

**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Dawson City, Yukon
Friday, June 12, 2009 — 1:00 p.m.**

Speaker: Prior to calling the House to order, we will have an opening prayer. I would now ask the Sergeant-at-Arms, Mr. Rudy Couture, to escort Doris Roberts to the floor of the House to offer the opening prayer.

The Sergeant-at-Arms escorts Ms. Roberts to the podium

Ms. Roberts: *[Hän spoken. Translation unavailable]*
Thank you for coming to Dawson City.

One hundred years ago, legislation was held here. Welcome, Premier and people, and I thank you. Now I will say a prayer.

Prayers

Speaker: At this time, I will call the House to order. Please be seated.

DAILY ROUTINE

Speaker: We will proceed at this time with the Order Paper.

INTRODUCTION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

Speaker: Under the introduction of special guests, the Chair has the honour to introduce Commissioner Geraldine Van Bibber; Chief Eddie Taylor; Mayor John Steins; former Premier Chris Pearson; former Premier Tony Penikett; Mr. Jim Smith, former Commissioner; Mr. Ken McKinnon, former Commissioner; Mr. Jack Cable, former Commissioner; Mr. Ron Veale, Senior Justice of the Yukon Supreme Court. To my immediate left are the former Klondike MLAs, Mr. Art Webster, Mr. David Millar and Mr. Peter Jenkins.

Thank you all very much for attending this most auspicious occasion for us and the Legislative Assembly.

The next item of business is motions.

MOTIONS OTHER THAN GOVERNMENT MOTIONS

Motion No. 830

Mr. Nordick: Mr. Speaker, I move:

THAT the Speaker of the Yukon Legislative Assembly forward the following address to the people of Yukon:

WHEREAS June 28, 2009 represents the 100th anniversary of the election of the first wholly-elected Council of the Yukon Territory; and

WHEREAS the existence of strong, representative institutions of government constitutes a cornerstone of a just and democratic society; and

WHEREAS Yukoners have for a century demonstrated their commitment to the institutions of representative government;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly, on behalf of all Yukoners, acknowledges and commemorates the efforts of those who have

contributed to the attainment and development of representative government in Yukon over the past 100 years.

Thank you.

Speaker: It has been moved the Hon. Member for Klondike, Mr. Steve Nordick:

THAT the Speaker of the Yukon Legislative Assembly forward the following address to the people of Yukon:

WHEREAS June 28, 2009 represents the 100th anniversary of the election of the first wholly-elected Council of the Yukon Territory; and

WHEREAS the existence of strong, representative institutions of government constitutes a cornerstone of a just and democratic society; and

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NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Yukon Legislative Assembly, on behalf of all Yukoners, acknowledges and commemorates the efforts of those who have contributed to the attainment and development of representative government in Yukon over the past 100 years.

Mr. Nordick: Mr. Speaker, I would first like to take this opportunity to welcome everyone here to Dawson City, the traditional territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has made the effort to help celebrate the 100th anniversary of wholly-elected representation in the Yukon. Since being elected as the Klondike MLA, I would like to give special thanks to Mr. David Millar, Mr. Art Webster and Mr. Peter Jenkins for the service they have provided in the most recent years.

I would also like to thank the citizens of the Klondike for electing me to represent them, for it is an honour and a privilege to have been able to do so for the last couple of years — especially here today as we celebrate the 100th year of wholly elected representation in the Yukon.

I would like to ask everyone to consider what it means to have a democratic society and how the events that happened 100 years ago affected Canada and the Yukon. I, and I believe everyone here today, understand and appreciate what we as Canadians, and locally here as Yukoners, have in place to ensure that the voices of our citizens are represented, heard and understood. I believe that decisions made that directly affect the Yukon should be made by citizens of the Yukon, and our future should not be determined by people who do not live in the Yukon and call it home.

When I think about what took place in this community 100 years ago and the effects this community and the Klondike had on the Yukon and Canada, it makes me even more proud to be here today where it all started.

While pondering this motion, I considered adding a clause to it that would return the capital city — I don't even have to continue. Like I said, I was thinking about adding a clause that would return the capital city to its rightful home here in the Klondike, but I was a little unsure how the members from other

ridings would feel about this, and I thought I might be a little outnumbered so I decided not to proceed.

In closing, the reason this day is so important to us is because it is up to us as citizens of Yukon and elected representatives to record, acknowledge and celebrate our history for now and future generations. By doing this, we ensure that the knowledge and history of our past is not forgotten but used to help us and future citizens and leaders in the Yukon to advance this great territory positively in years to come.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Mr. Fentie: Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour to make representations here today at the original seat of responsible government for Yukon. Since that day 100 years ago, much has transpired in this territory. We, the Yukoners of today, owe a great deal to the many individuals who dedicated themselves to building responsible government here in the Yukon.

There are points in time that are critical to that evolution, Mr. Speaker. In 1966, with the autonomy motion drafted by Yukon's MP, Mr. Erik Nielsen, changes were made to the *Yukon Act* that truly gave us responsible government in the form of an Executive Council and established the Legislative Assembly, in many of its forms, as we know it today.

Moving on, Mr. Speaker, there are times in history that are very important to where we have come with our governance here in the Yukon. The Minister of DIAND, Mr. Epp, gave directions to then Commissioner of the Yukon, Ione Christensen, which would allow for the government leader and/or premier to appoint a body known as Cabinet or Executive Council to be able to develop policy, make decisions and take on responsibility of governance for the Yukon.

And much more has taken place. In April 2003, Yukon achieved devolution and we have truly become masters in our own house. So today is definitely a day to mark in time the evolution of responsible government and the building of Yukon's political, social and economic development.

I am truly honoured and proud to be present today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Mitchell: Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour to speak to this motion marking the 100th anniversary of the first wholly elected Council of the Yukon Territory. I would like to thank the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation for allowing us to meet today in their traditional territory, and we thank the Member for Klondike for his motion. He might have tried his other motion; you never know how a vote might go.

This sitting commemorates a very special event in our history — the 100th anniversary of the first wholly elected Territorial Council, the forerunner of the current Legislative Assembly. As you know, Mr. Speaker, the history of the Yukon goes back long before then — perhaps 30,000 years. Until 1839, the entire population of the Yukon was made up of First Nation people.

L'arrivée des venus européens, environ cent cinquante ans il y a, changements spectaculaires imposés sur la terre et ses personnes dans relativement une courte période. Sont venus la

première fois les explorateurs européens, et alors les commerçants de fourrure sont arrivés et ont commencé des comptoirs commerciaux d'établissement. Ils ont été suivis des missionnaires catholiques et protestants, et puis le grand afflux de la fièvre de l'or.

Mr. Speaker, we know the history. We know that, during the Klondike Gold Rush, the Parliament of Canada passed the *Yukon Territory Act* in 1898 and established Yukon as a separate geographical and political entity within the Canadian federation. This act established a Yukon government made up of a Commissioner and a Territorial Council of four, all appointed by the Government of Canada, but by 1909, the Territorial Council was an entirely elected body of 10. One hundred years later, here now, a body of 18, soon to be 19. We have come a long way in the last century, Mr. Speaker.

One thing has not changed about Dawson. It was built on gold and that remains the mainstay of the local economy today. The Yukon placer industry keeps upward of 500 people directly employed. The placer mining industry has suffered its ups and downs over the last 100 years, but it still survives and thrives today. It brings to mind the words of Winston Churchill: A pessimist sees the difficulty in every opportunity. An optimist sees the opportunity in every difficulty. If you are a placer miner, Mr. Speaker, you are definitely an optimist, and we are optimistic that the placer mining industry will still be thriving in Dawson 100 years from now.

I want to speak briefly today about just how important it is that we have a fully elected Legislative Assembly in Yukon. We take it for granted that we will elect our representatives in Canada, but as Canadians, we are among the minority of countries that enjoy truly democratically elected governments. As anyone who has read the history of Yukon will know, that wasn't always the case in Yukon either. In this Assembly, we debate issues of public interest, and sometimes we do so with great passion, but unlike so many countries around the world, we are free to do so with complete confidence in our freedom of expression and without any fear that there will be dangerous personal consequences from expressing strong opinions. That is a precious right that must always be protected.

Mr. Speaker, while there is little likelihood of any overt action to restrict our freedoms, there is always the danger of any government making decisions in secret or hiding information from the public or from opposition members. It is the duty of opposition members to ask questions, to bring issues and information to the public's attention. Sometimes that role is less than pleasant, but it must always be performed in the public interest. As Pierre Elliott Trudeau said, "Society must take every means at its disposal to defend against the emergence of parallel a power which defies the elected power," or, in other words, the price of freedom is eternal vigilance.

As long as members of this Assembly demand answers from the government of the day, Yukoners should not fear the loss of their democratic freedoms. The Official Opposition will be supporting the motion of the Member for Klondike, and we wish a happy 100th birthday to the Territorial Council. Thank you. Mahsi' cho. Merci.

Mr. Hardy: Mr. Speaker, it gives me great honour to be a Yukoner today, and I would like to thank all the people of this territory — all my brothers and sisters of this territory — for sharing the Yukon with me and my family and for the experiences and the lessons it has taught me.

I am not going to talk about democracy. Everyone knows my position on democracy and how I feel about that and what is lacking in our country. With people's indulgence, I will tell you a fable.

Many many years ago, there was a king — King Solomon — who presided over his people in the City of Jerusalem. He built a temple there in which he had people come before him and in which he would offer advice to help them solve issues, but he would also hear travesties against the laws and enact those laws.

One day two brothers came before him. They were arguing and they were angry. They came before him and he sat there and listened to them. One brother said, "Our father has passed away, and by law, I receive all the land." And the other brother said, "No, it's not fair. We must share." They argued and argued and it got very heated. Finally King Solomon told them to stop and said he would tell them a story.

The story is this: there were two brothers. They had a field. And this is before Jerusalem; this is before the temple; before any of this stuff. This happened long ago, before King Solomon. There were two towns, one on one side of the hill and another on the other side of the hill. There were two paths. One was over top — the shorter route. The other one went down around the base of the hill that joined the two towns. One brother lived in one town and the other brother lived in the other. They shared a field together and they harvested their crops together. They shared everything equally.

One year they had a beautiful bounty — the best they had ever had, and they each ended up with 20 bags of grain from the bounty. As the older brother, who had gotten married and had many children, was walking home, he thought, "I have so much. I have my family to look after me. I have my children who will continue to harvest the field, but my brother..." — the brother, who many people thought, loved the quiet life or just never met the person he wanted to live with, had stayed single. The older brother thought, "I will give him a gift, since we have such a bountiful harvest." Late that night, the older brother loaded up three bags of grain and he went down below the field and deposited three bags of grain in the storage bin of the other brother. Then he went home smiling all the way, thinking, "This is good. This is what I should do for my younger brother."

The next morning, his wife asked him, "How was the harvest?"

He said, "The same as usual. There were 17 bags of grain."

She went into the shed and looked and she counted and there were 20 bags. She came back and said, "What's wrong with you, husband? Why did you tell me there were 17 when there are 20?"

He went running into the shed and looked, and he said, "Am I dreaming this? Tonight, I'm going to make sure." So when night came, he decided to go over the hill, the shorter

route, with his donkey and the three bags. He came home and woke up the next morning and told his wife that he has given three bags away. It was a secret and he didn't want to talk about it. She went into the shed again and counted. There were 20 bags again. He went in and said, "Am I going crazy? What is going on here?"

On the third night he decided to do it. He was going to stay awake and make sure it was done properly. Meanwhile, in the other town, while the younger brother was going home, he thought, "My older brother has many mouths to feed. I only have myself. I have just as much as he has. I am going to give him a gift. I am going to take three bags of grain over to his place." That night — the first night — he went over the hill and deposited the grain, came back and felt good. He woke up, went and counted his grain bags again and realized he had 20 bags. Was he dreaming this? The next night he did the same thing. He went on the lower route. He came back, checked his grain storage the next day and found he had 20 bags. The third night came by, and both brothers were determined. They didn't know what had happened, but they were determined to deliver the grain to each other. They both decided to go over the top of the hill. As they came to the peak of the hill, they saw each other and they instantly realized what each was doing — the generosity and the love they showed each other. They embraced on the spot on which the temple was built. The hill is where Jerusalem was built.

That is the story that King Solomon told the two brothers who were fighting and splitting themselves over a field. Everybody watched to see what the two brothers would do. The older brother looked at his younger brother and said, "Our father has died and now we have to move forward. What is now mine is yours equally." And they walked away.

The wisdom of Solomon, the love of two brothers and the forgiveness of the other two brothers is what we must practice as legislators.

Thank you.

Hon. Ms. Taylor: Mr. Speaker, it is indeed a great honour and privilege to be here in Dawson City today and to be able to take part in this very special sitting. I would first like to extend my appreciation to Chief Taylor and the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in for enabling this unique event to occur on their traditional territory. Thank you to Mayor Steins and Council; thank you to our host, the Member for Klondike, Steve Nordick, and all the citizens of the Klondike for the hospitality that they have extended to each and every one of us.

The motion before us speaks to the recognition and celebration of 100 years of elected government in the Yukon — a unique but fitting way to pay tribute to those men and women, who, through their actions, efforts and passion for their home, helped shape the territory we see today.

Mr. Speaker, it was nearly 100 years ago that the 10 members of the first wholly elected Yukon Council gathered here on the steps on what was once known as the Territorial Administration Building — a building, which I might add, has since been designated a national historic site and is indeed one of the premier heritage attractions in the Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, the fine efforts of each of these individuals have set the stage for Yukon's democratic evolution over the passing years.

Over the past 100 years, we have seen great strides taken in the development of our territory. We have seen the Council evolve from 10 duly elected members to the current Legislative Assembly comprised of 18 members.

Women were granted the right to vote and to stand for election in 1919. Likewise, First Nations people were also granted the right to vote. Each of these important changes contributed, and continues to contribute, to a more representative and more democratic government.

Yukon has also seen the introduction of party politics. The devolution of administration of lands and resources from Canada to the Yukon in 2003 was integral turning point in the evolution of responsible governance within the territory. With this change has come increased responsibility through lawmaking, through budgets and balancing responsible development with that of protecting our environment.

A further key development in Yukon's history is that of the evolution of Yukon First Nations governance in the territory through the negotiation of modern land claim and self-governing final agreements and that which has resulted in the establishment of 11 self-governing First Nations with treaties.

We have seen the introduction and passage of major statutes such as the *Workers' Compensation Act*, the *Education Act* and the *Environment Act*. We have seen the development of major infrastructure such as the Alaska Highway, the construction of the Whitehorse hydro-electric dam to name but a few.

We have also seen the evolution of women in leadership. In 1909, women were not eligible to vote or hold office. Today this has clearly changed. From the first woman elected, Gertrude Jean Gordon, in 1967 to the first woman elected Premier, Pat Duncan, the countless women who donated their time and energy to get involved in the Council, certainly have paved the way for our participation today.

Strong women have devoted their time on behalf of Yukon citizens, such as Bea Firth, Lorraine Peter, Margaret Commodore, Norma Kassi, Kathy Nukon, Hilda Watson and countless others.

Mr. Speaker, as one of two elected women in the Legislative Assembly at this time, I would like to acknowledge and thank these and the many other women for their contributions. They have worked hard and have made a difference to the institution itself and in the lives of many men and women in the territory today.

Today's Assembly reflects the changing face of the Yukon, how far we have come as well as how far we still need to go.

Mr. Speaker, we have witnessed many changes in our democratic institution and as time continues to unfold, we will see our Assembly continue to evolve, including the addition of an additional seat to come in the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

I thank all members, past and present, for coming and taking part in this historic celebration.

As the representative for Whitehorse West, I am pleased to support the motion before us as an opportunity to reflect on the

evolution of governance over the last 100 years, the changing face of the Yukon and our growing together as a community.

Thank you.

Mr. Edzerza: Mr. Speaker, I would like to remind the Member for Klondike that his suggestion to move the capital city back to Dawson probably would have passed today, because he must have forgotten, they have a majority.

Mr. Speaker, I respectfully acknowledge that I am now present in the traditional territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation. It is also a pleasure to be here today as part of this special legislative sitting and to be present in this building, which, I am sure, has a very interesting history. If only the walls could speak, I wonder what kind of stories they would tell. Was the decorum better among members 100 years ago, or was it much the same as it is today?

Mr. Speaker, there is so much political history that could be discussed today, all of which I find very fascinating. There comes to mind two political figures for whom I have developed a keen interest in, mainly because of the courage and determination demonstrated by their actions. One could even describe them as forefathers, ones who blazed the trail for other First Nation politicians in the Yukon. I might add that at one time, First Nations were not even allowed to vote. However, today I am proud to say that there are five elected First Nation MLAs in the Legislative Assembly.

These two men that I mentioned were Chief Isaac of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, from the local region of Dawson City and Chief Jim Boss of the Ta'an Kwäch'än First Nation further south in the Lake Laberge area near Whitehorse.

Chief Isaac was the Chief of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in from the late 1880s until his death in 1932. This was a difficult era in which to be a chief because of the large influx and alienation of his people's land by strangers from other parts of the world who were seeking gold. Realizing the impact the stampede of people would have on his people, Chief Isaac worked with the Government of Canada and the Anglican Church to move his people from the confluence of the Yukon and Klondike rivers to Moosehide, five kilometres down river away from the crowds of foreigners.

Chief Isaac was a very outspoken man, and quite gutsy, I might add. For example, he was quoted in the *Dawson Daily News* on December 15, 1911. "All Yukon belong to my papas. All Klondike belong my people. Country now all mine. Long time all mine. Hills all mine; moose all mine; rabbits all mine; gold all mine. White man come and take all my gold. Take millions, take hundreds fifty millions, and blow'em in Seattle." I would say that was beyond brave, considering the thousands of non-First Nations who might have read this newspaper.

Chief Isaac was respected by his people and the newcomers to his land; however, he constantly reminded them that they prospered at the expense of his people by shooting their game and taking their gold. In fact he was quoted as saying, "The white man can take the gold, but leave the caribou for my people."

Mr. Speaker, it turned out the Hän worked to find a balance between their traditional lifestyle and the ways of new-

comers. The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in land claims final agreement with Canada and the Yukon was signed on July 16, 1998, and came into effect on September 15, 1998.

Mr. Speaker, another important politician from this era was Hereditary Chief Jim Boss of the Ta'an Kwäch'an from the Lake Laberge area near Whitehorse. In 1900, when the gold rush was in full swing, he recognized that his people needed protection for their land; therefore, he petitioned the Commissioner of the Yukon, William Ogilvie, for a 1,600-acre reserve at Lake Laberge, which he had already surveyed. He was denied and a reserve of only 320 acres was granted. Wouldn't you know it? It sure sounds similar to the outcome of the modern land claims settlements of today.

In 1902, Chief Boss saw the impact the gold rush was having on his people and wrote an urgent message to the Superintendent General of Indian Affairs, "Tell the King very hard, we want something for our Indians because they take our land again." These letters written by Chief Jim Boss represent the first attempts at land claims negotiations by the Yukon First Nations people. One hundred years later, the Ta'an Kwäch'an First Nation signed its final and self-government agreements.

Mr. Speaker, in the end, all citizens in the Yukon Territory benefited from the wisdom of these two politicians, and I do support this motion.

Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to be here today and a pleasure to rise and speak to this motion — in support of it, of course.

As everyone knows, Dawson and the Klondike are a very integral part of Yukon's history. Our creation as a territory would not have occurred without the Klondike Gold Rush, or it certainly would not have occurred when it did.

Placer mining, of course, has been a key engine of the Yukon economy since that time in 1898 and remains a major part of the mining industry today.

For our other main industry — tourism — the Klondike and Dawson are linked as an image, as part of the entire image that the Yukon has worldwide. It is part of what defines us as a territory, and today we have the pleasure of rising to commemorate and honour the origin of democratically elected government here in Yukon.

We often take it for granted, but it was not inevitable. After the first elected Council 100 years ago, it took another 70 years before the Epp letter gave the Yukon Legislature full authority through the commitment that the federal Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs would no longer give instructions to the Commissioner. It was another 24 years before the devolution transfer agreement gave the Yukon provincial-like power through management authority over areas including natural resources.

Many of the responsibilities and powers transferred to the Yukon at devolution are exercised by the department for which I have the pleasure of being minister — the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, and it is a pleasure to have that opportunity to make decisions for Yukoners that reflect their interests. The ability to make those decisions that respond to

the needs of Yukoners here in the Yukon rather than being made in Ottawa was a key step in improving our ability to ensure those decisions reflect the democratic role of our citizens.

This would not have happened without hard work by Yukoners over the past 100 years. Mr. Speaker, some of them have long since passed away. Some are here today, and I wish to thank all those who are present with us, and those who are not, for their hard work. I refer not only to former members of the Assembly, but to others who have perhaps been less in the spotlight but have been no less important in working toward democratically elected government with the powers to serve the needs of the citizens.

Again, it is a pleasure and an honour to rise and thank them and pay tribute to their efforts that have brought us to where we are today — a democratically elected government with power over most areas that a province has.

Prior to closing, I would also like to read a letter from the Yukon Senator, Daniel Lang, who wrote to the Speaker expressing his regrets for his inability to attend today's events. It reads as follows:

"Dear Mr. Speaker:

"I wish to send you my sincere regrets with regard to the event on June 12, special sitting of the Yukon Legislative Assembly in Dawson City. Unfortunately circumstances here in Ottawa will not permit me to attend at this time.

"As a former member of the Assembly, I had the good fortune of attending a special sitting in the original Chamber, and I know how important it is to the people of Dawson City as well as Yukon.

"Please convey my greetings to all members of the Legislature as they celebrate their 100th anniversary of the Assembly.

"With regards,

"Hon. Daniel Lang

"Senator for Yukon"

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I will not be very long in my remarks here today, but I wish to once again reiterate my sincere thanks to all who have brought us here today. Thank you to all who made our democracy what it is here now, and thank you, finally, to my constituents for the honour to serve them as part of this democratically elected Legislative Assembly.

Thank you.

Mr. Elias: [*Gwitchin spoken. Translation unavailable.*]

I am honoured to be here today to speak at the 100th anniversary of representative government and to be among such distinguished past and present leaders, because it is you who have blazed the path for us to follow and for us to make a new trail. When we talk about governance in our territory, I think about what happened in 1973 when Elijah Smith led many chiefs to Ottawa and presented the document, *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*. A sentence that resonated with me, as a leader for the wonderful riding of Vuntut Gwitchin and the people of Old Crow was what he said in Ottawa, "We are not here for a handout. We are here with a vision to walk forward together with public governments into the future for the betterment of all people of the Yukon."

I thank each and every one of your leaders here today, because when I travel and I spread the word of Yukon and of my people, I go to cities like Washington D.C. I look around, and on every corner there are American monuments that express who they are as a people, or in Europe, some of them reach for the sky; some of them are about moments in time; some of them are about history. When I make speeches, I ask, "What are my monuments? What are Yukon's monuments?" I am proud to tell people and those who will listen, our monuments and what gives me strength are when I walk the hills in Tombstone Park, when I paddle in the Old Crow Flats Special Management Area and when I hike the mountains in Kluane. I can dip a cup in the river and drink it. The land. When I watch the mighty Porcupine caribou herd come over the mountain, they come over with such strength. It is the past and present leadership that protects those monuments that give Yukoners strength to move forward in governance.

In 1973, the chiefs presented *Together Today for Our Children Tomorrow*. As a result, we have the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, and Yukon First Nation self-government agreements that influence public policy and the way that public government moves forward for all Yukoners. I am proud of that fact, and I communicate that fact.

My constituents in Old Crow always tell me, when I go abroad, to talk about what is important to us — our living cultures, our living heritage, our living languages that we have in our territory. Be proud of them. Speak with an open heart, but sometimes you have to have a firm hand.

I thank the Legislative Assembly and the people of Dawson for allowing me to speak on the homelands of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation. I am very proud and honoured to do so, and I just wanted to say that our destiny 100 years from now is going to live on in our precious children, and the change we have in our public governments is going to be implemented by them.

I would be very remiss if I did not mention what today also represents, and that is game 7 of the Stanley Cup final. It starts at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time, and I wish everybody the best in watching that, and whichever team you hope wins. I know I will be watching for sure.

Mr. Speaker, thank you. I support this motion. Member for Klondike, mahsi' cho. Again, to all the leaders, past and present, I am honoured to speak in your presence today.

Mahsi' cho.

Hon. Mr. Kenyon: Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank all of our hosts — one and all — for inviting us back to the capital city.

The Yukon Territory, Mr. Speaker, found its genesis in one of the most turbulent and exciting times in Canadian history: the Klondike Gold Rush, of course. When gold was first discovered at Bonanza Creek, it sparked an unprecedented and massive influx of adventure-seeking people to the Klondike. As a result, the Canadian government had to struggle with the difficult repercussions of this population boom.

Prior to the creation of initial government institutions by the 1898 *Yukon Act*, there existed informal methods in govern-

ing the territory. The most notable of these was by the North-West Mounted Police. The North-West Mounted Police assumed roles far beyond that of law and order. They were responsible for collecting customs at the border, carrying mail in and out of the territory, running the local post office, recording mining claims and land titles, acting as coroners, dentists, health officers, tax collectors, jailers, magistrates and guards for the banks. They were responsible for relations with the First Nations and later acted as returning officers for elections.

The North-West Mounted Police clearly had an intimate bond with the people of the territory and were involved in the majority of everyday activities and functions of society. This, however, was not feasible in the long term, and as the population began to grow, this fact became very apparent.

In 1897, Clifford Sifton, the Liberal Minister of the Interior, dispatched Major James Morrow Walsh to the Yukon region with almost exhaustive powers to govern the territory. He gave him the title of Chief Executive Officer of the Yukon Territory — another great, fun part of Yukon history. Major Walsh's period as Chief Executive Officer proved unsuccessful, and growing sentiment emerged for a more permanent system of government administration for the territory.

In 1898, the federal government passed an act to provide for the government of the Yukon District which created Yukon as a territory, and it provided it with a full complement of executive, legislative and judicial powers. The Chief Executive Officer was renamed the "Commissioner" and could select no more than six officials to help him at that time to administer the government. In essence, Mr. Speaker, the Yukon territorial government could wield all of the powers of the provinces, except, of course, for the management of public lands, construction of major public works, borrowing money and the ability to change the territorial constitution.

Although the *Yukon Territory Act* allayed some of the concerns articulated by the local population, many continued to pursue further political power for the Yukon. William Ogilvie replaced Walsh in 1898, and in 1899, the *Yukon Act* was amended to allow for two elected members to sit on the Council as well as allowing the Commissioner in Council to impose taxes, to control the importation of liquor — very important — and to allow for the appointment of judges and supreme court, and to control the rules of the court.

Two men were elected to the Yukon Council in October 1900. This marked the first time Yukoners had gained elected representation in the structure of the body of governance.

There is a saying, Mr. Speaker, "Trust the people every time; grant them responsible government, and they will show themselves worthy of it."

Thank you very much. Günilshish. Mahsi' cho. Mëduh.

Ms. Cardiff: Mr. Speaker, it is truly a pleasure to be here in the traditional territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. I thank them for allowing us to be here today. I would like to thank the Member for Klondike for bringing forward the motion. It is a real pleasure to be here in the former capital of the Yukon.

The Member for McIntyre-Takhini reminded me a little of my history, as well, when he talked about the walls of this building. In my former career, I had the opportunity to work in pretty much every community in the Yukon, and I had the pleasure of working in many buildings and residences here in Dawson City and the Klondike Valley, including this particular building. I have worked on the roof and in the crawl space of this building, so it's a pleasure to be back in this building, and there are many, many stories, I am sure, that could be told about this building.

But we are here today to commemorate and pay tribute to the 100th anniversary of the first wholly elected Council of the Yukon Territory. I think we should pay tribute to those men and women who have gone before us, who were decision-makers, who have shaped this territory into what it is and recognize the possibilities and the opportunities here for all of us to live — to live good lives and to thrive here in the Yukon.

I would also like to recognize the evolution of governance in the Yukon and the many people who have played a role in that, and some of the events. Here in the Klondike, there is a lot of history. There is the First Nation's culture, and the traditional ways of governing that they have had and they have shared with Yukoners. We have learned from that in the way we govern ourselves today — the idea of working together for consensus as opposed to always being adversarial and bumping heads, so to speak.

The arts and culture of this area goes back to when it was a thriving metropolis over 100 years ago. There has been a lot of arts and culture, and there is the traditional arts and culture of the First Nation, the events of the gold rush, the resource extraction that has taken place, the transportation corridors, the highway, the river — all have played a role in the development of the Yukon and the way in which we govern ourselves.

I think that what I would like to say is that we need to acknowledge those who have gone before us. It is a real honour to be here in this room with so many who have gone before us. When I first moved to the Yukon in about 1976, I had the opportunity on occasion to attend the Legislative Assembly in Whitehorse and watch the proceedings. I would just like to note the two former premiers who are here, who played a role in involving me, and I specifically refer to Mr. Tony Penikett. I had the honour of going many times and watching him in the Legislative Assembly. It piqued my interest in politics and becoming involved as he asked questions of the other former premier who is here, Mr. Chris Pearson.

So with that, I would like to move on and speak a little in closing about my hopes and dreams for the next 100 years — that we can work together in the spirit of cooperation among both people and governments in the best interests of all.

I think, Mr. Speaker, on a regular basis, you remind us when we are sitting in the Legislature that our job is to make good, sound and fair decisions in the interests of all Yukon people and to make this the wonderful place of opportunity for our children and our children's children.

Thank you.

Hon. Mr. Rouble: Mr. Speaker, when many members of the Assembly rise to debate a motion, we often start with the phrase, "It is a privilege and an honour to be here today." And today is a day that commemorates just that. It reminds us that it is a privilege and an honour to be part of a democratic and elected system. When we do rise in our various different roles and capacities, we do so as a representative of the people who have voted for us and have trusted us to make the best decisions possible for the Yukon, for its land and for its people.

I know that we all share the same sense of responsibility, and we are constantly reminded of that by our constituents, the people we see on the streets and by the telling signs that remind us of the people who put their trust and faith in us.

I know the first time I was running for public office and saw a sign with my name on it on some else's lawn, where that person had endorsed me and what I stood for, it was a reminder of the faith that people put into their politicians, they put into the leaders in their community, the faith they put into our democratic system.

Mr. Speaker, it is also important to note that there were laws, governance and leadership in this territory long before we had a Yukon Legislative Assembly. Laws, governance, societies and rules among people existed since time began and have been created ever since people roamed the Yukon. We do need to remind ourselves that while we do have significant modern history, we also have a very long and proud older history, shall we say.

We have seen many changes in our modern history, in the creation of the territory, the provision for elected representation, for increasing the capacity or recognizing the right of women and First Nations people to vote, of seeing things such as the Epp letter and the creation of responsible government, seeing other evolutionary steps such as self-government arrangements and devolution agreements. We will continue to see an evolution of governance throughout the territory with the ultimate goal and objective, I trust, of helping to serve the people and the land to the greatest degree possible.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank all the members, all of the leaders who have come before us. I know when people run for office, they do so with the best of intentions. They go forward with the hopes of representing their constituents and making the changes that they believe in. People go into politics with the best of intentions and the best of wishes and have an honourable intent of serving the land and the people.

I look forward to the evolution of governance in this territory. I would like to wish the best to all the leaders who will come after us in making strong and wise decisions, and that they will serve the people and the land of this great territory.

I would like to ask all members to support this motion, and I thank the Member for Klondike for tabling it today.

Thank you.

Mr. Inverarity: Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of this Yukon Legislative Assembly representing the riding of Porter Creek South and to commemorate 100 years of the first wholly elected Council of the Yukon Territory.

As I look back on the past 100 years, I am both in awe and humbled by the successes of those past members. I am in awe of the many representatives who have honoured this Assembly and who have built the blocks that we now stand on today.

As I have watched and participated in the development of both new legislation and the rebirth of older but sturdy legislation, like the Yukon *Human Rights Act*, we must recognize that we can only do this by standing on the foundation built by those who have come before us. Their hard work and their foresight have brought us here today, and because of that, I stand here today, humbled to be able to speak of their courage and dedication to the Yukon's self-government.

Mr. Speaker, as I look around the gallery, I see many of those representatives who have come before us. Thank you for your hard work and your dedication.

I know, Mr. Speaker, that our time here is fleeting. It is our responsibility to use our time in office to leave a better place for our children and all those Yukoners around us. The building blocks that you have left us were solid, and with this foundation of the past 100 years, I know our children will have a strong, vibrant and healthy Yukon.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, I challenge all those members present here today to remember the hard work of those members past and to carry on their determination and dedication forward so that our children's children will recognize that their democracy has also been built by all those present here today.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Hon. Ms. Horne: Mr. Speaker, I know we have started with our words being that "we are honoured" to be here. I was sitting here and all I could think of was, "Wow." Mr. Speaker, I am so privileged to be here. When I was sitting here, I was wondering what my grandmother, Shawatgauche, would say. My mother. What would they think? A First Nation woman in government. What an honour this is. It truly is.

In my brief time allotted here today, I would like to also tribute the efforts of those who have contributed to the attainment and development of representative government in Yukon. Many are here in this room today, and I am also privileged to be among them. I thank Eddie Taylor, and Elder Doris Roberts for our opening prayer, for allowing this special occasion to be on your property. Mayor Steins and Council, günilshish. Thank you.

My colleagues have already noted many milestones that have helped us advance in our trajectory toward being responsible for our own governance. As members know, one of the portfolios I hold responsibility for is the Women's Directorate. I would like to take a few minutes to recognize some of the women who have made key contributions to Yukon's development.

On October 14, 1935, Martha Black was elected the MP for Yukon. I believe at the time of her election, she was only the second woman to be elected to the Canadian Parliament. Kudos, Martha.

More than 40 years ago, on September 11, 1967, Jean Gordon of Mayo became the first woman in the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

I am sure many Dawsonites recall that Meg McCall represented the Klondike riding from 1978 to 1985 on behalf of the Progressive Conservative Party.

When Hilda Watson was elected to lead the Yukon Territorial Progressive Conservative Party in 1978, I think that made her the first woman to be elected as leader of a Canadian political party. And, indeed, she was.

I would also note that Yukon has also had three women as Commissioners: Ione Christensen, Judy Gingell and Geraldine Van Bibber, and I am very proud of that.

I thank all the women who have been the trail blazers thus far, and I encourage more women to take an interest in Yukon's political parties.

As I prepared for today, I reflected on how much has changed since the days of James Morrow Walsh and William Ogilvie, Yukon's first two Commissioners. Since then, we have had the October 9, 1979, Jake Epp letter that redefined the role of the Commissioner and the role of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. This letter represents an integral milestone in the development of responsible government in Yukon.

I should also note that on April 1, 2003, Yukon crossed another important milestone with the implementation of the devolution transfer agreement.

Mr. Speaker, our trajectory has been, and will continue to be, more responsible government for Yukon.

Another thing that I realized this morning is that 100 years ago, my grandfather was in Dawson City for the gold rush. That is what brought him to the Yukon. Thank goodness. I am forever grateful to have been born and raised in Yukon, and to the mentors who have taken part in shaping the responsible, democratic governments we have in Yukon today.

Günilshish. Thank you, Merci.

Mr. Fairclough: Mr. Speaker, I too would like to speak to this motion and thank the Member for Klondike for bringing it forward. I would also like to thank the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in for allowing us to celebrate and tribute 100 years of this wholly elected Council of the territory.

I also want, in the future, for somebody to look back and to see how well we've done over the next 100 years. I want to raise this, and I know others have, but before all of this took place, before the influx of Europeans into the territory, First Nations had their own government structures. They managed people; they managed land and animals, and I think that one day this Legislature should tribute and find a day where we can have the same type of gathering to do the same thing, because I believe that we are all thankful for having what we have today. We have pretty good water. We have lots of animals. We still practice our traditional hunting and fishing, and we are thankful for that, because somebody out there did a good job. We need to recognize that and move on to having a structure like this governing the territory. We also need to recognize that all we need to abide by the laws that we develop and so on, and people do.

I want to bring this example up where somebody thought they were abiding by the law but weren't. It is when two sets of laws clash — First Nation laws and what we have in the terri-

tory and Canada. One example would be when a First Nation person harvesting a cow moose would be charged, fined and sent to jail because he didn't follow the law. It was against the law, but in reality it was exactly the law he was following, because it was his own, so things have changed here. Aboriginal people, I believe, have seen a tremendous change through a very short time, and the call for land claims negotiations to be put in place was pretty major. There was a recognition that we had to restructure, get ourselves together and self-govern our own First Nations. There was a recognition of that, so the land claims agreement came into place.

We have seen some tremendous changes here in the territory. We have seen the gold rush and the Alaska Highway being built. I have said this before, and I want to remind people again, that the biggest changes we will see in this territory are the final agreements, the UFA and the self-government agreements. Those are the biggest changes we are going to see, and we should be using them like we use our statutes and our Constitution. That UFA should be in front of us all the time to guide us through things. That is the thought that First Nations put forward, but it's not really the reality here. We talk about democracy and so on, but when we progress over the next 100 years, let's see how far we get, instead of fighting in court, spending all kinds of money on lawyers and resources and so on, like what is happening today. Let's use those and let's use it as a measuring stick for 100 years from now.

I know there are going to be a lot of different faces. The Yukon may grow quite a bit, and there are going to be elected members. We thank all those from the past who have contributed, many who have guided me to the place I am at now. One of them is Piers McDonald. I have had very good guidance from Danny Joe and Roddy Blackjack. Those are the people who have really influenced me to do what I am doing today, and I would like to speak on their behalf. They are the ones who say that First Nation and non-First Nation people should be doing things together, not fighting one another — plan things together. It takes a lot of work, and there have been 30 or 35 years of negotiations. We're still not done yet. We're celebrating the 100th anniversary of a wholly elected body here, and I hope that we can have land claims agreements in place before another 100 years comes up. There is a lot of work that has to be done yet, and I am hoping that those First Nations will come on board and we will all have a final agreement and move forward.

It's about building a better community. It's all about getting control and management of the lands and resources. We see that today. I heard it from the Premier. We talked about devolution. Those are changes we see in the territory. The UFA is a change and we need to really use that UFA as guidance in how we do things and how we govern in the territory. I want to remind people about that. I am going to be reminding government about it time and time again. It's important. Let's not let it go.

I thank all the past elected members for their contribution to the territory. I think it's important that we do have this type of ceremony. We had one in 1998. We should continue to do this in the communities when they do have a milestone in their

development as a community. We have done it in Mayo, and I would like to see this type of thing continue.

Perhaps down the road, we could have us not talking so much, but have a lot more local people — invite them in to say a few words. I know we are going to do that a little bit here today, but we need to be more involved and have the community more involved.

Thank you. I will, of course, be supporting this motion. I thank the Member for Klondike for bringing it forward.

Hon. Mr. Hart: Mr. Speaker, it's my honour to speak to this very special motion here today. I would like to thank Chief Taylor of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in for allowing this meeting to take place on their traditional territory. Also, I would like to recognize Commissioner Van Bibber and Mayor Steins for hosting this event here. I think it is wonderful weather that you have provided us with. It may be a little warm in this room, but we will work it out.

The history of the Yukon started here 100 years ago, and the main focus — gold — remains the same today as it was then. With the great influx of people came the need for governance; thus, 100 years ago, our first elected process took place here in the Yukon.

As stated by my colleagues in this Assembly, I would like to recognize all the previous members and Commissioners who provided assistance in guiding the Yukon to where we are today.

I too would also like to hear a few of the stories from the walls within this building, although I never worked on any side of the building, it would be nice. It would also be encouraging for me if I could get a few hints from up there as to how we can improve our governance system for the betterment of all Yukoners.

There is just one other issue I would like to take care of before I sit down, Mr. Speaker. Mayor Steins, just to put your mind at rest — I know the election is coming this fall. I won't be running as mayor of Dawson City — just so you would know.

In closing, and as the member representing Riverdale South, I will be supporting this motion, and I look forward to support of the general assembly.

Thank you.

Mr. McRobb: Mr. Speaker, it is indeed an honour to speak on this auspicious occasion in the traditional territory of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation.

I am the last speaker today, and I am sure people will be very pleased to hear that. After about an hour of speeches — it was hot in this room before anyone even started talking, and I'm sure it has gone up a few degrees since.

I would like to thank all the other members for what they have brought in their speeches today. We have heard pretty well all the bases be covered. We have heard about the history of Dawson City, the Legislature, past members and so on. I would like to especially thank them for keeping it brief. I will too, even though I know Peter will be disappointed to hear that.

This special occasion, Mr. Speaker, has brought back many fond memories for people over the years, and it will have created new memories to be fond of in the future. For instance, I can finally say I have been over the top. Before members take that the wrong way, of course I'm referring to the over the top highway, the over the world highway. I have been living in the Yukon for nearly 40 years and I have made several dozen trips to Clinton Creek during that time, but I have never driven the Taylor Highway completely between Tok, Alaska and Dawson City until yesterday. I am pleased to say that I was pleasantly surprised about the condition of the highway, especially after hearing all those horrid representations over the years about the poor condition of the road.

Certainly, the Klondike has some very special scenery — not quite as nice as the Kluane region, Mr. Speaker, but pretty nice nevertheless.

Also, on the way here, I took the occasion to stop and visit the archaeological site known as “Little John” north of Beaver Creek and south of the Alaska border on the Alaska Highway at about mile 1220. Many of us here might know Norm Easton who is the archaeologist heading that dig. They have turned up artifacts dating back nearly 14,000 years. Those artifacts are helping to answer the question: how did we get here?

Norm also told me about the connection between the Hän people in this region and the artifacts he is uncovering. Some fairly recent artifacts date back only about 100 or so years when Dawson City was the most populated city west of Chicago. The Hän people made several land treks into Tenajon and so on, to visit the Upper Tananan people. There are a lot of family and cultural connections. It was very interesting to hear that some of the artifacts Norm and his crew are uncovering are from those treks across the land.

It has also been mentioned that tonight our dinner coincides with the Stanley Cup game. That presents a bit of a conflict for some people. It also coincides with a memorial service for a past MLA, Fred Berger. I wish to extend condolences on everybody's behalf to his wife Palma and the family. I hope some of us are able to attend that service as well.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, all the bases have been covered. It is getting hotter in here by the second, so thank you very much.

Speaker: With the members' indulgence, the Chair would like to say a few words. This is a rare opportunity. Do I have your permission?

All Hon. Members: Agreed.

Speaker: Thank you. Thank you for the rare privilege of speaking to a motion from the Chair.

Over the past 100 years, our members have had to watch over our democracy very carefully. In 1912 and again in 1937, there was talk of annexation of the Yukon by British Columbia. In the years of declining population, the federal government attempted to move the decision-making process into the hands of federal bureaucrats. In all these instances, no matter the

numbers, our members argued against any attempts to disenfranchise the people of the Yukon Territory.

There is an oft-used phrase, “Standing on the shoulders of giants”, that is particularly appropriate to us being here today. Each of us today has had former members who came before us who encouraged or inspired us. Those people also laid the groundwork for the responsible government we have today.

In the past seven years as Speaker, I have had the privilege of listening to many tributes to former members like that of the late Fred Berger, the MLA for Klondike, who someone described as the heart and soul of the NDP. I have also heard high praise for former Liberal Party Leader, Mr. Jack Cable. Like those members, I have been fortunate to know people like former Council member, Charlie Taylor, and former Council member and Commissioner — and quite possibly one of the architects of responsible government in the Yukon — Mr. Jim Smith. The former Councillor, MLA and Commissioner, Mr. Ken McKinnon; our first Premier and Government Leader, Mr. Chris Pearson; the former MLAs, Mr. Bill Brewster, Ms. Bea Firth, Mr. Johnny Abel, Mr. Dan Lang and Mr. Doug Phillips are examples of the importance of our institution and its service to the Yukon people. Because of their hard work — and the hard work of many others — passion and commitment, we are here today.

I want to thank you all, firstly, for allowing me the privilege to speak and, secondly, for leading us to where we are today. I hope we will have a strong future in this territory.

Mr. Nordick: Mr. Speaker, before I close today, I just want to correct the member opposite. It is the “Top of the World Highway”, but that is as far as I am going to go with those kinds of comments.

I would like to thank all members for supporting this motion. I appreciate their comments. I do have one other thanks I would like to offer, and that is thanks to my wife Tracy for the support she has given me. We are all very aware of the sacrifices that all our families make on our behalf, so I express my thanks to everyone's families and friends for this.

Thank you.

Speaker: Are you prepared for the question?
Motion No. 830 agreed to unanimously

Speaker: The House will now stand in recess for a brief period. I would ask everyone to remain seated while we invite Eddie Taylor, Chief of the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation, and John Steins, Mayor of Dawson City, to speak to this gathering.

Recess

Speaker: I would ask the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort Chief Taylor beyond the Bar of the House.

The Sergeant-at-Arms escorts Chief Taylor to the Speaker's dais

Chief Taylor: Good afternoon, Members of the Legislative Assembly and guests to Dawson City. Welcome to Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in traditional territory.

The Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in have a long history of welcoming visitors to our land, and it is our pleasure to host you in an area that has sustained our families for thousands of years.

As chief of an 11-year-old self-governing First Nation, it is interesting to be addressing a government that has been around long enough to have outgrown one home and moved to another.

In the hearts of Dawsonites and some Yukoners, Dawson will always be the Yukon capital. Our seat of government resides in Dawson; our government operations are headquartered in town. Our First Nation owned businesses contribute to the local economy in a very significant manner, and many of our citizens still call this place home.

As a young government, the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in people are eager to establish our authority and meet our responsibilities. We continue to lay the legislative foundation of our nation and create policies to guide our work. It's a tough job and no one individual can do it alone.

Our First Nation and all Yukon First Nations need all your help to succeed to move forward — each and every one of you.

The Yukon government has helped us in the past, and we have stood together on very important issues pertaining to all Yukoners, but we need each and every one of you to go further — much further still. Please see our perspective as we endeavour to see yours. Listen to our thoughts with an open mind and know that we want the same for the territory as you do. Together we will make the Yukon the best place in the world to live and raise our families. This is the message I hope to leave here today.

Many of your counterparts have helped us in the past, and I am sure you will continue in the future, but I just want to say one thing here. This is the 100-year anniversary of the Yukon Legislative Assembly, but it was noted earlier by a couple other speakers, this place, this land we are standing on today, was governed for thousands and thousands of years by our Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in ancestors prior to 1909. They kept this land healthy; they kept the water drinkable to hand over to the Legislative Assembly to monitor today.

I read something in our local newspaper a few years ago about three individuals who were laying bricks. This is how the First Nation wants to move forward today with the Yukon government for the betterment of all Yukoners. We have three bricklayers. An individual walks up to the first bricklayer and asks, "What are you doing?" He said, "I am laying bricks." He goes up to the second bricklayer. "What are you doing?" He said, "I am building a wall." He goes up to the third bricklayer. He asks, "What are you doing?" He said, "I am building an empire", and that is how we have to think together for the people of the Yukon.

Mahsi' cho.

Applause

Speaker: I would now ask the Sergeant-At-Arms to escort His Worship Mayor John Steins beyond the Bar of the House.

The Sergeant-at-Arms escorts Mayor Steins to the Speaker's dais

Mayor Steins: Mr. Speaker, members of the Legislature and honoured guests, it gives me great pleasure to address you today on behalf of our town council and the citizens of Dawson.

It also gives me great pleasure to join all Yukoners in the celebration of our Legislature's 100th year of providing elected representation for all of us. Your decision to hold a special sitting in Yukon's original government chambers signals an acknowledgement and recognition of Dawson's profound contribution to the development and growth of elected representation for the territory when we served as its capital until the final fall sitting in 1952.

Of course, along with the rest of the territory, we continue to take active interest in the democratic process that is always evolving and changing for the better.

Mr. Speaker, I trust that today's sitting in these historic surroundings will prove so agreeable to you and the other members that a return of a legislative sitting in this room will come sooner rather than later. To echo Member Nordick's comments earlier, in the local poker-playing tradition, if I were to up the ante, one might hold the faint hope of the return to Dawson City as the capital might be imminent — contingent, of course, on some air conditioning and other modifications. Naturally I say this with tongue planted firmly in cheek, although one should never give up on even the faintest hope, since, under a democratic society like the one we are hearing today, anything is possible.

Above all, this anniversary gives everyone an opportunity to stop and reflect on the real meaning of democratically elected representation and how it has helped advance the interests of the Yukon and the people who live here.

I would like to congratulate you, Mr. Speaker, on making this book possible. I met Linda Johnson last night, and she had a copy of this, which I snatched from her hand and took home and read with great interest. I haven't read all of it yet, but I am very, very grateful for this book, because it has answered a lot of questions that I have had about the history of our legislative process and how it came to be. It is very, very interesting reading and I would recommend it to everyone, and I hope to get an autograph from Mr. Speaker later on.

Thank you very much for inviting me to say a few words on this special occasion, and without reservation, I offer my gratitude and congratulations to all Yukoners and our Legislative Assembly.

Thank you.

Applause

Speaker: At this time I will now call the House to order.

Special adjournment motion

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, I move

THAT the House, at its rising, do stand adjourned until it appears to the satisfaction of the Speaker, after consultation with the Premier, that the public interest requires that the House shall meet;

THAT the Speaker give notice that he is so satisfied, and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time; and

THAT, if the Speaker is unable to act owing to illness or other causes, the Deputy Speaker shall act in his stead for the purpose of this Order.

Speaker: You have heard the motion by the Hon. Government House Leader. Are you prepared for the question?

Motion agreed to

Hon. Mr. Cathers: Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Government House Leader that the House do now adjourn. Are you prepared for the question?

Motion agreed to

The House adjourned at 2:29 p.m.