



Yukon Legislative Assembly

Number 1

1st Session

35th Legislature

HANSARD

Tuesday, May 11, 2021 — 1:00 p.m.

SPECIAL SITTING

Speaker: The Honourable Jeremy Harper

YUKON LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

2021 Special Sitting

SPEAKER — Hon. Jeremy Harper, MLA, Mayo-Tatchun
DEPUTY SPEAKER and CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Annie Blake, MLA, Vuntut Gwitchin
DEPUTY CHAIR OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE — Emily Tredger, MLA, Whitehorse Centre

CABINET MINISTERS

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

OFFICIAL OPPOSITION

Yukon Party

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

THIRD PARTY

New Democratic Party

| | |
|---------------|--|
| Kate White | Leader of the Third Party Takhini-Kopper King |
| Emily Tredger | Third Party House Leader Whitehorse Centre |
| Annie Blake | Vuntut Gwitchin |

LEGISLATIVE STAFF

| | |
|-------------------------|---------------|
| Clerk of the Assembly | Dan Cable |
| Deputy Clerk | Linda Kolody |
| Clerk of Committees | Allison Lloyd |
| Sergeant-at-Arms | Karina Watson |
| Deputy Sergeant-at-Arms | Joseph Mewett |
| Hansard Administrator | Deana Lemke |

**Yukon Legislative Assembly
Whitehorse, Yukon
Tuesday, May 11, 2021 — 1:00 p.m.**

**THE FIRST SESSION OF THE 35th LEGISLATIVE
ASSEMBLY OF YUKON CONVENED IN THE
ASSEMBLY CHAMBER AT 1:00 P.M. ON TUESDAY,
MAY 11, 2021**

Proclamation

Clerk: “TO THE MEMBERS of the Legislative Assembly of Yukon, and to all others whom this may concern

“GREETINGS

**“A PROCLAMATION
“[*Yukon Act (Canada)*]**

“KNOW YE THAT under and by virtue of the power vested in the Commissioner of Yukon under the *Yukon Act (Canada)*, the Legislative Assembly of Yukon is summoned to meet for dispatch of business in the Legislative Assembly Chamber, Yukon Government Administration Building, Whitehorse, Yukon, on May 11, 2021 at the hour of one 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, May 4, 2021.

“Angélique Bernard
“Commissioner of Yukon”

REPORT ON MEMBERS ELECTED

Clerk: Honourable members, the following letter, dated April 20, 2021, was sent by the Chief Electoral Officer of Yukon to the Commissioner of the Yukon, the Hon. Angélique Bernard:

“Dear Commissioner:

“As required by section 308 of the *Elections Act*, I am pleased to advise you that the returns of the writ for the general election of Members to the Yukon Legislative Assembly, held April 12, 2021, have been received.

“The date of the return of the writ was set as April 19, 2021 when the writ was issued on March 12, 2021.

“The returning officers have certified in their return of the writ that the members duly elected for their electoral district by having received the largest number of ballots lawfully cast, and in the case of Vuntut Gwitchin, elected following the drawing of lots, are:

“Copperbelt North, Currie Dixon;
“Copperbelt South, Scott Kent;
“Klondike, Sandy Silver;
“Kluane, Wade Istchenko;
“Lake Laberge, Brad Cathers;
“Mayo-Tatchun, Jeremy Harper;
“Mount Lorne-Southern Lakes, John Streicker;

“Mountainview, Jeanie McLean (Dendys);
“Pelly-Nisutlin, Stacey Hassard;
“Porter Creek Centre, Yvonne Clarke;
“Porter Creek North, Geraldine Van Bibber;
“Porter Creek South, Ranj Pillai;
“Riverdale North, Nils Clarke;
“Riverdale South, Tracy McPhee;
“Takhini-Kopper King, Kate White;
“Vuntut Gwitchin, Annie Blake;
“Watson Lake, Patti McLeod;
“Whitehorse Centre, Emily Tredger;
“Whitehorse West, Richard Mostyn.

“In the event the return of the writ date is required in accordance with *Yukon Act* section 11(1), the date of the return of the writ is April 19, 2021. The *Yukon Act* states that ‘no Legislative Assembly shall continue for longer than five years after the date of the return of the writ for a general election, but the Commissioner may dissolve it before then.’

“Sincerely,
“H. Maxwell Harvey
“Chief Electoral Officer”

Commissioner Bernard enters the Chamber announced by her Aide-de-Camp

Clerk: I am commanded by the Commissioner, in her capacity as Lieutenant Governor, to state that she does not see fit to declare the causes of the summoning of the present Assembly of this territory until a Speaker of this Assembly shall have been chosen according to law, but today, at a subsequent hour, she will declare the causes of the calling of this Assembly.

Commissioner Bernard leaves the Chamber accompanied by her Aide-de-Camp

Motion No. 1 — Election of Speaker

Clerk: Honourable members, nominations are invited for the Office of Speaker of this Assembly.

Hon. Mr. Silver: I move, seconded by the Leader of the Official Opposition and the Leader of the Third Party:

THAT Jeremy Harper, Member for Mayo-Tatchun, do take the Chair of this Assembly as Speaker.

Clerk: It has been moved by the Hon. Premier, seconded by the Leader of the Official Opposition and the Leader of the Third Party:

THAT Jeremy Harper, Member for Mayo-Tatchun, do take the Chair of this Assembly as Speaker.

Some Hon. Members: Agreed.

Clerk: The ayes have it, and Jeremy Harper, Member for Mayo-Tatchun, is, by direction of this Assembly, duly elected as Speaker of the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Motion No. 1 agreed to

SPEAKER’S ADDRESS TO THE ASSEMBLY

Speaker: I just want to recognize the chiefs in the gallery: Grand Chief Peter Johnston, Chief Roberta Joseph, Acting Chief Morris Morrison, and Deputy Chief Maria Benoit.

First of all, it is an honour and privilege to be elected into this role by my colleagues. I would also like to thank the people of the Mayo-Tatchun riding for giving me the opportunity to be their representative in the Legislative Assembly. I would like to express my thanks to the Assembly for the honour of being the 26th Speaker.

The importance of the Speaker's role is to ensure that the business of the Legislative Assembly is conducted in an independent, fair, and respectful manner. To that end, it is the Speaker's duty to be impartial and to treat all members equally and without favour. This high standard must be met in order to maintain the confidence and respect of the Legislative Assembly, and I commit today to carry on this tradition.

To the honourable members, I ask that you conduct yourselves with passion, honour, and respect for one another.

As well, I will follow my traditions of my Northern Tutchone ancestors, which are sharing, caring, teaching, and respect in everything that I do as the Speaker and as the elected MLA representing the Mayo-Tatchun riding. These are the standards by which I live.

I have lived in the Yukon all my life and I am of Northern Tutchone heritage on my mother's side and Southern Tutchone heritage on my father's side. My ancestors have lived here for generations and generations, and by following their teachings and principles, I hope to improve the lifestyle and quality of life for future generations of Yukoners.

To my wife, Shari Wrixon, and our two dogs, Remie and Duke, thank you for your unconditional support and love through my life's journey. Thank you to my friends and family for your unconditional love and support.

Mr. Clerk, will you please advise the Commissioner, in her capacity as Lieutenant Governor, that the Assembly is now prepared to hear the Speech from the Throne.

Clerk withdraws to ask Commissioner to return

Speaker: We are now prepared to hear the Speech from the Throne.

Commissioner Bernard enters the Chamber announced by her Aide-de-Camp

SPEAKER'S ADDRESS TO THE COMMISSIONER

Speaker: Madam Commissioner, the Members of the Legislative Assembly have elected me to be their Speaker, and I recognize the importance of the duties now given to me. If, in the performance of those duties, I should at any time make a mistake, the fault is mine and not that of the Assembly, whose servant I am. At this time, so that all members of the Assembly can best carry out their duty to Yukon, to their country, and to the Queen, I would claim for them their undoubted rights and privileges, especially freedom of speech in their debates, access to your person when necessary, and your favourable consideration of their proceedings.

RESPONSE BY THE COMMISSIONER

Commissioner: Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to declare to you that I believe in the duty of the Assembly and, not doubting that the Assembly's proceedings will be conducted with wisdom, temper, and care, I grant and allow the Assembly's constitutional privileges. I assure you that the Assembly shall have ready access to me and that the Assembly's proceedings, words, and actions will receive from me favourable consideration.

Please be seated.

SPEECH FROM THE THRONE

Commissioner: Honourable members, friends, and fellow Yukoners, we are gathered today on the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dün First Nation and the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council. It is an honour to address this Assembly whose members represent the great people of the Yukon residing on the traditional territories of 14 distinct First Nations with whom we share this land.

This Assembly has represented the will of Yukoners for over 40 years, ever since the territory achieved responsible government. Many individuals have made important contributions to the governance of our territory during that time. This includes two of my esteemed predecessors, former Yukon Commissioners Art Pearson and Doug Bell. Sadly, both of them passed away recently — Mr. Pearson in December and Mr. Bell in April.

Both were directly involved in one of the most significant transitions in the territory's history. Mr. Pearson was a scientist and environmentalist. He became Commissioner in 1976, at a time when members were advocating for more responsibilities to be placed in the hands of elected officials. Mr. Pearson later went into business and became president of the Chamber of Commerce. He also created the Yukon Lotteries Commission and was involved in the establishment of the Yukon Science Institute.

Mr. Bell served as Whitehorse city councillor before becoming Deputy Commissioner under Mr. Pearson. In 1979, as the territory's Administrator and later as Commissioner, Mr. Bell oversaw the transition to the territory's first wholly elected Cabinet, forever transforming governance in the territory. Mr. Bell was committed to accountable government and later joined the fourth estate as the publisher of the *Yukon News*. A passionate writer who took great joy in serving his community, Mr. Bell was appointed to the Order of Canada and awarded the Order of Yukon in recognition of this life of service.

Yukoners across the territory were also saddened to learn of the recent passing of Darius Elias and Archie Lang. Both were respected members of this Assembly. Mr. Elias faithfully represented the Vuntut Gwitchin people of Old Crow for 10 years. His service to his community and dedication to the land began in his youth and carried on throughout his life. Mr. Elias was a fierce and articulate advocate for the Porcupine caribou herd and travelled extensively to educate the world about its critical habitat and cultural importance to the Gwich'in people.

Mr. Lang represented Porter Creek Centre for nearly a decade, serving as a Cabinet minister in several portfolios. A great champion of the Yukon, Mr. Lang operated several businesses throughout the territory focused on tourism and hospitality. Mr. Lang's encyclopaedic knowledge of the territory's history and deft sense of humour contributed to his legendary storytelling and larger-than-life personality.

All Yukoners have benefitted from the contributions that Mr. Pearson, Mr. Bell, Mr. Lang, and Mr. Elias made to our territory. We offer our sincere condolences to their families and all their friends.

Your government has worked tirelessly to make the territory a better place to live for all Yukoners. It has partnered with other governments to grow the territory's economy while protecting the environment and investing in healthier communities. The territory has enjoyed economic growth every year since 2016, including during the pandemic. Yukon continues to have the lowest unemployment rate in the country.

Your government has built strong relationships with Yukon First Nations to advance reconciliation. The revitalization of the Yukon Forum has allowed leaders from across the territory to collaborate and advance joint priorities for the benefit of all Yukoners. Much can be accomplished when we are paddling in the same direction.

Yukon is the first jurisdiction in Canada with a strategy to respond to the national inquiry into missing and murdered indigenous women and girls and two-spirit-plus individuals. This territory-wide strategy embodies the promise to change this tragic national story from one of grief, desperation, and loss to one of healing, grace, and reconciliation. It is another example of how the Yukon continues to lead the country when it comes to meaningful reconciliation with First Nation people.

Your government has improved health care services, expanded mental health resources, decreased surgical wait times, and made medical travel more flexible and affordable. It has modernized legislation and policies to make the territory more inclusive and welcoming for all Yukoners.

It has increased housing options for Yukoners by investing in affordable community and seniors housing throughout the territory and supporting the private sector and NGOs to build more housing units.

Your government has also worked in collaboration with First Nations and municipalities to develop a territory-wide strategy to tackle climate change and build a strong, resilient, and sustainable future for the territory. Yukon's economy is strong, even in the midst of a pandemic. Reducing the tax burden on businesses and increasing local procurement opportunities has helped Yukon businesses hire more staff and diversify products and services. Creating a five-year capital plan to inform businesses, First Nations, and municipalities about infrastructure projects has increased coordination and improved planning for construction projects.

Developing the *Yukon Tourism Development Strategy* in collaboration with the tourism sector has set a 10-year vision that takes a whole-of-Yukon approach to sustainable tourism. Working with partners to open the NorthLight Innovation hub — the first in the north — and investing in our entrepreneurs

has positioned the Yukon as a leader in the tech and knowledge sectors while increasing local training and investment opportunities.

An enduring commitment to growing and diversifying the economy while supporting local businesses has built up our economic resiliency. Your government recognizes that there is much more work to do to keep building on what has been accomplished over the last five years.

This is a rare moment in the history of our territory. For the first time in nearly 30 years, Yukoners have elected a minority government to lead them forward. Yukoners have sent a clear message that we need to move forward together for the benefit of our territory. There is much more that unites us than divides us, and the path forward will be found on common ground. Your government is committed to taking a new approach to governance and working collaboratively to make the Yukon a better place to live.

To this end, an innovative agreement has been established between two parties representing the majority of Yukoners to ensure a strong, stable government to guide the Yukon forward over the next two years. It identifies agreed-upon areas where government can take immediate action to benefit Yukoners in a way that is supported by the members of this Assembly. The agreement will advance a range of important legislative and policy initiatives that will make democracy work for people while addressing climate change and protecting the environment. It will create jobs in a sustainable economy, improve the services that people count on, and make life more affordable for Yukoners.

This agreement is founded on the belief that this Assembly works best when all members can put forward good ideas and come together to support those ideas that advance the public good. It embodies the spirit of collaboration and puts the people of the Yukon at the forefront of our politics.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has reinforced the need to put people at the heart of our decision-making. In the past year and a half, more than 150 million people worldwide have contracted this deadly disease, including more than 1.2 million Canadians. The pandemic has tested and continues to test the strength of our health care system and the resiliency of our social fabric.

Every single Yukoner has been impacted by the pandemic. From daycares to schools, workplaces to social events, your lives have been disrupted on an unprecedented scale. Despite many challenges, the Yukon has demonstrated tremendous resolve in the face of this public health emergency. Following the recommendations of our public health officials has allowed us to contain the spread of COVID-19 in our territory and keep our case count low.

Swift and comprehensive government intervention has ensured that individuals and businesses are supported and our communities remain healthy and safe. Your government worked collaboratively with its territorial, provincial, and federal colleagues, advocating strongly for northern, remote, and indigenous communities to receive priority access to vaccines as soon as they became available. As a result of strong leadership, the people of the Yukon had the opportunity to be

immunized from COVID-19 well before the rest of Canada and much of the world. Yukoners stepped up and took their shot, and our territory is leading the country in vaccination rates.

We are in this very fortunate position thanks to our dedicated team of health care professionals, public servants, and community leaders. Most importantly, we are in a fortunate position thanks to the vigilance and community-minded spirit of Yukoners.

While our territory has responded well, the pandemic is not over. Its effects will continue to be felt as we go forward. Your government will continue to provide strong, steady leadership to protect the health and safety of Yukoners and help them maintain their livelihoods.

The support programs put in place by your government have become the gold standard across Canada, and they will continue to be provided for as long as they are needed. This includes the paid sick leave rebate, the Yukon business relief program, the tourism accommodation sector support, and the tourism non-accommodation sector support. Government will ensure that Yukon businesses have the assistance they need when they need it. Your government will keep working closely with Yukon's chief medical officer of health to continually re-evaluate the level of restrictions that are put in place to protect Yukoners from COVID-19. It will work toward reopening our borders safely to ensure that Yukon's tourism and visitor economy can return to normal as soon as possible.

Like other parts of the country, our territory is in the grip of another public health crisis that has been overshadowed by COVID-19, one that is more silent and much more tragic. In the past five years, 40 Yukoners have lost their lives to opioids. Families and communities throughout the territory are grieving from this tragedy. Significant action has been taken over the past several years to combat opioid overdoses and reduce harm to our communities.

Yukon's Mental Wellness and Substance Use hubs have dramatically improved access to withdrawal services, counselling, and inpatient treatments in rural communities. The introduction and expansion of opioid medical treatments at the Referred Care Clinic has helped individuals address substance use problems. The take-home naloxone program and expanded drug checking services have helped to save lives. The opioid crisis in the Yukon would have been much worse without these critical interventions, yet it is clear that more must be done to address the pernicious effects of opioids on our communities.

Your government will continue to build on the success of these initiatives, and it will increase the resources available to those who need support. Yukon's mental health resources will be coordinated to provide mental health services to all Yukoners seven days per week. Immediate action will be taken to develop a safe drug supply program for the territory, along with a supervised consumption site.

These innovative programs have been shown to significantly decrease substance-related deaths across Canada and will help us to reduce the harm caused by these dangerous drugs. The government will work with Yukon First Nation governments and the Government of Canada to fund a rural, on-the-land mental health and substance treatment centre.

These initiatives will support healthy and safe families throughout our territory.

The Yukon continues to grow and reveal its endless possibilities. Our population now exceeds 42,500 people. People from across the country and around the world continue to see the Yukon as a place full of promise and adventure, a place to raise a family, a place to get an advanced education, a place to reconnect with nature and explore the outdoors, a place to embrace rich indigenous cultures and learn from traditional ways of knowing and doing, a place to start a business, a place to enjoy unique and authentic experiences, a place to experience an unparalleled quality of life and pursue your dreams.

To support a strong and prosperous future for the territory, the government will continue to take action to make the lives of Yukoners healthier, happier, and more affordable. Our COVID-19 support programs have allowed Yukon businesses to keep operating during the pandemic and kept the economy moving forward. The Yukon was one of only two jurisdictions in Canada to experience GDP growth in 2020 despite the pandemic.

Your government is committed to carrying our economic momentum forward. This year, we'll see the launch of the Great Yukon Summer campaign. This innovative campaign will create incentives for Yukon tourism operators to offer Yukoners rates for tourism products and services through additional funding opportunities. It will help Yukon businesses build marketing campaigns to maximize the attraction of Yukoners this summer, provide funding for Yukon organizations to hold local events, and support the new Mountain Music Festival together with the MacBride Museum.

Yukon's tourism sector is a vital part of our economy, providing good jobs across the territory and creating economic benefits in our communities. The Great Yukon Summer campaign will encourage Yukoners to explore the territory while supporting our extensive network of tourism operators. It will help the tourism sector rebound stronger than ever, while continued COVID-19 support programs ensure that it will recover faster than any jurisdiction in Canada. When the danger of COVID-19 has passed, the Yukon will be one of the most exciting tourism destinations in the world. The ongoing implementation of the *Yukon Tourism Development Strategy* will ensure that tourism operators can seize the immense opportunities in the post-pandemic world.

Our thriving mining sector is the backbone of the territory's economy. Your government will continue to work with industry partners to ensure that the Yukon has a flourishing mineral resource sector that everyone can support. By continuing to collaborate with major industry partners, we can ensure that they have local purchase programs to work with Yukon businesses wherever possible.

A new mineral exploration fund will support junior mining companies operating in the Yukon to search for the next major deposit. Developing a policy for mining and municipalities that promotes sustainable development will ensure that community values and plans are respected.

The recommendations of the independent mineral development strategy will be carefully analyzed as government works in collaboration with partners to develop successor mining legislation and increase regulatory clarity. Government will also continue to work with all partners on regulatory amendments to the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* to create a more streamlined assessment process.

The coming years will bring enormous opportunities for innovation and expansion in the Yukon. Everyone needs an opportunity to thrive, and your government will continue to support workers and businesses while building capacity in our economy. Yukon's minimum wage will be increased to \$15.20 per hour this year. Government will create workforce development agreements to retrain workers and support the transition to a green economy. A new immigration strategy will be created to support the increased workforce requirements of businesses and industry. An innovation commission will be established to attract new technology start-ups and grow Yukon's digital ecosystem. This will be complemented by an innovation strategy that will continue to expand opportunities for local entrepreneurs.

In partnership with the private sector, a flexible field house complex will be developed for athletics and large public conferences and events. This will support Yukon's bid to host the 60th anniversary of the Canada Winter Games in 2027. Hosting the Canada Winter Games presents an exciting opportunity to share our culture and community with the rest of Canada.

Your government recognizes that the climate crisis needs to be considered at the heart of all its decisions. This is the only way that we can guarantee a safe future for the next generation of Yukoners. There will continue to be a moratorium on fracking in the Yukon. Working together with Yukoners, the City of Whitehorse, the Kwanlin Dün First Nation, the Ta'an Kwäch'än Council, and Yukon University, your government will set aside land to permanently protect McIntyre Creek for present and future generations of Yukoners. This area has tremendous historic, cultural, and academic importance. The creation of McIntyre Creek park will benefit all Yukoners and help slow biodiversity loss in the Yukon by protecting important wildlife areas. Yukon's wetlands strategy will be completed in the coming year to guide the management of activities in wetlands across the territory.

Working together with partners to complete the Dawson land use planning process will be a priority. Government will continue to implement *Our Clean Future — A Yukon strategy for climate change, energy and a green economy*.

The strategy will see reduced greenhouse gas emissions, less reliance on fossil fuels, and significant investments in renewable energy. To meet the urgent need to address the climate crisis, your government will amend its greenhouse gas emissions reduction target to a 45-percent reduction by 2030, compared to 2010 emissions. Plans to reach this more ambitious target will be developed by a newly established Yukon climate leadership council.

The voice of youth is particularly important as we look to tackle climate change. Government actions to address climate change will be informed by Yukon's Youth Panel on Climate Change to ensure that the next generation has a voice in their future. Including the perspectives of our youth will ensure that Yukon's approach to addressing climate change is comprehensive and forward thinking. Your government will take action to ensure that the territory's transition to a green economy creates opportunities across the territory as we move toward a more clean and sustainable future.

The Yukon has one of the greenest energy systems in the country. The government's vision is for the territory to be powered on 97-percent renewable energy, even as our population and economy continue to grow. To advance this vision, government will support the implementation of Yukon Energy's 10-year renewable electricity plan. This will see historic investments in several major energy projects, including the construction of a new pump storage facility at Moon Lake to store extra power not used in the summer so that it can be used in the winter.

In partnership with the Taku River Tlingit First Nation, the Atlin hydro plant will be expanded and connected to Yukon's grid, increasing our hydro capacity. The transmission network in the Southern Lakes region will be expanded and upgraded to connect projects to the grid and allow for future sales opportunities with our neighbours in Skagway.

As Yukon's economy continues to grow in a sustainable and responsible way, it is critical that all Yukoners are supported to live healthy, happy lives. With the implementation of the *Putting People First* report underway, the Yukon is on track to become a health care leader in Canada. Your government will continue to take action to make health and social services more integrated, collaborative, and people-centred to better meet the needs of Yukoners.

A new bilingual health centre in Whitehorse will improve care for the Yukon's francophone population. Un nouveau centre de santé bilingue qui ouvrira ses portes à Whitehorse améliorera les services offerts à la population francophone du territoire.

A new secure medical unit will be constructed at the Whitehorse General Hospital. The way in which health care professionals are regulated will be improved, and coverage will be increased to groups such as psychologists, optometrists, and allied health professionals.

In partnership with First Nations, Yukon University, and the Government of Canada, your government will support Yukoners to pursue careers in health and social service program delivery.

Yukon's aging-in-place strategy will continue to be implemented, increasing supportive housing for seniors and expanding the home first program.

Your government will work in partnership with the federal government to support a Canada-wide universal pharmacare program model. It will also take action to provide dental benefits to uninsured Yukoners.

The cost of birth control and fertility treatments will be subsidized, along with the cost of period products for those in

need. Midwifery will continue to be integrated into Yukon's health care system, working toward a fully funded program later this year.

Your government will continue to provide funding for the new universal early childhood education program introduced last month. This program subsidizes each licensed childcare space by \$700 per month, with additional subsidies for low-income families. This is an historic investment in Yukon families, providing them with more disposable income and making their lives more affordable.

Yukon's strong future requires an effective education system that supports all learners. Your government is committed to improving education opportunities and outcomes for all Yukon students. As the territory's population continues to grow, more classrooms are needed to educate the next generations of Yukoners. A new elementary school will be built in Whistle Bend in the coming years, as well as a new school in Burwash Landing.

Government will continue to work with the Yukon First Nations Chiefs Committee on Education and all Yukon First Nations to improve Yukon First Nation students' education outcomes. In collaboration with First Nation partners, a Yukon First Nation school board will be created to ensure that Yukon First Nations can meaningfully shape their children's education.

The Yukon is now home to the first university in Canada's north. The government will support Yukon University's new science building and its inclusion of traditional knowledge. It will also work with the university to investigate a varsity sports program.

Every Yukoner should feel safe in their community. Your government will keep working with partners to make all Yukon communities safer. It will enhance our community safety planning program and ensure a consistent approach to funding community safety planning activities across the territory.

Working together with stakeholders and community partners, the sexualized assault response team program will continue to be enhanced and expanded to Yukon communities. Your government will release an LGBTQ2S+ action plan to guide the Yukon's continuing shift toward a more inclusive and welcoming society.

A new program will be established to provide supportive community housing to justice-involved women that is gender responsive, culturally sensitive, and trauma-informed. This reflects the government's commitment to increasing community safety and justice through Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy.

There is an urgent need to increase access to stable and affordable housing for Yukoners across the territory. Your government has taken significant action over the past several years to meet the diverse housing needs of Yukoners. The first-ever Housing First residence in the north was opened in Whitehorse, providing safe, secure, low-barrier housing for the most vulnerable in our capital city. Building on this success, the next Housing First project will be built in Watson Lake. Working in partnership with the private sector and NGOs, the government has supported hundreds of new affordable housing

units as well as major new supportive housing projects to increase options for Yukoners across the housing continuum. The government will work with the private sector on developing the 5th and Rogers land parcel in Whitehorse while ensuring that the project helps increase the amount of available housing, including rentals. Together with the City of Whitehorse and the private sector, it will also look at relocating the grader station in the Marwell area of Whitehorse to allow for future development of housing.

During the previous mandate, your government tripled investment in lot development. This trend will continue, as the government plans to release 1,000 new lots across the Yukon in the coming years. Your government will also explore new models of providing housing that is affordable and accessible to Yukoners. A land parcel grant will support the establishment of a Yukon community land trust to allow for the creation of permanently affordable housing in Whitehorse.

Yukon's future prosperity will be built through strong partnerships with First Nations. Actively upholding and promoting the spirit and intent of the self-government agreements is the foundation of these partnerships. Genuine partnerships based on respect and cooperation will continue to generate benefits and positive outcomes for all Yukoners. Your government will work with partners to implement Yukon's MMIWG2S+ strategy to help our society heal and move forward together. Engaging the Yukon Forum to advance priorities in critical areas such as health and social services, education, justice, and heritage will allow government to continue to respond to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's calls to action.

Your government will continue to implement *Breaking Trail Together*, an innovative public service plan that will ensure that government is inclusive and representative of the people it serves. Yukon First Nation traditions and practices will also continue to be incorporated into this Assembly so that it better reflects the people it represents.

The interests of Yukoners are best served by a modern government that is responsive to its needs. Your government will keep working to make Yukon services and laws more open, inclusive, accessible, and effective. It will continue to modernize and update Yukon's legislative framework to ensure that it responds to current realities and does not discriminate based on gender identity, marital status, or sexual orientation.

The government will consult with Yukoners about your vision for electoral reform and bring forward recommendations in the coming year. It will introduce laws to make the Yukon a better place to live.

A modernized *Motor Vehicles Act* will improve safety for all road users. A new workplace safety and compensation act will improve Yukon's workplace safety and compensation systems to ensure that workers have the support that they deserve. A new clean energy act will legislate Yukon's greenhouse gas reduction and renewable energy generation targets. Single-use plastics will be banned in the territory. The *Territorial Lands (Yukon) Act* will be updated to help manage the use, maintenance, access, and closure of resource roads. Our *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act* will be

enhanced to help target abuse, exploitation, the illegal use of firearms, and criminal organizations in our territory. Changes to the *Child Care Act* will enhance the delivery of the new universal early childhood education program.

As we look to emerge from the challenges of the pandemic, there is much hope and opportunity on the horizon. Your government remains committed to supporting Yukoners to live healthy, happy lives, building on the strong foundation established over the last five years.

The Yukon remains a place full of promise — promise that can be realized through purpose and hard work. The territory's swift, measured, and comprehensive response to the COVID-19 pandemic has set an example for all Canadians. Leading the country in vaccination rates has positioned the Yukon to lead the transition into a post-pandemic world. It is time to move forward together on the path to recovery. The nation's eyes are on the Yukon as we forge our next steps.

Honourable members, Yukoners do not expect you to agree on everything. They do expect you to share a common interest and a common responsibility in working toward a more prosperous future for the people of this territory, their families, and their communities. May this guide your deliberations and may you carry out your responsibilities with respect for each other and compassion and understanding for others.

Thank you, merci, mahsi' cho, gūnīschish.

Commissioner Bernard leaves the Chamber accompanied by her Aide-de-Camp

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

I would like to begin this Sitting of the Legislative Assembly by respectfully acknowledging all Yukon First Nations and also that we are meeting on the traditional territories of the Kwanlin Dūn First Nation and the Ta'an Kwāch'ān Council.

We will proceed at this time with prayers.

Prayers

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS

Bill No. 1: Introduction and First Reading

Ms. Tredger: 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 Whitehorse Centre 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 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 Wednesday, May 12, 2021.

Motion No. 2 — Election of Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committee of the Whole

Speaker: I will now ask if the House is prepared to elect a Deputy Speaker.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, I move:

THAT Annie Blake, Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, be elected Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committee of the Whole.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

THAT Annie Blake, Member for Vuntut Gwitchin, be elected Deputy Speaker and Chair of Committee of the Whole.

Motion No. 2 agreed to

Motion No. 3 — Election of Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole

Speaker: I will now ask whether the House is prepared to elect a Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole.

Hon. Ms. McPhee: Mr. Speaker, I move:

THAT Emily Tredger, Member for Whitehorse Centre, be elected Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole.

Speaker: It has been moved by the Government House Leader:

THAT Emily Tredger, Member for Whitehorse Centre, be elected Deputy Chair of Committee of the Whole.

Motion No. 3 agreed to

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: This House now stands adjourned until 1:00 p.m. tomorrow.

The House adjourned at 1:56 p.m.

The following sessional paper was tabled May 11, 2021:

35-1-1

Speech from the Throne (Speaker Harper)

The following sessional paper was tabled May 11, 2021:

35-1-1 Speech from the Throne (Speaker Harper)

Written notice was given of the following motions May 11, 2021:

Motion No. 4

Re: length of 2021 Special Sitting (McPhee)

Motion No. 5

Re: authorization for the Assembly to meet via video conference during the 2021 Special Sitting (McPhee)

Motion No. 6

Re: pairing arrangements for the 2021 Special Sitting (McPhee)

Motion No. 7

Re: Member participation in sittings of the House via teleconference due to COVID-19 during the 2021 Special Sitting (McPhee)

Motion No. 8

Re: Appointments to the Members' Services Board (McPhee)

Motion No. 9

Re: Appointments to the Standing Committee on Rules, Elections and Privileges (McPhee)

Motion No. 10

Re: Appointments to the Standing Committee on Statutory Instruments (McPhee)

Motion No. 11

Re: Appointments to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts (McPhee)

Motion No. 12

Re: Appointments to the Standing Committee on Appointments to Major Government Boards and Committees (McPhee)

Motion No. 13

Re: operating costs of the Whitehorse Emergency Shelter (Cathers)