Yukon Legislative Assembly
SPEAKER — Honourable Sam Johnston, MLA, Campbell
DEPUTY SPEAKER — Art Webster, MLA, Klondike

CABINET MINISTERS

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GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS
New Democratic Party
Sam Johnston  Campbell
Norma Kassi   Old Crow
Art Webster   Klondike

OPPOSITION MEMBERS
Progressive Conservative
Willard 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

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G.I. Cameron
Dave Robertson

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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 well-being 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.

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.

"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.

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 once had. The civil servants have expressed to me their desire that 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.

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 to talk and get away from the pressures of being a government minister. He was always a trucker.

In spite of his heavy portfolio responsibilities, Andy remained 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 to talk and get away from the pressures of being a government minister. He was always a trucker.

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
From the hon. Andrew Philipsen was a fine Yukoner, a caring representative of 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 sorrowly 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."

Silence

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

The following Sessional Paper was tabled September 30, 1985:

85-1-11

Vacancy in electoral district of Whitehorse Porter Creek West

(Speaker)