susan Toews, Colleen Affolder, Danny Aitken, Erik Hoenisch, Bryan Krause and Ken Frankish, and would welcome our Pages to the service of the House.

(Applause)

Mr. Speaker: I beg at this time to inform the House that, in order to prevent mistakes, I have attained a copy of the throne speech, which I now lay on the table. The Honourable Member from Mayo?

Mr. McIntyre: I move that the speech from the throne be considered on a day following.

Mr. Speaker: Is there a seconder?

Mr. Hibberd: I so second, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Mayo, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse South Centre, 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 the Motion as carried.

(Motion carried)

Mr. Speaker: May I have your further pleasure? Are there any Notices of Motion? The Honourable Member from Hootalinqua?

Mr. Fleming: Mr. Speaker, I give Notice of Dissolution of Select Committee on Rules, Procedures and Privileges, and also, Mr. Speaker, I want to give Notice re Formation of a Standing Committee on Rules, Privileges and Elections.

Mr. Speaker: Thank you. Are there any further Notices of Motion at this time?

The Honourable Member from Whitehorse West?

INTRODUCTION AND FIRST READING OF BILLS

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Speaker, I beg to move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek, for leave to introduce a Bill entitled "Emergency Medical Aid Ordinance".

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek, for leave to introduce a Bill entitled "Emergency Medical Aid Ordinance". Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: Leave is granted.
The Honourable Member from Whitehorse West?

Hon. Mrs. Whyard: Mr. Speaker, I move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek, that a Bill entitled "Emergency Medical Aid Ordinance" be read a first time.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse West, seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek, that the said Bill be now introduced and read a first time. Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I shall declare the Motion as carried.

(Motion carried)

Madam Clerk: The first reading of this Bill.

Mr. Speaker: There being no further business at this time, I will now stand the House adjourned until 10:00 a.m. tomorrow morning.

(Adjourned)

