



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 1

2nd Session

34th Legislature

HANSARD

Thursday, April 20, 2017 — 3:00 p.m.

Speaker: The Honourable Nils Clarke

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2017 Spring Sitting

SPEAKER — Hon. Nils Clarke, MLA, Riverdale North
DEPUTY SPEAKER and CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Don Hutton, MLA, Mayo-Tatchun
DEPUTY CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Ted Adel, MLA, Copperbelt North

CABINET MINISTERS

NAME	CONSTITUENCY	PORTFOLIO
Hon. Sandy Silver	Klondike	Premier Minister of the Executive Council Office; Finance
Hon. Ranj Pillai	Porter Creek South	Deputy Premier Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources; Economic Development; Minister responsible for the Yukon Development Corporation and the Yukon Energy Corporation
Hon. Tracy-Anne McPhee	Riverdale South	Government House Leader Minister of Education; Justice
Hon. John Streicker	Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes	Minister of Community Services; Minister responsible for the French Language Services Directorate; Yukon Liquor Corporation and the Yukon Lottery Commission
Hon. Pauline Frost	Vuntut Gwitchin	Minister of Health and Social Services; Environment; Minister responsible for the Yukon Housing Corporation
Hon. Richard Mostyn	Whitehorse West	Minister of Highways and Public Works; the Public Service Commission
Hon. Jeanie Dendys	Mountainview	Minister of Tourism and Culture; Minister responsible for the Workers' Compensation Health and Safety Board; Women's Directorate

GOVERNMENT PRIVATE MEMBERS

Yukon Liberal Party

Ted Adel	Copperbelt North
Paolo Gallina	Porter Creek Centre
Don Hutton	Mayo-Tatchun

OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Yukon Party

Stacey Hassard	Leader of the Official Opposition Pelly-Nisutlin	Scott Kent	Official Opposition House Leader Copperbelt South
Brad Cathers	Lake Laberge	Patti McLeod	Watson Lake
Wade Istchenko	Kluane	Geraldine Van Bibber	Porter Creek North

THIRD PARTY

New Democratic Party

Liz Hanson	Leader of the Third Party Whitehorse Centre
Kate White	Third Party House Leader Takhini-Kopper King

LEGISLATIVE STAFF

Clerk of the Assembly	Floyd McCormick
Deputy Clerk	Linda Kolody
Clerk of Committees	Allison Lloyd
Sergeant-at-Arms	Doris McLean
Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms	Karina Watson
Hansard Administrator	Deana Lemke

Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Thursday, April 20, 2017 — 3:00 p.m.

**THE SECOND SESSION OF THE 34TH
 LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF YUKON CONVENED
 IN THE ASSEMBLY CHAMBER AT 3:00 P.M. ON
 THURSDAY, APRIL 20, 2017**

Speaker: I will now call the House to order. Please be seated.

Proclamation

Clerk: “To the Members of the Legislative Assembly of Yukon and to all others whom this may concern

“Greetings

“A Proclamation

“KNOW YE THAT under and by virtue of the power vested in the Commissioner of Yukon under the *Yukon Act* (Canada), the First Session of the Thirty-fourth Legislative Assembly of Yukon is prorogued on April 20, 2017, at the hour of twelve o’clock in the afternoon and the Legislative Assembly of Yukon is summoned to meet for the dispatch of business in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, Yukon Government Administration Building, Whitehorse, Yukon on April 20, 2017 at the hour of three o’clock in the afternoon.

ALL OF WHICH all persons concerned are required to take notice and to govern themselves accordingly.

“GIVEN UNDER my hand and seal of Yukon, at Whitehorse, Yukon,

“April 6, 2017.

“Doug Phillips

“Commissioner of Yukon”

Speaker: Mr. Clerk, please advise the Commissioner of the Yukon, in his capacity as Lieutenant Governor, that the Assembly is now prepared to hear the Speech from the Throne.

Commissioner Phillips enters the Chamber accompanied by his Aides-de-Camp

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Commissioner: Please be seated.

Mr. Speaker, Honourable members, friends and people of the Yukon. I have the honour this afternoon to open a new legislative session, a new approach to governing. First, I want to acknowledge that we come together today on the traditional territory of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta’an Kwäch’än Council.

Yukon owes much to the rich and enduring history of its First Peoples. For millennia, First Nation people have lived in this land. Its abundance has sustained them for generations,

and their customs and culture draw from their connections to the land and its creatures and define their heritage.

Others have come to the Yukon, whether they are lured by a sense of adventure or new opportunities or simply for a better way of life. They have put down roots, raised their families and looked after their grandchildren. Yukon people have embraced this beautiful land with its majestic mountains, its wild spaces and its wealth of natural resources. It inspires artists. It challenges our outdoor enthusiasts. It generates economic wealth.

Honourable members, Yukoners are generous and resilient people. They want for others what they want for themselves: clean air to breathe and clean water to drink, respectful relationships and equality among people, and good jobs. Yukoners want to lead healthy, happy and productive lives. They want the same for their children as they do for their grandchildren. They want to live in vibrant communities and shape the direction of these communities. Yukoners want their governments to serve them.

Your new government is working diligently every day to do just that: to serve Yukon people and serve them well. Yukoners deserve no less. Your new government has set a course for the future. Your government is committed to improving the well-being of Yukoners. It knows all communities matter. It believes strong government-to-government relationships with First Nations benefit Yukon as a whole.

Your new government is committed to a stronger economy. It recognizes Yukoners want good jobs and new business opportunities. They want an economy that respects the environment and the natural gifts of the land. Yukoners also want good government — government that is approachable, transparent and accountable. Working with Yukon people, your new government will make lives better. It will do so through these commitments.

Your new government’s approach to wellness — centred on people — will help Yukoners thrive. The strategic investments that your government makes will contribute to healthy, vibrant and sustainable communities. Strong government-to-government relationships will foster reconciliation. Your new government’s commitment to a diverse and growing economy will provide good jobs for Yukoners in an environmentally responsible way.

These priorities will drive government’s agenda for the coming five years. Your new government will work with the people of the Yukon to achieve this. In doing so, it will base its decisions on evidence, it will manage the territory’s financial resources prudently, it will speak forthrightly for Yukon’s interests beyond its borders and on the national stage, and it will measure the progress it makes and report on that progress.

Your new government will deliver on its fundamental responsibility to make the lives of Yukon people and their families better. Your new government is committed to a people-centred approach to wellness that helps Yukoners thrive. Its programs and services will support the well-being

of Yukoners, from infants to elders. Every child deserves to have the best start in life.

Your government believes in making investments in newborn health. Midwifery can and should be a safe, supported childbirth option in Yukon. Your new government has already started to work on regulating and incorporating midwives in the Yukon health care system. Working with midwives, doctors and other medical professionals, the government anticipates licensing the practice of midwifery later next year.

Yukoners want the best for their children — the best chance at a healthy, happy life. Your government does too. It will increase investments in early learning opportunities to support children's readiness for school. It will invest in more quality childcare to support families and help make their lives better.

Every child deserves a home where they are supported, nurtured and safe. Your government will work with families, communities and First Nations to help ensure every child has a secure childhood and a promising future.

Your government believes that Yukon students deserve a high-quality education — an education that gives them the tools to achieve their full potential and their dreams. Your new government is investing in Yukon classrooms. It's working with the Association franco-yukonnaise and the broader community to build a new school in Whitehorse. Over the next four years, the curriculum in Yukon schools will be transformed, with a focus on skills development and experiential learning. Through the new curriculum, your government will ensure Yukon students will have the skills they need to succeed in the workplace and in life. It will improve the outcome for all students, regardless of where they go to school.

At the post-secondary level, your new government will invest in the trades, skills and career training at Yukon College tailored to the job market of today and tomorrow. At the same time, it will work with the college on its path to becoming a university, giving Yukoners more opportunities to earn post-secondary degrees here at home. Outside the classroom, your new government is making greater investment this year in programs for our young people and the youth groups that deliver them.

Every Yukoner needs public health care that meets their needs. Your new government wants every Yukoner to have a primary health care provider, whether it's a doctor, a nurse practitioner or a nurse working in an expanded role.

It wants a health care system built on a collaborative care model — a model that responds to community needs. It wants more health services delivered in our communities, including services for people who struggle with addictions and mental health issues. With this in mind, it negotiated more than \$11 million in new federal contributions for home care and mental health initiatives in its first month in office. Your government will use these new funds to make lives better for Yukon people. It will invest in mental health services in communities throughout Yukon, and in addiction services at the new Sarah Steele treatment facility in Whitehorse. It will

also expand its support for land-based healing and home care. It will enhance services in French, with a strong focus on health, based on priorities identified by the Francophone community.

Your government will complete a 150-bed facility for continuing care patients in Whistle Bend while exploring other options for our seniors to age in place. It's true — governments can build buildings. But government is about more than bricks and mortar. It is about programs and services that respond to people's needs and make their lives better.

Next month, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Aboriginal Women and Girls begins its national hearings here in Whitehorse. Your new government is an active participant. Working with the community partners and First Nations, it is developing Yukon solutions to help reduce violence against aboriginal women. This is part of your government's overall effort to reduce incidents of relationship violence and sexual assault, which are still too high in Yukon.

Your government will take a balanced approach in its justice system. It will protect Yukoners and respond to victims' needs while providing rehabilitation that reduces recidivism and addresses issues that lead to incarceration. Your new government supports inclusiveness, equality and a respect for diversity in its programming and services.

During this Sitting, your government will introduce legislation to amend the *Human Rights Act* to eliminate discrimination on the basis of gender identity and gender expression. This legislation will include changes to the *Vital Statistics Act* that will make it one of the most progressive laws in the country. These measures are the first steps in a larger review of Yukon laws, policies and practices. Your government will respect the rights of lesbian, gay, transgender, bisexual, queer and two-spirited Yukoners and their ability lead safe, healthy, happy lives as they choose. This is long overdue.

Your new government will make strategic investments in healthy, vibrant, sustainable communities. Communities are the lifeblood of our territory. Municipalities and First Nations are key partners in governance and in the future of the Yukon. Whether you live in Mayo, Carmacks, Haines Junction or Teslin, you need to know that our governments are working together and working for you. Your government believes in local solutions to local concerns to make life better for Yukon people throughout the territory.

Communities must have a meaningful voice in determining and building their future. Next month, members of Cabinet will attend the annual general meeting of the Association of Yukon Communities in Faro. Discussions on priorities for municipality governments will build on conversations that members of Cabinet have had with communities and First Nations in recent months. Your new government will build roads, bridges and other infrastructure to improve the quality of life in Yukon communities.

Key priorities for the coming year include clean water and waste-water projects, and improvements to solid-waste management, diversion and recycling. As more details are known about the federal infrastructure programs, your

government will involve communities and First Nations in setting priorities for active living, sustainability and local economic growth.

Your government will also use new federal funding to invest wisely in more affordable, accessible and safe housing across Yukon. This includes exploring a Housing First model to address the needs of our more vulnerable people. It will take a new, more effective approach as to how staff and social housing are provided in our communities. It will engage the private sector in partnerships to develop new ways of delivering these programs that support economic development of the communities. Part of your government's job in building vibrant communities is helping them define the economic future they want, based on their interest and advantages. This leads to local jobs.

Your government believes that we all have a role to play in reducing the impacts of climate change. Our goal is to eliminate diesel as a primary source of energy in Yukon. Getting there will not be easy, but we need to start investing now in this necessary transition.

Your government will focus on smaller renewable energy investments with projects driven by First Nations and communities. It will initiate pilot projects into the potential for electrical energy storage. These can both reduce the use of fossil fuels and extend the viability of renewables. At the same time, we must lower our energy use. Your government will make significant investments in energy retrofits in its buildings, while supporting programs for retrofitting residential and community buildings.

Climate change poses risks to our northern way of life. These challenges require good information on emissions to plan actions and guide investments and to establish effective targets to both reduce greenhouse gases and grow our economy. Your new government will do this work.

Our longer winters and our colder temperatures challenge us in reducing our use of non-renewable resources. It will take time to develop alternative forms of energy. This is why your government is committed to using any money raised through the federal price on carbon for rebates to Yukon individuals and businesses. It will be revenue neutral.

Our communities need to be connected to each other and to the rest of Canada and to the world. Your government is committed to enhancing connectivity and bandwidth for all Yukon communities and beyond. It is now undertaking a thorough review of the two potential routes for a redundant fibre optic line to strengthen Yukon's Internet connection to the Outside. Your government will make a decision based on the evidence of what is best for Yukon people.

Technology can help make Yukoners' lives better in our communities. E-services give ready access to government programs and services throughout the Yukon. This year, your government will expand e-health services on the online corporate registry. It will plan for more e-services to make it easier for people to take advantage of programs and services and meet their needs wherever they live in our territory.

Yukoners live with wilderness on their doorsteps. Being outdoors, hiking, fishing and biking contribute to healthy

lifestyles. Your government will improve campground infrastructure to enable Yukoners to enjoy the natural world that surrounds us. It will work with communities on the ideas for enhancing recreational opportunities.

This year, Yukoners will join with other Canadians across the country in commemorating the 150th anniversary of Confederation. Canada 150 allows us an occasion to reflect on our unique identity in the north and on our sense of what it means to be Canadian. It gives us an opportunity to recognize the enduring history of First Nation people, to acknowledge indigenous culture and languages and their contribution to the social fabric of modern Yukon. As Canadians, we have much to celebrate, including our willingness to address the wrongs of the past and to work together for a more promising future for all.

In the course of this year, Yukoners will also recognize the 75th anniversary of the construction of the Alaska Highway. Your government will support community events for both anniversaries from Watson Lake to Beaver Creek, from Tagish to Old Crow.

Honourable members, your new government believes in reconciliation with First Nations — reconciliation built on mutual understanding and respect, reconciliation based on a constructive relationship that contributes to good governance and benefits all Yukoners. In January of this year — just one month after being sworn in — the members of Cabinet and chiefs of Yukon First Nations signed an intergovernmental declaration. It sets the foundation for a renewed relationship based on reconciliation and collaboration. Next month, your new government will meet with the First Nation leaders from across the territory for the second Yukon Forum since coming into office. A ceremonial potlatch bowl presented by the Grand Chief at the January forum will sit at the meeting table as a symbol of our mutual pledge to work together for a stronger Yukon. Working together makes sense. This year, Yukon Days — held in Ottawa in February — were built on a collaborative approach. Together, members of Cabinet and Yukon chiefs met with federal ministers to advocate for programs, services and funding that responds to Yukon's needs. There is strength in a united voice and it's an example for the rest of Canada. Yukon First Nations lead the country in self-governance, yet there is more to do to fully realize the spirit and intent of the final and self-government agreements. It will involve hard work and sometimes difficult conversations. Your new government is committed to this effort. It will work toward reconciliation with all Yukon First Nations and with transboundary First Nations and traditional territories in Yukon.

Working together, Yukon will build a more cohesive society, protect our environment and grow a sustainable economy. As one of its very first priorities, your new government is acting on a promise to make National Aboriginal Day a statutory holiday in Yukon. It will bring to this Legislature a proposal to the House as its first bill. On June 21st, Yukoners will celebrate the historic and cultural roots of this territory. They will honour and recognize the many contributions that First Nations and their citizens have

made and continue to make to our unique way of life. Honoured members, reconciliation will help Yukon progress. Together today, we can build a bright future for all tomorrow.

Your Yukon government is committed to help us strengthen and diversify Yukon's economy. It will encourage all companies to hire Yukoners. It will work with Yukon College to align training programs with market demands. That will mean more Yukoners on the ground to work on projects in our territory. It will encourage business partnerships. Yukon's airline, Air North, is a prime example of how a partnership between an existing business and a First Nation development corporation can grow our economy, creating more jobs, expanding Yukon's reach beyond our borders and making lives better for Yukon people.

The new free trade agreement signed recently with Canada and provincial and territorial governments will make it easier for Yukon businesses to expand outside the territory. It will open up new markets for Yukon products while retaining safeguards for local needs. Improvements in how government procures goods and services can support new opportunities for business and First Nation development corporations. It can create the conditions that enable new private sector jobs in Yukon.

Your new government will tender its major summer construction contracts by the end of March next year. That makes good business sense. It will change the procurement process within the next 12 months to spell out advantages for using local companies, local people and materials. Your new government believes the economy and the environment go hand-in-hand. It believes in responsible resource development.

Already there are positive signs in the mineral sector. Early in its mandate the government approved amendments to the Minto Explorations quartz mining licence. This will extend mining for its operations near Pelly Crossing until later this year.

Victoria Gold is moving forward with plans in the Dublin Gulch area, and there are positive developments for Alexco in the Keno Hill region. Two projects, Kudze Kayah and Coffee Creek, have recently entered Yukon's environmental and socio-economic assessment process. Just last week, Barrick Gold announced that it is investing more than \$8 million in ATAC Resources property east of Keno City. This means that half of the world's 10 gold producers have a stake in Yukon. This bodes well for mining here in the territory.

Your government knows support for mineral exploration is paying off. It is increasing assistance this year. It is committed to improving resource roads to placer operations in the Klondike region over the next three years. The mining industry recognizes that certainty is the key ingredient of a prosperous future. Your new government, Yukon First Nations and the Chamber of Mines have united in their efforts to restore confidence in the territory's development assessment process.

By working together with other governments and industry, more benefits can accrue to the Yukon from our mining industry — more good, well-paying jobs, more

opportunities for businesses and for First Nations development corporations, and more capacity to grow our economy.

Your new government is working just as hard to support other sectors of the economy as it is for the mining sector. Every year, Yukoners welcome thousands of visitors to our beautiful territory. They come to experience our spectacular landscapes, our rich culture and heritage, and the warmth of our hospitality, yet tourism is a highly competitive sector. Your new government believes there is a need to take a longer term view and a more strategic focus to grow Yukon tourism. To this end, we will engage Yukon partners, communities and First Nations in developing a broad strategy to drive growth to make sure Yukon is a destination of choice.

Marketing funds targeted directly at travellers will become a permanent feature of our efforts to attract visitors to Yukon. More will also be done to develop winter tourism. A summit later this year will define opportunities and investments for sustained growth in this market. To help tourism businesses better understand the interests and expectations of visitors, your government will initiate a comprehensive visitor survey this year.

Yukon's vibrant arts community and a unique heritage can enrich visitors' experience, just as they enrich our lives. Planning will begin this year on how best to give Yukoners and our visitors opportunities to view the many discoveries that have been made over the years in the fossil-rich Klondike gold fields.

This year, your government is funding the cultural centre component of the new learning centre built by the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and it will begin implementing a plan to jointly manage the Conrad historic site with this First Nation.

To enhance growth in Yukon's cultural industries, the government will start discussions this year on a broad-based arts and cultural policy.

Our agricultural industry can support greater self-sufficiency, reducing Yukon's dependence on food imports. The government will work toward a renewed agreement with the federal government this year to build on initiatives of Yukon farmers and agricultural producers. More local food will provide Yukoners with more variety and healthier choices for their well-being.

Yukoners are as innovative as they are adventurous. They are good at figuring out how to solve northern problems with northern solutions. Your new government believes in growing Yukon's knowledge economy. Building the innovation, science and research and IT sectors will strengthen Yukon's economic base. Over the coming year, the government will lay the groundwork for a new multi-million-dollar fund to invest in economic diversification and innovation. It has already made changes to programs for film development and production, giving Yukon media producers access to financial assistance and greater access to national funding sources.

The expansion of government e-services will be designed to create opportunities for local businesses while benefitting our citizens. Development of an open data repository will

begin this year to give entrepreneurs access to a wealth of research and the ability to use data in innovative ways.

Research using science and traditional knowledge will point to new ways to marry economic objectives with good stewardship of our environment, because Yukoners want both. They want to earn a good living and they want new economic prospects. They also value a healthy environment and the ability to use their leisure time to hike, fish and hunt and enjoy our wilderness. Both are fundamental to the Yukon way of life and the well-being of our communities.

Honourable members, your new government has been working hard, working with Yukoners to make their lives better. Its collaborative approach with other governments has set a positive new tone. It has engaged with Yukon First Nations in a renewed relationship founded on respect and mutual interest in partnering for the betterment of Yukon.

The joint approach that ministers and chiefs took in Ottawa for Yukon Days has shown others what can be achieved through collaboration. Your government's work with Ottawa has led to significant investments for Yukoners in the recent federal budget for health care, for home care, for mental health care and for affordable housing. There are other opportunities on the horizon. Your government will maximize efforts to ensure federal dollars and opportunities find their way to Yukon.

It has worked with First Nations and the mining industry to support new opportunities for resource development. It has concluded a new free trade deal with other Canadian jurisdictions with new prospects for Yukon businesses while protecting our local interests. It has signed a pan-Canadian accord to address and adapt to the impacts of climate change and support the shift to a cleaner, renewable economy. It has launched a new curriculum in Yukon schools to lay the foundation for our future workforce and our future leaders.

Members of Cabinet have been to the communities across the Yukon to help with today's concerns and listen to their plans for tomorrow, but this is just the beginning. There is much more to do. Your new government has a clear sense of purpose and is tackling that work now. It will continue to do so to make the lives of Yukon people and the lives of their families and communities better. Your government recognizes that it is not just what it does that is important — it is equally important how it does it. Yukoners have the right to be heard; your government will listen. It will involve people in the conversations to shape the decisions that affect them. This is the heart of good governance.

Your new government believes in working with Yukon people. It knows that decisions that respond to the people's needs and desires are the best decisions. It will collaborate with others who have a stake in healthy communities and in people in a stronger economy and in the stewardship of our environment.

Your new government will be approachable and open in its dealings with Yukoners. It will be a strong voice for Yukoners within the Canadian federation. Evidence will drive its decision-making. Your government believes in its responsibility to account for what it does. It will measure

progress on its priorities and report on that progress. Yukoners will know that their government is doing what it says it will do to make their lives better.

Honourable members, during this Sitting, you will be asked to consider budgetary measures for the coming year. The budget will give the financial details on the work your government will do with and for Yukon people. It will demonstrate sound fiscal management. It will show the full picture and the costs of delivering programs and services for Yukoners. It will reflect your government's commitment to responsibly managing the territory's finances. Fiscal challenges lie ahead. Your new government will involve Yukon people on how to address these challenges. These discussions will guide our choices for the future. Your new government is confident that these choices will include a future that includes strong, vibrant communities, a robust, diversified economy and a healthy environment, reconciliation among peoples, and a future where Yukon lives are better.

Honourable members, last week, Yukon lost one of the pioneers of responsible government for this territory. From 1958 to 1961, Jim Smith was a member of this House when it was known as the Yukon Territorial Council. He went on to be Commissioner of the Yukon from 1966 to 1976. Commissioner Smith believed in Yukon's political development. He championed the involvement of Yukon's elected representatives in charting the Yukon Territory's future. Members of this House and all Yukoners owe much to that vision — that the people of this territory should shape its own destiny.

His passion for Yukon and his genuine interest in Yukoners from all walks of life and all communities will be greatly missed.

Honourable members, as elected representatives of Yukon, you share a collective responsibility to help guide and shape the future of this territory. As you begin your proceedings, remember the wisdom of the generations who have come before you. Look to the promise of this land and the aspirations of its people. You are all here to work with Yukon people to make their lives better. As you work together, may fairness, respect, humanity and compassion for others guide your deliberations.

Thank you; merci; mahsi'; günilschish.

Commissioner Phillips leaves the Chamber accompanied by his Aides-de-Camp

Speaker: I will now call the House to order. We will proceed at this time with prayers.

Prayers

Speaker: It gives me great pleasure at this time to introduce Karina Watson as the Legislative Assembly's new Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms. Ms. Watson recently retired from the Royal Canadian Mounted Police after 27 years of service. Ms. Watson moved to Yukon from the lower mainland of

British Columbia, and arrived in Dawson City to take up her first posting in Yukon on November 1, 2008.

Ms. Watson worked general duty, traffic, bike patrol, community policing, border integrity and as a drug dog handler. At her retirement, Ms. Watson held the rank of corporal. Ms. Watson spent three years as the operational non-commissioned officer, Ops NCO, in Dawson City. Ms. Watson was then posted to Old Crow for four years as the NCO in charge and one and a half years in Faro as the NCO in charge. I would ask members to welcome Ms. Watson to the House at this time. Welcome.

Applause

Speaker: Ms. Watson succeeds Doris McLean as Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms. Ms. McLean was appointed Sergeant-at-Arms following the retirement of Rudy Couture at the end of July 2016. Unfortunately, Ms. McLean cannot be with us today. On behalf of all members of the Assembly, I wish her a speedy recovery to good health and to the service of the House.

I understand as well that some members of Ms. McLean's family are in the gallery, and I convey my best wishes to you.

INTRODUCTION OF PAGES

Speaker: It also gives me great pleasure to introduce the legislative pages who will be serving the House during the 2017 Spring Sitting. They are Megan Prawdzik, Tess Casher and Rosie Lang from F.H. Collins Secondary School; Alyssa Cuenza, Ainslie Spence and Emma Pater from Vanier Catholic Secondary School; and Paityn Mountain and Chayce Giesbrecht from Porter Creek Secondary School. With us today are Rosie Lang and Chayce Giesbrecht. I would ask members to welcome them to the House at this time.

Applause

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 1: *Act to Perpetuate a Certain Ancient Right* — Introduction and First Reading

Mr. Adel: Mr. Speaker, I move that Bill No. 1, entitled *Act to Perpetuate a Certain Ancient Right*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Member for Copperbelt North that Bill No. 1, entitled *Act to Perpetuate a Certain Ancient Right*, be now introduced and read a first time.

Motion for introduction and first reading of Bill No. 1 agreed to

TABLING SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Speaker: I wish at this time to inform the Assembly that I have received a copy of the Speech from the Throne, which I will now table.

CONSIDERATION OF SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

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

THAT the Speech from the Throne be considered on a day following.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier:

THAT the Speech from the Throne be considered on a day following.

Motion agreed to

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, I wish to inform the House, pursuant to the provisions of Standing Order 26(2), that consideration of a motion for an Address in Reply to the Speech from the Throne will take place on Monday, April 24, 2017.

TABLING RETURNS AND DOCUMENTS

Speaker: Honourable members, the Chair has for tabling a number of documents. First is the *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Yukon Legislative Assembly — 2017: Government Transfers to Societies — Yukon*.

The Chair also has for tabling a report of the *Auditor General of Canada to the Yukon Legislative Assembly — 2017: Capital Asset Management — Yukon*. The Auditor General's reports are submitted to the Legislative Assembly pursuant to section 35 of the *Yukon Act* and were made public on March 6, 2017.

The Chair also has for tabling *The Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Yukon on the 2016 General Election*. This report was prepared pursuant to section 315 of the *Elections Act* and was made public on April 5, 2017.

The Chair also has for tabling the *Yukon Human Rights Panel of Adjudicators 2015-16 Annual Report*. The annual report is tabled pursuant to subsection 22(8) of the *Human Rights Act* and was transmitted on November 24, 2016.

Finally, the Chair also has for tabling *The Report from the Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly on the Absence of Members from Sittings of the Legislative Assembly and its Committees*, dated April 20, 2017. This report is tabled pursuant to the direction of the Members' Services Board.

Are there any further returns or documents for tabling?

May I have your further pleasure at this time?

INTRODUCTION OF VISITORS

Hon. Mr. Silver: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask all honourable members of the Legislative Assembly to help me in welcoming to the gallery three individuals. I would like to start with two former leaders of the Yukon Liberal Party, Mr. Jack Cable and Mr. Arthur Mitchell. I would also like to get everybody to help me in welcoming to the gallery the Grand Chief, Peter Johnston.

Applause

Mr. Hassard: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I would like to ask all members to join me in welcoming today my mayor, Clara Jules.

Applause

Ms. Hanson: Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask members to join me in welcoming to this Legislative Assembly — no strangers to this House — people who, as citizens of the Yukon over the last five years, made it a regular part of their

day to sit in this Legislative Assembly to do what citizens do best, which is to bear witness to the work that we do in this Legislative Assembly on their behalf.

I would like to ask you to join in welcoming Dave Brekke, Murray Martin, Rob and Mary Ann Lewis, Marguerite and Don Roberts, Lillian Nakamura, Wilf Maguire, Carol Ann Gingras, Bonnie Dalziel and so many others. It's such a good thing to see them here today and we hope they will continue to be present with us in this Legislative Assembly.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Pillai: I would like to also take the opportunity to welcome some other very important individuals here today. I would like to welcome Ms. Lynn Hutton, president of the Yukon First Nations Chamber of Commerce. I would like to also welcome someone who has been very supportive of me over the last little bit in my new role — Mr. Samson Hartland from the Yukon Chamber of Mines.

I also appreciate the help along the way from the executive director of the Klondike Placer Miners' Association, Mr. Jonas Smith. Thank you very much for coming today.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Mostyn: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to thank some people this afternoon who have visited us in our Chamber. I would like to welcome Mr. Steve Geick. He is the president of the Yukon Employees Union. I would also like to welcome Patrick Michael, the former Clerk of the Legislative Assembly; Gill Cracknell, a former colleague I have worked with quite closely; Susan Mooney, who is up there working for the MP's office; and Mr. Devon Bailey and his son Ezra.

Applause

Ms. White: I would be remiss not to welcome Mr. Gerry Whitley to the Assembly. Every day that I have been here, he has been here as well — and a special hello to Karen Barnes, the president of Yukon College.

Applause

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to ask my colleagues to welcome the president of Yukon College, Dr. Karen Barnes, as well as Deb Bartlette, who is the vice-president of Academic and Student Services. I would also like to recognize our newest Yukoner, Eli Martin McGill-Hyde, who is just over nine weeks old, but who has joined us here today. I would say that we are happy he is sleeping through the proceedings, but we shouldn't take that as an indication of his interest.

Applause

Hon. Mr. Streicker: Thanks, Mr. Speaker. I would like to welcome — just acknowledging the Leader of the Official Opposition, who acknowledged Mayor Clara Jules. It is always lovely to have mayors here. Also with us from city council, we have councillors Samson Hartland and Betty

Irwin. I would also like to acknowledge a past councillor and colleague, Kirk Cameron. I would also like to acknowledge Archie Thompson from the RCMP, who I worked with while I was on city council — welcome — and Elder Judy Gingell from my own riding of Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes. It is lovely to have you here.

Applause

Hon. Ms. Dendys: Thank you Mr. Speaker. I would like to first acknowledge my brother, Jerry Asp, who has been by my side through this whole entering into politics — thank you so much for coming. I would also like to acknowledge some of the people who have really supported me along the way — Gaye Hanson, thank you so much for being here today. I would also like to acknowledge Marilyn Jensen. Thank you, and please send our best wishes to your mom. Thank you all for coming here today. It is so wonderful to see so many people interested in this Legislative Assembly and to welcome us as new politicians within your government. Thank you.

Applause

Speaker: Are there any further introductions of visitors?

Are there any notices of motions?

NOTICES OF MOTIONS

Mr. Hassard: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT, in the opinion of this House, the Government of Yukon should:

(1) recognize that it has been nearly a year since the Legislative Assembly has sat;

(2) recognize that since December 3, 2016, the government has approved close to half a billion dollars without legislative oversight;

(3) recognize that the Premier has announced that there will be a completely new type of budgeting that will require members of the Legislative Assembly enough time to familiarize themselves with;

(4) recognize that they have insisted on redoing their original throne speech while also delaying the tabling of the budget until five days into the Sitting, thus limiting the amount of time members have to debate; and

(5) agree to a maximum Sitting length of 40 days for the 2017 Spring Sitting of the Legislative Assembly to allow MLAs the necessary time to work, review and debate the budget.

Thank you.

Ms. Hanson: Mr. Speaker, I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon, within the first year of the 34th Yukon Legislative Assembly, to fulfill their commitment to a Yukon early childhood strategy that will consider amendments to the *Child Care Act* and its regulations 1990 that will:

(1) reflect current knowledge and best practices in early childhood development; and

(2) consult and include early childhood and child care professionals, parents and First Nation governments in planning and implementation.

Ms. White: Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

I rise to give notice of the following motion:

THAT this House urges the Government of Yukon to release an estimate of the cost to the public to abandon the newly acquired gas well L38 in the Kotaneelee region.

Speaker: Is there any further business?

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Mr. Adel: Mr. Speaker, I have for tabling the *First Report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees*, dated February 7, 2017.

I also have for tabling the *Second Report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees*, dated March 17, 2017.

Thank you.

Speaker: Are there any further committee reports to be presented?

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

Speaker: It has been moved by the Government House Leader that the House do now adjourn.

Motion agreed to

Speaker: The House now stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. on Monday.

The House adjourned at 3:53 p.m.

The following sessional papers were tabled April 20, 2017:

34-2-1 Speech from the Throne (Speaker Clarke)

34-2-2 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Yukon Legislative Assembly — 2017: Government Transfers to Societies - Yukon* (March 6, 2017) (Speaker Clarke)

34-2-3 *Report of the Auditor General of Canada to the Yukon Legislative Assembly — 2017: Capital Asset Management — Yukon* (March 6, 2017) (Speaker Clarke)

34-2-4 *The Report of the Chief Electoral Officer of Yukon on the 2016 General Election* (Speaker Clarke)

34-2-5 *Yukon Human Rights Panel of Adjudicators 2015-16 Annual Report* (Speaker Clarke)

34-2-6 *Report from the Clerk of the Yukon Legislative Assembly on the Absence of Members from Sittings of the Legislative Assembly and its Committees* April 20, 2017 (Speaker Clarke)

34-2-7 *First Report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees* (February 7, 2017) (Adel)

34-2-8 *Second Report of the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees* (March 17, 2017) (Adel)

The following written questions were tabled April 20, 2017:

Written Question No. 1

Re: review of the medical travel program (McLeod)

Written Question No. 2

Re: compensation for owners of placer and quartz mining claims (Kent)

Written Question No. 3

Re: communication infrastructure (Kent)

Written Question No. 4

Re: Yukon vision for education (Van Bibber)

Written Question No. 5

Re: National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (Van Bibber)

Written Question No. 6

Re: Yukon resource gateway project (Hassard)

Written Question No. 7

Re: emergency housing for Ross River (Hassard)

Written Question No. 8

Re: government transparency (Hassard)

Written Question No. 9

Re: carbon tax in Yukon (Hassard)

Written Question No. 10

Re: health care transfers (Hassard)

Written Question No. 11

Re: communication infrastructure (Cathers)

Written Question No. 12

Re: Yukon's agriculture sector (Cathers)

Written Question No. 13

Re: community safety, property crime and illegal drug trade (Cathers)