

7 April, 2025

Dear MLAs of the Yukon Legislative Assembly,

Please find enclosed a document providing a comparison of the 33rd, 34th and 35th Yukon Legislative Assemblies which I have prepared for your information. The statistics and analysis presented in this document have been gleaned from Hansard (or the Hansard Indexes).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Streicker', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Streicker,
MLA for Mount Lorne – Southern Lakes



Comparison
of the 33rd,
34th & 35th
Yukon
Legislative
Assemblies

Comparison of the 33rd, 34th & 35th Yukon Legislative Assemblies

Prepared by MLA John Streicker. All of the statistics and analysis presented here have been gleaned from Hansard or the Hansard Indexes, unless otherwise noted. The statistics refer to the substantive business of the Assembly only and do not include introduction of visitors, notice of motions, points of order, pro forma motions, etc. Please pass any comments, questions or corrections to me at john.streicker@yukon.ca

In considering differences and similarities across the 3 Assemblies, both absolute and relative differences are presented. Absolute values are calculated as the overall activity across each assembly. Relative values are calculated using average activity per sitting day.

Note that the final sitting of the 35th Assembly, Spring 2025, is not included in any of this comparison. Once the sitting is complete, I will update the analysis.

Last Updated 6-April, 2025

Legend

- Yukon Liberals
- Yukon Party
- Yukon NDP
- Independent MLA

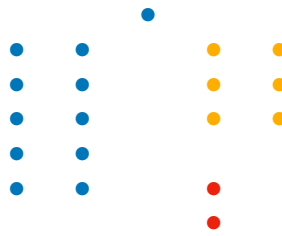
Top 10 Highlights

1. The 33rd Assembly, led by the **Yukon Party**, passed more bills and motions, especially **Yukon Party** motions.
2. The 34th Assembly, led by the **Yukon Liberals**, had more debate on budget bills and other legislation.
3. The 35th Assembly, which was a minority, reduced **Yukon Liberal** motions and increased budget debate by an additional 22% over the 34th Assembly, and 27% over the 33rd.
4. The 35th Assembly passed several bills from the **Yukon NDP**.
5. The **Yukon Party** delivered more tributes; the **Yukon Liberals** brought in more witnesses; the **Yukon NDP** brought the most petitions.
6. When they led Government, the **Yukon Party** delivered one single ministerial statement and tabled one legislative return. In comparison, the **Yukon Liberals** provided 100's of each.
7. Over the 3 Assemblies, the member who rose to their feet the most times, was **MLA Kate White**.
8. With respect to voting, more than half of the recorded votes over all 3 Assemblies were unanimous
9. Of the 3 parties, the **Yukon Party** had the most votes where they voted alone.
10. Of the 3 parties, the **Yukon Liberals** had the best vote attendance record; the **Yukon NDP** had the worst.

33rd-34th-35th
Yukon Legislative Assemblies

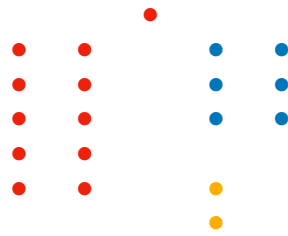
Yukon Legislative Assembly Composition

33rd Assembly
Yukon Party Majority



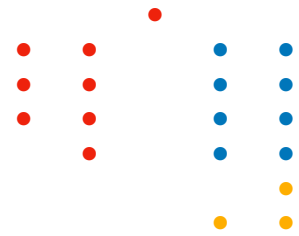
Fall 2011 - Spring 2012

34th Assembly
Yukon Liberal Majority

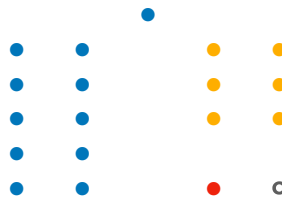


Spring 2017 - Fall 2020

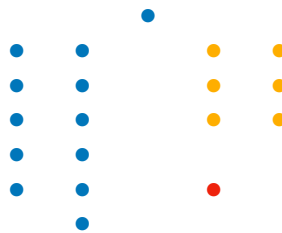
35th Assembly
Yukon Liberal Minority



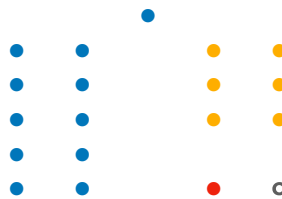
Special 2021 - Spring 2025



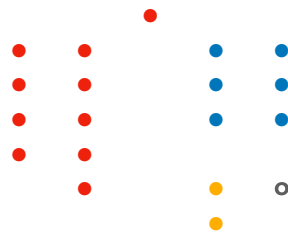
Fall 2012 - Spring 2013



Fall 2013 - Spring 2016



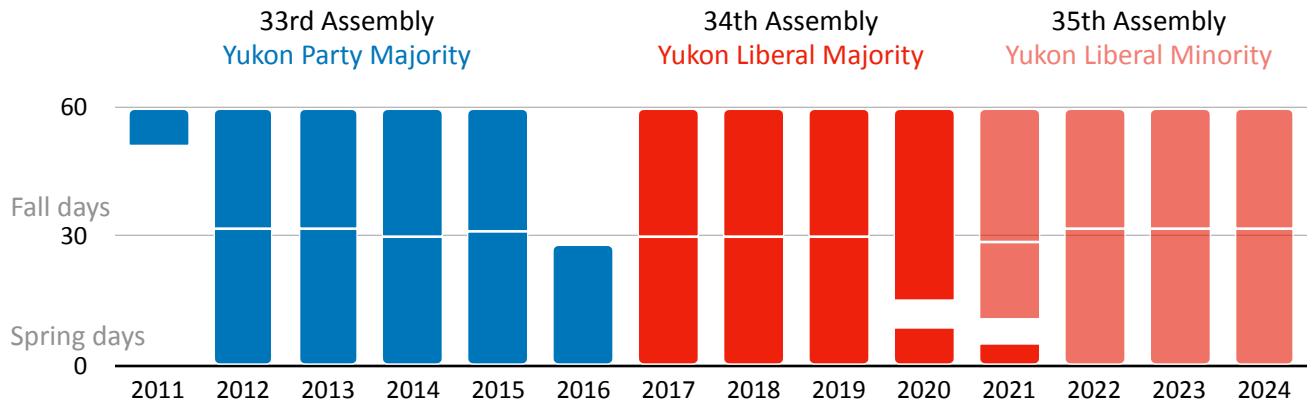
During Spring 2016



Spring 2021

**33rd-34th-35th
Yukon Legislative Assemblies**

Yukon Legislative Assembly Sitting Days



Length of Assemblies

	33rd Assembly Yukon Party Majority	34th Assembly Yukon Liberal Majority	35th Assembly Yukon Liberal Minority (to date)
Years	5	4-½	4
Sittings	10	9	8
Days	277	239	222

Overall Statistics

	33rd Assembly Yukon Party Majority	34th Assembly Yukon Liberal Majority	35th Assembly Yukon Liberal Minority (to date)
Budget Bills	22	16	16
Legislation	69	46	46
Motions	89	76	46
Petitions	28	16	25
Witnesses	12	20	16
Tributes	629	433	416
Ministerials	1	106	160
Legislative Returns	1	316	159

**33rd-34th-35th
Yukon Legislative Assemblies**

Debate Statistics

Total number of times all MLAs rose to speak

	33rd Assembly Yukon Party Majority	34th Assembly Yukon Liberal Majority	35th Assembly Yukon Liberal Minority (to date)
Budget Bills	9,350	8,398	9,500
Legislation	2,973	2,766	2,734
Ministerials	4	489	641
Motions	1,026	951	428
Petitions	55	30	52
Question Period	8,908	7,364	6,745
Tributes	1,013	964	1,138
Witnesses	638	1,040	818
Total	23,967	22,002	22,056

Average Debate Statistics

Average number of times MLAs rose to speak per sitting day

	33rd Assembly Yukon Party Majority	34th Assembly Yukon Liberal Majority	35th Assembly Yukon Liberal Minority (to date)
Budget Bills	33.8	35.1	42.8
Legislation	10.7	11.6	12.3
Ministerials	0.0	2.0	2.9
Motions	3.7	4.0	1.9
Question Period	32.2	30.8	30.4
All Debate	86.5	92.1	99.4

Debate

The average number of times MLAs rose to speak each sitting day increased by 15% from the 33rd to the 35th Assemblies. In the 34th, Members were shortening their speeches / remarks. During the 35th Assembly, the Standing Committee on Rules Elections and Privileges (SCREP) formalized this, bringing in a rule limiting Committee of the Whole replies from 20 minutes down to 8 minutes.

Debate - Budget Bills

The dominant, most debated piece of legislation every sitting is the budget - the main budget in the spring and the supplementary budget in the fall. Opposition members seek to maximize the opportunity for budget debate to hold the Government to account. During the 34th and 35th Assemblies, budget debate, the number of times Members rose to speak to the budget, increased by more than 25%. This was likely due to two key factors:

- i. Ministerial responses and Opposition questions were more brief;
- ii. During the 35th Minority Assembly, the **Yukon Liberals** did not have any backbench and thus every second Wednesday went from Government Private Member's Motions, to Government Business.

Debate - Legislation

The **Yukon Party** passed more bills during the 33rd Assembly. Much of this legislation was shorter - 60% of the bills were under 10 pages in length. Despite having more legislation considered during the 33rd Assembly, more debate happened on legislation in 34th and 35th. During the 35th, SCREP set a new rule that all non-budget legislation could no longer be guillotined at the end of session, meaning it would need to be fully debated before it could pass. As the Government, the **Yukon Liberals** shifted to bring the non-budget legislation earlier during the sitting in order to ensure it would make it through.

As part of the Confidence and Supply Agreement between the **Yukon Liberals** and the **Yukon NDP** during the 35th Assembly, the Liberals agreed to support the NDP to bring forward legislation and to ensure that legislation get to a final vote at 3rd reading. To date, the **Yukon NDP** have brought forward 5 bills, 3 of which passed the Assembly.

Debate - Motions

The **Yukon Party** passed more motions during the 33rd Assembly; however, 59 of the 89 motions passed (66%) were their own. Compare this to the 35th Assembly - 22 of the 47 motions passed were motions from the **Yukon Liberals**.

	33rd Assembly Yukon Party Majority	34th Assembly Yukon Liberal Majority	35th Assembly Yukon Liberal Minority (to date)
Motions Debated	115 • 63 • 26 • 22 • 4	114 • 35 • 33 • 46	70 • 26 • 19 • 25
Motions Passed	89 • 59 • 12 • 14 • 4	77 • 16 • 23 • 38	47 • 14 • 11 • 22

House Business

The **Yukon Party** delivered more tributes. The **Yukon Liberals** had more witnesses, ministerial statements and legislative returns. Over the 3 Assemblies, the **Yukon NDP** brought the most petitions.

House Business - Ministerial Statements

The **Yukon Party** delivered one single ministerial statement during their term in Government. During the 34th Assembly, the governing **Yukon Liberals** delivered more than 100 statements. In the 35th Assembly, ministerial statements became a regular piece of the daily routine for the **Yukon Liberals**. In response Opposition MLAs introduced an amendment to the standing orders that required pre-approval from an opposition party for a ministerial statement to be delivered. Since that rule was introduced in the fall of 2023, 69% of the ministerial statements have been rejected. (Note, this statistic cannot be found in Hansard, it has come from House Leaders meeting notes.)

House Business - Petitions

	33rd Assembly Yukon Party Majority	34th Assembly Yukon Liberal Majority	35th Assembly Yukon Liberal Minority (to date)
Petitions	28	16	25
	• 3	• 7	• 10
	• 24	• 9	• 15
	◦ 1		

House Business - Question Period

As part of the daily routine, each sitting day, 30 minutes is set aside for Question Period, where Opposition Critics ask a series of questions and follow-up questions of Ministers. Since the time period is fixed, there is not much difference from one Assembly to the next regarding the number of questions posed. During the 33rd Assembly, the **Yukon NDP** did manage to squeeze in a few more questions on average. It is difficult to ascertain if this was a function of briefer questions, briefer answers or some subtle difference in time keeping when points of order were raised?

House Business - Witnesses

The **Yukon Liberals** brought in more witnesses. The Workers' Safety Compensation Board (WCB) is mandated to come in each year under the legislation. Beyond this the **Yukon Party** brought in witnesses 7 other times over their five years including the Yukon Hospital and Yukon Energy. The **Yukon Liberals** brought in 28 witnesses (beyond WCB) over their two terms. This including the Yukon Hospital, Yukon Energy, Yukon University, Chief Medical Officer of Health, Citizen's Assembly, etc.

Interestingly, twice Opposition Parties voted down having witnesses appear in 2022 – once for the Yukon University and once for Yukon Energy.

House Business - Legislative Returns

To date, the **Yukon Liberals** have tabled 475 legislative returns over their 8 years in Government. A legislative return is a written response to add information that has been requested by Opposition Members during Question Period or debate during Committee of the Whole. It can also be in response to a written question that the Opposition has tabled.

The **Yukon Party** tabled 1 single legislative return over their 5 years in Government. Despite this fact, during debate on the floor of the Assembly, they often request that the **Yukon Liberals** provide additional information by way of legislative returns.

House Business - Tributes

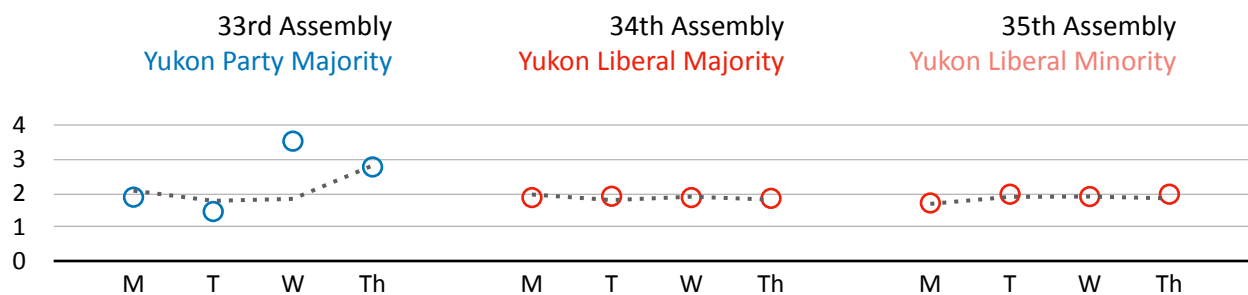
After opening prayers and introductions of guests in the gallery, tributes are the first business of the daily routine of the Assembly. In the 33rd Assembly the **Yukon Party** introduced more tributes, but in the 34th and 35th Assemblies more Members spoke to each tribute. Likely this was a function of the **Yukon Liberals** providing advance information to the Opposition House Leaders regarding upcoming tributes.

	33rd Assembly Yukon Party Majority		34th Assembly Yukon Liberal Majority		35th Assembly Yukon Liberal Minority (to date)	
Tributes	629	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 533 • 280 • 200 	433	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 307 • 248 • 409 	416	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 372 • 362 • 404

During the 35th Assembly, rules were introduced limiting the time for individual tributes to 3-½ minutes and the overall time for tributes to be capped at 20 minutes. This effectively limits it to 2 tributes per sitting day, with each Party having one Member pay the tribute.

House Business - Tributes by Weekday

During the 33rd Assembly **MLA Kate White** delivered a tribute about tributes. In it she commented that the **Yukon Party** Government was delivering more tributes on Opposition Wednesdays [see Hansard p. 6605]. Below is a graph showing the number of tributes by weekday. The coloured circles show the weeks with Opposition motions, while the dotted line is for the weeks with Government motions. On Opposition Wednesday the **Yukon Party** did roughly double the number of tributes.



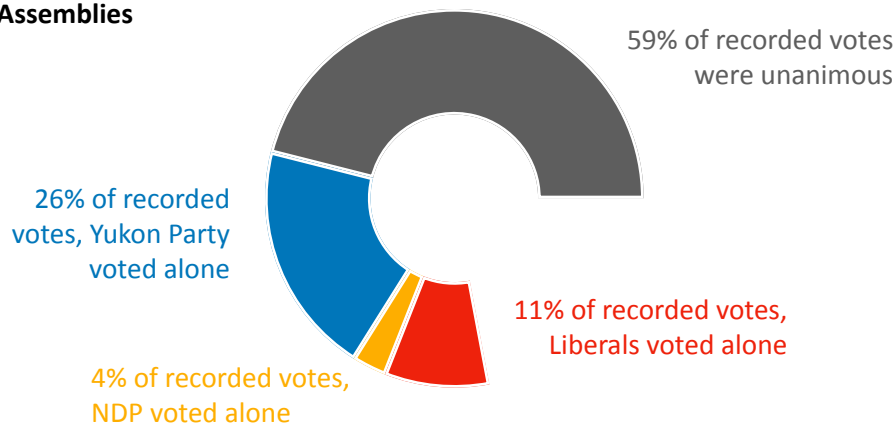
33rd-34th-35th Yukon Legislative Assemblies

Voting

Voting in the Assembly can be recorded votes or verbal votes. In the 33rd assembly 65% of the votes were recorded. In the 34th that per cent rose to 81% of the votes being recorded. The 35th Assembly was a minority Assembly, so it became even more common - 93% of the votes were recorded.

Even though the political system in the Yukon Assembly is partisan and thus adversarial, it is worth noting that in each Assembly recorded votes were unanimous more often than they were not. Over the 3 Assemblies, recorded votes were unanimous 59% of the time.

Voting - All Assemblies



Voting - % Missed Votes

During the 3 Assemblies, the Yukon Liberals had the best vote attendance record and the Yukon NDP had the worst.

