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The Executive Committee and the Executive Council of Yukon (as of December 31, 2020)

On February 3, 1970 Yukon Commissioner James Smith announced the establishment of the Executive Committee of the Yukon – the first Yukon ‘cabinet’ to include elected members of the territorial council. The first Executive Committee was sworn in on November 29, 1970 following the general election of September 8, 1970. Hilda Watson, the Member for Carmacks- Kluane, and Norm Chamberlist, the Member for Whitehorse East, were the first two elected members appointed to the first five- member Executive Committee. Following the Epp Letter of October 9, 1979 – which created responsible government in Yukon – an Executive Council was created on October 22, 1979. All Executive Committee appointments were revoked on that day and all members of the Executive Committee were appointed to the Executive Council. Unlike the Executive Committee, the Executive Council was modeled on cabinets at the federal and provincial levels. The Executive Council would be led by a Government Leader (later, Premier) rather than the Commissioner, and would be responsible to the Legislative Assembly.

The Epp Letter stipulated that “There shall be at no time a majority of members of Council [MLAs] appointed to the Cabinet or Executive Council.” This stipulation maintains a principle of responsible government; that in order for cabinet to be responsible to the Legislative Assembly there must always be fewer elected members in cabinet than not in cabinet. In 2014 the *Government Organisation Act* was amended to include this principle. Subsection 2(3) of the Act says, “At all times, there must be fewer members of the Legislative Assembly appointed to the Executive Council, than there are members of the Legislative Assembly who are not appointed to the Executive Council.” This stipulation does not, of course, account for persons who are not MLAs being appointed to cabinet because those ministers cannot sit in, or vote in, the Legislative Assembly. Since the institution of responsible government two persons, Willard Phelps (March 20- May 28, 1985) and Darrell Pasloski (June 11- November 4, 2011), were not MLAs at the time of their appointment to the Executive Council.

In the chart below a cabinet minister’s term begins on the effective date of the order in council or Commissioner’s Order by which the minister was appointed to the Executive Committee or Executive Council. The member’s term ended on the effective date of the order in council or Commissioner’s Order revoking the minister’s appointment.

Executive Committee (November 29, 1970-October 21, 1979)

Name	Party	Portfolios	Term	Days in Office
1. Norm Chamberlist	Independent	Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation	November 29, 1970- October 2, 1973	1038
2. Hilda P. Watson	Independent	Education	November 29, 1970 - October 5, 1974; January 13, 1975 - May 2, 1975	1407 + 110 =1517
3. Clive Tanner	Independent	Health, Welfare and Rehabilitation	October 15, 1973- October 5, 1974	355
4. Ken McKinnon	Independent		January 13, 1975- December 13, 1978	1431
5. Gordon McIntyre	Independent		January 13, 1975- May 15, 1975	123
6. Florence Whyard	Independent	Education	May 12, 1975 - December 13, 1978	1312
7. Dan Lang	Independent Progressive Conservative	Education, Recreation, Manpower, Yukon Housing	May 21, 1975- June 27, 1978 December 14, 1978- October 21, 1979	1134+ 312 = 1446
8. Jack Hibberd	Independent		December 15, 1977- December 13, 1978	364
9. Eleanor Millard	Independent	Education, Recreation, Manpower and Yukon Housing	June 28, 1978 - December 13, 1978	169
10. Chris Pearson	Progressive Conservative	Government Leader	December 14, 1978- October 21, 1979	312
11. Howard Tracey	Progressive Conservative		December 14, 1978- June 15, 1979	184
12. Grafton Njootli	Progressive Conservative	Health & Human Resources	December 14, 1978- May 29, 1979	167
13. Doug Graham	Progressive Conservative		February 19, 1979- October 21, 1979	245
14. Meg McCall	Progressive Conservative	Health & Human Resources	June 11, 1979 - October 21, 1979	133

Note: On October 22, 1979 the appointments of Chris Pearson, Dan Lang, Howard Tracey, Doug Graham and Meg McCall to the Executive Committee were revoked. All were appointed that day to the Executive Council.

Executive Council of Yukon (October 22, 1979 – present)

Name	Party	Portfolios	Term	Days in Office
1. Chris Pearson	Progressive Conservative	Government Leader, Executive Council Office, Finance, Public Service Commission, Intergovernmental Relations, Land Claims Secretariat	October 22, 1979- March 19, 1985	1976
2. Doug Graham	Progressive Conservative Yukon Party	Consumer and Corporate Affairs; Education and Manpower, Information Resources, Government Services, Workers' Compensation Board Health & Social Services, Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Board, Education	October 22, 1979- January 30, 1981 November 5, 2011- December 2, 2016	467 + 1855 =2322
3. Dan Lang	Progressive Conservative	Municipal and Community Affairs, Highways, Yukon Housing Corporation, Yukon Liquor Corporation, Economic Development, Tourism, Mines and Small Business	October 22, 1979- May 28, 1985	2046
4. Meg McCall	Progressive Conservative	Health & Human Resources	October 22, 1979 – June 28, 1982.	981
5. Peter 'Swede' Hanson	Progressive Conservative	Consumer and Corporate Affairs; Tourism, Economic Development and Renewable Resources	October 22, 1979- May 12, 1980	204
6. E. Geoff Lattin	Progressive Conservative		May 20, 1980- June 28, 1982	770
7. Howard Tracey	Progressive Conservative	Justice, Government Services, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Workers' Compensation Board, Health and Human Resources, Renewable Resources, Government Services, Public Works, Highways and Transportation	May 6, 1981- May 28, 1985	1484

8. Bea Firth	Progressive Conservative	Education, Tourism, Heritage & Cultural Resources, Health & Human Resources	June 29, 1982 – July 17, 1984; March 20, 1985 – May 28, 1985	750 + 70 = 820
9. Clarke Ashley	Progressive Conservative	Justice, Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Workers' Compensation Board, Yukon Housing Corporation, Yukon Liquor Corporation	June 29, 1982- July 17, 1984	750
10. Andy Philipson	Progressive Conservative	Health and Human Resources, Government Services, Justice, Community Affairs and Transportation	June 24, 1983- May 28, 1985	705
11. Willard Phelps	PC Independent	Government Leader, Executive Council Office, Finance, Public Service Commission Yukon Development Corporation/Yukon Energy Corporation, Justice, Health and Social Services, Education	March 20, 1985- May 28, 1985 November 7, 1992- March 18, 1996	70+ 1228 = 1298
12. Bill Brewster	PC, Yukon Party	Renewable Resources Deputy Government Leader, Renewable Resources, Workers' Compensation Board, Yukon Liquor Corporation, Community and Transportation Services	March 20, 1985- May 28, 1985 November 7, 1992- October 18, 1996	70+ 1442 = 1512
13. Tony Penikett	NDP	Government Leader, Premier, Executive Council Office, Economic Development, Finance, Public Service Commission, Health and Human Resources, Yukon Development Corporation	May 29, 1985- November 6, 1992	2719
14. Roger Kimmerly	NDP	Justice, Government Services	May 29, 1985- February 22, 1989	1366
15. Margaret (Joe) Commodore ¹	NDP	Health and Human Resources, Justice, Public Service Commission, Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Board, Women's Directorate, Yukon Liquor Corporation	May 29, 1985 – November 6, 1992	2719

¹ Margaret Commodore changed her name from Margaret Joe in September 1993.

16. Piers McDonald	NDP	Government Leader, Education, Community and Transportation Services, Finance, Executive Council Office, Economic Development, Government Services, Public Service Commission, Workers' Compensation Board	May 29, 1985- November 6, 1992 October 19, 1996- May 5, 2000	2719 + 1295 = 4014
17. Dave Porter	NDP	Renewable Resources, Tourism	May 29, 1985- January 8, 1989	1321
18. Art Webster	NDP	Renewable Resources, Tourism, Yukon Liquor Corporation	January 9, 1989- November 6, 1992	1398
19. Maurice Byblow	NDP	Community and Transportation Services, Government Services, Yukon Housing Corporation, Economic Development, Yukon Development Corporation	February 23, 1989- November 6, 1992	1353
20. Joyce Hayden	NDP	Health & Human Resources, Yukon Housing Corporation, Health & Social Services	January 28, 1991- November 6, 1992	649
21. John Ostashek	Yukon Party	Government Leader, Executive Council Office, Land Claims Secretariat, Finance, Public Service Commission, Economic Development, Yukon Development Corporation/Yukon Energy Corporation	November 7, 1992- October 18, 1996	1442
22. Doug Phillips	Yukon Party	Tourism, Education, Women's Directorate, Justice, Public Service Commission	November 7, 1992- October 18, 1996	1442
23. Mickey Fisher	Yukon Party	Community and Transportation Services, Yukon Housing Corporation, Economic Development, Renewable Resources, Health and Social Services	November 7, 1992- October 18, 1996	1442
24. John Devries	Yukon Party	Economic Development, Government Services	November 7, 1992- February 22, 1994	473

25. Alan Nordling	Independent	Government Services, Public Service Commission, Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Board, Yukon Housing Corporation, Education	February 23, 1994- October 18, 1996	969
26. Trevor Harding	NDP	Economic Development, Public Service Commission, Yukon Development Corporation/Yukon Energy Corporation, Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Board	October 19, 1996- May 5, 2000	1295
27. Lois Moorcroft	NDP	Education, Justice, Women's Directorate	October 19, 1996- May 5, 2000	1295
28. Dave Sloan	NDP	Health and Social Services, Government Services	October 19, 1996- May 5, 2000	1295
29. Dave Keenan	NDP	Community and Transportation Services, Tourism	October 19, 1996- May 5, 2000	1295
30. Eric Fairclough	NDP	Renewable Resources, Yukon Housing Corporation, Yukon Liquor Corporation	October 19, 1996- May 5, 2000	1295
31. Pat Duncan	Liberal	Premier, Executive Council Office, Finance, Economic Development, Yukon Development Corporation/Yukon Energy Corporation	May 6, 2000- November 29, 2002	939
32. Sue Edelman	Liberal	Tourism, Women's Directorate, Yukon Liquor Corporation, Health & Social Services, Yukon Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Board, Status of Women.	May 6, 2000- November 29, 2002	939
33. Pam Buckway	Liberal	Justice, Community & Transportation Services, Yukon Liquor Corporation, Yukon Housing Corporation, Public Service Commission.	May 6, 2000- November 29, 2002	939
34. Dale Eftoda	Liberal	Education, Renewable Resources, Tourism, Environment, Business, Tourism & Culture	May 6, 2000- November 29, 2002	939
35. Wayne Jim	Liberal	Government Services, Yukon Housing Corporation	May 6, 2000- January 14, 2002	619

36. Don Roberts	Liberal	Health and Social Services, Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Board, Yukon Development Corporation/Yukon Energy Corporation	May 6, 2000- January 14,2002	619
37. Scott Kent	Liberal Yukon Party	Economic Development, Infrastructure, Energy, Mines & Resources, Yukon Development Corporation/Yukon Energy Corporation Education, Yukon Housing Corporation, Yukon Liquor Corporation, Highways & Public Works	June 12, 2001- November 29, 2002 November 5, 2011- December 2, 2016	536+ 1855 = 2391
38. Jim McLachlan	Liberal	Justice	January 14, 2002- November 29, 2002	320
39. Cynthia Tucker	Liberal	Education, Status of Women.	January 14, 2002 – November 29, 2002	320
40. Dennis Fentie	Yukon Party	Premier, Finance, Executive Council Office, Economic Development, Women's Directorate, Environment, Yukon Energy Corporation/Yukon Development Corporation	November 30, 2002- June 10, 2011	3115
41. Peter Jenkins	Yukon Party	Health & Social Services, Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Board, Environment	November 30, 2002- November 27, 2005	1094
42. John Edzerza	Yukon Party	Education, Public Service Commission, Justice, Environment	November 30, 2002- August 2, 2006 February 4, 2010- November 4, 2011	1342+ 639 = 1981
43. Elaine Taylor	Yukon Party	Deputy Premier, Justice, Tourism & Culture, Women's Directorate, Environment, Community Services, Public Service Commission, French Language Services Directorate, Education.	November 30, 2002 – December 2, 2016	5117

44. Archie Lang	Yukon Party	Energy, Mines & Resources, Yukon Energy Corporation/Yukon Development Corporation, Highways & Public Works, Community Services	November 30, 2002- November 4, 2011	3262
45. Glenn Hart	Yukon Party	Infrastructure, Community Services, Yukon Liquor Corporation, Yukon Housing Corporation, Highways & Public Works, Public Service Commission, Health & Social Services, Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Board, French Language Services Directorate	November 30, 2002- November 4, 2011	3262
46. Jim Kenyon	Yukon Party	Environment, Economic Development, Yukon Liquor Corporation, Yukon Housing Corporation, Yukon Energy Corporation/Yukon Development Corporation	November 30, 2002- May 4, 2011 June 27, 2011- November 4, 2011	3078 + 131 = 3209
47. Brad Cathers	Yukon Party	Health & Social Services, Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Board, Energy, Mines & Resources, Yukon Liquor Corporation, Yukon Development Corporation/Yukon Energy Corporation, Community Services, Yukon Housing Corporation, Justice	December 12, 2005- August 28, 2009 November 5, 2011- December 2, 2016	1356+ 1855 = 3211
48. Patrick Rouble	Yukon Party	Education, Public Service Commission, Energy, Mines & Resources	October 28, 2006- November 4, 2011	1834
49. Marian Horne	Yukon Party	Justice, Women's Directorate	October 28, 2006- November 4, 2011	1834
50. Steve Nordick	Yukon Party	Economic Development, Yukon Liquor Corporation, Yukon Housing Corporation	May 4, 2011- November 4, 2011	185
51. Darrell Pasloski	Yukon Party	Premier, Executive Council Office, Finance, Yukon Energy Corporation/Yukon Development Corporation	June 11, 2011- December 2, 2016	2002

52. Currie Dixon	Yukon Party	Economic Development, Environment, Public Service Commission, Community Services	November 5, 2011- December 2, 2016	1855
53. Wade Istchenko	Yukon Party	Highways & Public Works, Environment	November 5, 2011- December 2, 2016	1855
54. Mike Nixon	Yukon Party	Justice, Tourism & Culture, Health & Social Services, Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Board	November 5, 2011- December 2, 2016	1855
55. Stacey Hassard	Yukon Party	Economic Development, Yukon Housing Corporation, Yukon Liquor Corporation	January 16, 2015- December 2, 2016	687
56. Sandy Silver	Liberal	Premier, Executive Council Office, Finance	December 3, 2016- present	1490
57. Ranj Pillai	Liberal	Deputy Premier, Energy, Mines & Resources, Economic Development, Yukon Development Corporation/Yukon Energy Corporation	December 3, 2016- present	1490
58. Tracy- Anne McPhee	Liberal	Justice, Education	December 3, 2016- present	1490
59. John Streicker	Liberal	Community Services, French Language Services Directorate, Yukon Liquor Corporation/Yukon Lottery Commission	December 3, 2016- present	1490
60. Pauline Frost	Liberal	Health & Social Services, Environment, Yukon Housing Corporation	December 3, 2016- present	1490
61. Richard Mostyn	Liberal	Highways & Public Works, Public Service Commission	December 3, 2016- present	1490
62. Jeanie (Dendys) McLean ²	Liberal	Tourism & Culture, Women's Directorate, Yukon Workers' Compensation Health & Safety Board	December 3, 2016- present	1490

² Jeanie McLean changed her name from Jeanie Dendys in September 2020.

Tenure in office:

1. Elaine Taylor – 5117 days
2. Piers McDonald – 4014 days
3. Dan Lang – 3492 days
4. Archie Lang, and Glenn Hart – 3262 days
6. Brad Cathers – 3211 days
7. Jim Kenyon – 3209 days
8. Dennis Fentie – 3115 days
9. Margaret Commodore and Tony Penikett – 2719 days
11. Doug Graham – 2567 days
12. Scott Kent – 2391 days
13. Chris Pearson – 2288 days
14. Darrell Pasloski – 2002 days
15. John Edzerza – 1981 days
16. Currie Dixon, Wade Istchenko and Mike Nixon – 1855 days
19. Patrick Rouble and Marian Horne – 1834 days
21. Howard Tracey – 1668 days
22. Hilda P. Watson – 1517 days
23. Bill Brewster – 1512 days
24. Sandy Silver, Ranj Pillai, Tracy- Anne McPhee, John Streicker, Pauline Frost, Richard Mostyn, Jeanie McLean – 1490 days
31. John Ostashek, Doug Phillips and Mickey Fisher – 1442 days
32. Ken McKinnon – 1431 days
33. Art Webster – 1398 days
34. Roger Kimmerly – 1366 days
35. Maurice Byblow – 1353 days
36. Dave Porter – 1321 days
37. Florence Whyard – 1312 days
38. Willard Phelps – 1298 days
39. Trevor Harding, Lois Moorcroft, Dave Sloan, Dave Keenan and Eric Fairclough – 1295 days
44. Meg McCall – 1114 days
45. Peter Jenkins – 1094 days
46. Norm Chamberlist – 1038 days
47. Alan Nordling – 969 days
48. Pat Duncan, Sue Edelman, Pam Buckway and Dale Eftoda – 939 days
52. Bea Firth – 820 days
53. E. Geoff Lattin – 770 days
54. Clarke Ashley – 750 days
55. Andy Philipsen – 705 days
56. Stacey Hassard – 687 days
57. Joyce Hayden – 649 days
58. Wayne Jim and Don Roberts – 619 days
60. John Devries – 473 days
61. Jack Hibberd – 364 days
62. Clive Tanner – 355 days
63. Jim McLachlan and Cynthia Tucker – 320 days
65. Peter 'Swede' Hanson – 204 days
66. Steve Nordick – 185 days
67. Eleanor Millard – 169 days
68. Grafton Njootli – 167 days
69. Gordon McIntyre – 123 days

Women who have served on the Executive Committee and/or the Executive Council (17)

Pam Buckway, Margaret (Joe) Commodore, Pat Duncan, Sue Edelman, Bea Firth, Pauline Frost, Joyce Hayden, Marian Horne, Meg McCall, Jeanie (Dendys) McLean, Tracy- Anne McPhee, Eleanor Millard, Lois Moorcroft, Elaine Taylor, Cynthia Tucker, Hilda P. Watson, and Florence Whyard.

First Nations Persons who have served on the Executive Committee and/or the Executive Council (10)

Margaret (Joe) Commodore, John Edzerza, Eric Fairclough, Pauline Frost, Marian Horne, Wayne Jim, Dave Keenan, Jeanie (Dendys) McLean, Grafton Njootli, and Dave Porter.

Sources: Steven Smyth, *The Yukon Chronology (1897-1999): The Yukon's Constitutional Foundations, Volume 1*; Government of Yukon news releases, Orders in Council, Commissioner's Orders, Journals of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.