



Council of the Yukon Territory

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Debates & Proceedings

Wednesday, March 5, 1975

Speaker: The Honourable Donald Taylor

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THE FIRST SESSION OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE YEAR 1975, BEING THE SECOND SESSION OF THE TWENTY-THIRD WHOLLY ELECTED COUNCIL OF THE YUKON TERRITORY, WAS CONVENED IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBERS AT 2 P.M. ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5TH, 1975.

The members present were:

Mr. Alfred Berger, Klondike
Mr. Robert Fleming, Hootalinqua
Dr. John Hibberd, Whitehorse South Centre
Mr. H. Daniel Lang, Whitehorse Porter Creek
Mr. Stuart McCall, Pelly River
Mr. Gordon McIntyre, Mayo
Mr. J.K. McKinnon, Whitehorse North Centre
Ms. Eleanor Millard, Ogilvie
Mr. Willard Phelps, Whitehorse Riverdale
Mr. Donald Taylor, Watson Lake
Mrs. Hilda Watson, Kluane
Mrs. Florence Whyard, Whitehorse West

The Clerk reads the Proclamation.

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

Mr. Speaker: Madam Clerk, would you please ascertain if the Commissioner is prepared at this time to give his opening address?

Madam Clerk leaves the Chambers to confer with the Commissioner, and returns.

Madam Clerk: Mr. Speaker, the Commissioner will give his Opening Address in the Supreme Court.

Mr. Speaker: The house will now stand adjourned to hear the Commissioner's opening address.

Recess

Mr. Speaker: I shall call the house to order.

I wish to advise all Honourable Members that I have now received a copy of the Commissioner's Opening Address, and what is your pleasure at this time? The Honourable Member from Whitehorse Riverdale.

Mr. Phelps: Mr. Speaker, I move that the opening address of the Commissioner be taken into consideration on a day following.

Mr. Speaker: The Honourable Member from Porter Creek.

Mr. Lang: I will second that, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Riverdale, and seconded by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse Porter Creek, that the Opening Address of the Commissioner be taken into consideration on a day following. Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

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

Motion Carried

Mr. Speaker: What is your further pleasure?

The Hon. Mr. McKinnon: Mr. Speaker, I would beg leave to move, seconded by the Honourable Member from Mayo for leave to introduce Bill number 22, a bill entitled "an Ordinance to Amend the Municipal Ordinance".

Mr. Speaker: It has been moved by the Honourable Member from Whitehorse North Centre, seconded by the Honourable Member from Mayo, that leave be granted to introduce a Bill number 22, an Ordinance to Amend the Municipal Ordinance. Are you prepared for the question?

Some Members: Question.

Mr. Speaker: Are you agreed?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: I declare that the Motion is carried.

Motion Carried

Mr. Speaker: There appearing to be no further business at this time, is it your wish to adjourn?

Some Members: Agreed.

Mr. Speaker: This house stands adjourned until 10:00 A.M. tomorrow morning.

Adjourned

Sessional Paper No. 1 (1975 First Session)

Mr. Speaker,
Members of Council

I have the honour to welcome you to this, the Second Session, of the Twenty-third Wholly-Elected Council of the Yukon Territory.

With the opening of this March 1975 Session of Council we are entering another busy period in the exciting development of Yukon. The basic state of our Territory today is sound, and full of promise. Everyone of us is enriched through involvement in this stimulating process we call Yukon. Our goals and hopes are bound up in the restlessness and vitality of this rich Territory.

We in this place have a special responsibility to help bring those goals and hopes within reach, and there will be opportunity in this Session of the Council to pursue this end. The government will lay before you proposals to deal more compassionately with those in our midst who require help and to involve more Yukoners in the ferment and satisfaction of community activities.

It is stated from time to time that the state, in taxing the citizen to maintain police forces, has reduced the citizen's capacity to protect himself. The actions of the state in its taxing and policing functions, are, undoubtedly, a desirable trade-off against the situation where men would build their own fortresses or turn to the law of the jungle. But part of the trade-off, it is said, should include reasonable compensation for some criminal injuries. Towards that end, the government will introduce legislation at this Session to establish a program to provide compensation to people who are injured or the dependents of people who are killed as a result of a crime or while assisting a police officer in the execution of his duty.

It is the view of the government that the most important single factor in the attainment of active social involvement is the enhancement of the quality of life for residents, not just in the capital city area, but of all Yukon communities. Based on studies completed last year, a comprehensive Community Assistance Program will be proposed for your consideration, to enable local government institutions and individual communities to provide for their citizens an acceptable standard of services.

We have all noted the increased pace of business over the past few years and the affairs of the Territory have reflected the general optimism and tempo of the times by increasingly heavy work loads in every department of government. We have been able to carry on the activities of government with the aid and co-operation of a dedicated staff of public employees and have been fortunate in being able to retain or recruit people of the calibre and training needed to carry out the multitudinous duties that have devolved upon our organization. The management and development of this resource is as important as the management and development of any other resource. In this regard, legislation will be introduced to institute a housing "buy back" scheme for Territorial Government employees so as to provide them with a further incentive and initiative to develop roots in the communities they serve.

Other matters of considerable importance, as well as normal fiscal business, will be placed before the Council at this Session. The legislative program will include measures to enable the Territory to enter into Agreements with the Government of Canada on matters relating to the supervision, custody or confinement of Federal parolees living in the Territory as well as to the transfer of prisoners between Federal penitentiaries and Territorial institutions. Legislative measures will also be proposed to formalize the Young Voyageur Program and to maintain a Community Court Worker service.

It is now accepted that occupational training for adults as well as youths is a public responsibility which must be provided, as needed, throughout the individual's working life. Education of this nature is a major concern of ours and has a direct impact upon material prosperity, the economy and the standard of living in the Territory. You will be asked to enact an Occupational Training Ordinance to enable the Commissioner to establish and carry out a program of occupational training of persons to help them acquire work skills to improve their position in the labour force.

The Territorial Supplementary Allowance Program was approved by Council at the 1972 First Session and came into effect in April 1973. One of the aims of the scheme is to eliminate separate categorical assistance programs and to develop an appropriate and effective income security system within one overall program.

In order to effect this goal, Council will be asked to repeal the following Ordinances:

- Disabled Persons' Allowance Ordinance;
- Old Age Assistance and Blind Persons' Allowance Ordinance;
- and
- Unemployment Assistance Agreement Ordinance.

All these programs are generously provided for in the Territorial Supplementary Allowance scheme and the above named Ordinances are consequently redundant.

Amendments will be sought for the following Ordinances:
-- An Ordinance to Amend the Rehabilitation Services Ordinance

The object of this Ordinance is to amend the Rehabilitation Services Ordinance by making provision in the Ordinance for extending Rehabilitation Services. Opportunity is taken to transfer the decisions as to whether a person is to be provided with services from the Coordinator to a Committee which will include a representative of the Department of Manpower and Immigration and also to provide for an appeal in respect of those decisions to the Board. Further provision is made to enable an appeal to be taken to the Magistrate's Court on a point of law.

-- An Ordinance to Amend the Labour Standards Ordinance

The purpose of this Ordinance is to enable the Commissioner to modify some provisions of the Labour Standards Ordinance to assist in the promotion of rehabilitation of workers.

-- An Ordinance to Amend the Taxation Ordinance
The Community Assistance Ordinance makes provision

for the imposition of a levy or special levy on property in a local improvement district or an unorganized area when certain capital projects are constructed in such areas and also to recover expenses incurred in the operation of projects in certain cases. This Ordinance is being amended to recognize this fact.

-- An Ordinance to Amend the Municipal Ordinance

The purpose of this Ordinance is to enable municipalities to acquire and operate utility systems.

The necessary legislation to give effect to our financial requirements for the balance of this fiscal year and the next will be introduced with the 1975-76 Budget on Thursday, March 6.

In addition to these legislative matters, Council's advice will be sought on a number of other issues related to the Budget.

Mr. Speaker, there are a number of other legislative and policy matters which will require Council's attention. However, since this is the first working session of the newly elected Council the administration will restrict government business to the budget and related matters. A second session this spring is planned to deal with non-budgetary legislation.

People of the Yukon are following this Council's deliberations with great interest. I trust that the material placed before you will enable you to carry forward your deliberations in a manner that will make this a productive session. My officers and I stand ready to assist you in any way we can.

James Smith,
Commissioner.

