

FIREWEED TAPESTRY



The large tapestry in the Legislative Assembly Chamber is entitled "Fireweed," Yukon's floral emblem, and was commissioned for the opening of the Jim Smith Building in May 1976. The 5.4-metre by 3.6-metre tapestry was created by Canadian artist Joanna Staniszkis. It required 1,400 hours of work and more than 90 kg of wool to complete. Most of the wool was hand spun.

By dyeing the wool herself, the artist created more than 100 different shades of colour. The tapestry was woven in one piece on a vertical frame-type loom. The tapestry's abstract images reflect the natural resources and landscapes of the Yukon.



THE PEOPLE IN THE CHAMBER

Speaker

The Speaker presides over the House's debates, determining which members may speak. The Speaker is also responsible for maintaining order during debates and applies the Standing Orders (rules of the proceedings).

Members of the Legislative Assembly

There are 21 elected Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) who each represent an electoral district.

Clerks-at-the-Table

The Clerks are permanent officers who support the sittings and provide advice on practice and procedure.

Sergeant-at-Arms

An officer of the Assembly with ceremonial and security duties, including supervision of the Chamber and visitors in the Public Gallery.

Hansard

Transcribers produce the written transcripts of the Assembly's debates. The Hansard is the official record of the debates of the House and is publicly available on the Yukon Legislative Assembly website.

Press Gallery

Journalists are permitted to observe and report on events in the Yukon Legislative Assembly. The Florence "Flo" Whyard Press Gallery overlooks the floor of the House.

Pages

Pages are seated on either side of the Speaker and act as messengers in the Chamber.

HISTORY OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY



First wholly elected Yukon Territorial Council, 1909

Yukon became a Territory of Canada with the passage of the Yukon Territory Act in 1898. By 1909, Yukon had its first wholly elected council with a Speaker chosen by the members.

The Territorial Council changed its name to the Yukon Legislative Assembly in 1974.

The 24th Legislature, elected in 1978, was the first Legislative Assembly in Yukon where members were affiliated with a political party. Before 1978, all representatives were Independent members.

Since 1979, Yukon has operated according to the principles of responsible government. Executive power is held by Cabinet and is dependent on the support of the elected Legislative Assembly.

Today, the Yukon Legislature has the power to legislate in most of the same areas that a provincial legislature does: education, health care, social services, recreation, natural resources, and roads and other infrastructure.

PUBLIC GALLERY RULES OF ORDER

Visitors are always welcome to attend sittings of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

The guidelines for visitors in the Public Gallery are as follows:

- Backpacks, hats, umbrellas, large bags, large coats and other items must be left in lockers (see the Security Guard on duty).
- No balloons or placards.
- No musical instruments.
- No food or beverages (including water).
- No loud comments, applauding or any interruptions or disturbances.
- No recording the proceedings – including photography, video or sound recording without the Speaker's prior permission.
- No standing in the Public Gallery, except at the top of the gallery but not in front of the media gallery or in the accessible seating area.
- No using electronic devices (e.g. laptops, cell phones). Handwritten notes may be taken in the Public Gallery.



OPENING TIMES FOR VISITING

The Public Gallery is open when the Legislative Assembly is in session. The Assembly typically meets twice a year for the Spring and Fall Sittings and sits Monday through Thursday from 1:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. (except on statutory holidays).

The Spring Sitting commences the first week of March, while the Fall Sitting begins the first week of October. A calendar of sitting days is available on the Assembly's website.

Public tours of the Yukon Legislative Assembly can be arranged through the Government of Yukon Inquiry Desk or by calling 867-667-5811.

Hearing Assistance

Audio receivers are available to visitors upon request. Visitors with hearing loss can use an Auracast neck loop for their telecoil-equipped hearing aid or cochlear implant.



Yukon LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY Visting the Chamber

