



Yukon Legislative Assembly Office

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Women Elected to the Yukon Legislative Assembly

On April 3, 1919 amendments to the *Yukon Territory Act* came into force. One of these amendments extended to women the right to vote in elections for members of the territorial council and be candidates for election. At the same time the size of the council was reduced from 10 members to three and the annual indemnity for councillors was reduced from \$600 to \$400. The first election in which women could vote and run as candidates was held on February 25, 1920.

The chart below lists all women elected to the Yukon Territorial Council or Yukon Legislative Assembly. A member's term begins on the day the member is elected either in a general election or by-election. The member's term ends on the day the member resigns or dies, or the day before an election where a member is defeated at the polls or chooses to not run. Note that prior to the 1978 general election all members were elected as independent members.

Member	Party	Electoral District	Term	Days in Office
1. Jean Gordon	Ind.	Mayo	September 11, 1967- September 7, 1970	1093
2. Hilda P. Watson	Ind.	Carmacks- Kluane	September 8, 1970- May 2, 1975; November 3, 1975- November 19, 1978	1698 + 1113 = 2811
3. Eleanor Millard	Ind.	Ogilvie	November 18, 1974- November 19, 1978	1463
4. Florence Whyard	Ind.	Whitehorse West	November 18, 1974- November 19, 1978	1463
5. Meg McCall	PC	Klondike	November 20, 1978- June 6, 1982	1295
6. Alice P. McGuire	Liberal	Kluane	November 20, 1978- June 6, 1982	1295
7. Kathie Nukon	PC	Old Crow	June 7, 1982- May 12, 1985	1071
8. Margaret (Joe) Commodore ¹	NDP	Whitehorse North Centre	June 7, 1982- September 29, 1996	5229
9. Bea Firth	PC/Ind.	Riverdale South	June 7, 1982- September 29, 1996	5229

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

10.Norma Kassi	NDP	Old Crow	May 13, 1985- October 18, 1992	2716
11.Joyce Hayden	NDP	Whitehorse South Centre	February 20, 1989- October 18, 1992	1337
12.Loïs Moorcroft	NDP	Mount Lorne Copperbelt South	October 19, 1992- April 16, 2000; October 11, 2011 to November 6, 2016	2736 + 1854 = 4590
13.Sue Edelman	Liberal	Riverdale South	September 30, 1996- November 3, 2002	2226
14.Pat Duncan	Liberal	Porter Creek South	September 30, 1996- October 1, 2006	3654
15.Pam Buckway	Liberal	Lake Laberge	October 25, 1999- November 3, 2002	1106
16.Cynthia Tucker	Liberal	Mount Lorne	April 17, 2000- November 3, 2002	931
17.Lorraine (Netro) Peter ²	NDP	Vuntut Gwitchin	April 17, 2000- October 9, 2006	2367
18.Elaine Taylor	YP	Whitehorse West	November 4, 2002- November 6, 2016	5117
19.Marian Horne	YP	Pelly- Nisutlin	October 10, 2006- October 10, 2011	1827
20.Elizabeth Hanson	NDP	Whitehorse Centre	December 13, 2010 to present	3672
21.Patti McLeod	YP	Watson Lake	October 11, 2011 to present	3370
22.Jan Stick	NDP	Riverdale South	October 11, 2011 to November 6, 2016	1854
23.Kate White	NDP	Takhini- Kopper King	October 11, 2011 to present	3370
24.Jeanie (Dendys) McLean ³	Liberal	Mountainview	November 7, 2016 to present	1516
25.Geraldine Van Bibber	YP	Porter Creek North	November 7, 2016 to present	1516
26.Tracy McPhee	Liberal	Riverdale South	November 7, 2016 to present	1516
27.Pauline Frost	Liberal	Vuntut Gwitchin	November 7, 2016 to present	1516

Party key: Ind. = Independent member, Liberal = Liberal Party, NDP = New Democratic Party, PC = Progressive Conservative Party, YP = Yukon Party.

² Lorraine Peter was first elected under the name Lorraine Netro.

³ Jeanie McLean changed her name from Jeanie Dendys in September 2020.

Women MLAs by length of tenure

1. Margaret (Joe) Commodore and Bea Firth – 5229 days.
3. Elaine Taylor – 5117 days.
4. Lois Moorcroft – 4590 days.
5. Elizabeth Hanson – 3672 days.
6. Pat Duncan – 3654 days.
7. Patti McLeod and Kate White – 3370 days.
9. Hilda P. Watson – 2811 days.
10. Norma Kassi – 2716 days.
11. Lorraine (Netro) Peter – 2367 days.
12. Sue Edelman – 2226 days.
13. Jan Stick – 1854 days.
14. Marian Horne – 1827 days.
15. Jeanie (Dendys) McLean, Geraldine Van Bibber, Tracy McPhee and Pauline Frost – 1516 days.
19. Eleanor Millard and Florence Whyard – 1463 days.
21. Joyce Hayden – 1337 days.
22. Meg McCall and Alice P. McGuire – 1295 days.
24. Pam Buckway – 1106 days.
25. Jean Gordon – 1093 days.
26. Kathie Nukon – 1071 days.
27. Cynthia Tucker – 931 days.

Women elected by Legislative Assembly

Legislative Assembly	Term	Seats	Members	Women Members	Percentage
21 st	September 11, 1967 – September 7, 1970	7	7	1	14.3
22 nd	September 8, 1970 – November 17, 1974	7	7	1	14.3
23 rd	November 18, 1974 – November 19, 1978	12	14	4	28.6
24 th	November 20, 1978 – June 6, 1982	16	18	2	11.1
25 th	June 7, 1982 – May 12, 1985	16	16	3	18.75
26 th	May 13, 1985 – February 19, 1989	16	18	3	16.7
27 th	February 20, 1989 – October 18, 1992	16	16	4	25.0
28 th	October 19, 1992 – September 29, 1996	17	19	3	15.8
29 th	September 30, 1996 – April 16, 2000	17	19	4	21.1
30 th	April 17, 2000 – November 3, 2002	17	18	5	27.8
31 st	November 4, 2002 – October 9, 2006	18	19	3	15.8
32 nd	October 10, 2006 – October 10, 2011	18	19	3	15.8
33 rd	October 11, 2011 – November 6, 2016	19	19	6	31.6
34 th	November 7, 2016 – present	19	19	7	36.8

Notes:

- The number of Members who served in a Legislative Assembly may exceed the number of Seats due to by- elections.
- Including general elections and by- elections women candidates have won 49 of the 219 seats contested between September 11, 1967 and November 7, 2016. This is 22.4 percent of the seats contested.
- Bea Firth and Sue Edelman, represented Riverdale South from June 7, 1982 to November 3, 2002. 7455 days.
- Kathie Nukon and Norma Kassi, represented Old Crow from June 7, 1982 to October 18, 1992. 3787 days.
- During the 23rd Legislative Assembly, Hilda Watson was elected in the general election of November 18, 1974, but resigned her seat on May 2, 1975. She won her seat again in the Carmacks- Kluane by- election of November 3, 1975.
- During the 29th Legislative Assembly, Lois Moorcroft, Pat Duncan and Sue Edelman were elected in the general election of September 30, 1996. Pam Buckway was elected in the Lake Laberge by- election of October 25, 1999.
- During the 32nd Legislative Assembly, Elaine Taylor and Marian Horne were elected in the general election of October 10, 2006. Elizabeth Hanson was elected in the Whitehorse Centre by- election of December 13, 2010.