

c.25). The Yukon Act provides for a commissioner as head of government and for a legislative body called the Yukon legislative assembly. Under the Government Organization Act, the minister of Indian affairs and northern development is responsible (with the Governor-in-Council) for directing the commissioner in the administration of Yukon.

In 1979 the minister of Indian affairs and northern development brought in changes which altered the executive level of the Yukon government. It now consists of five elected members of the Yukon legislative assembly who are appointed to an executive council or cabinet by the commissioner, upon the recommendation of the government leader. The commissioner is still the senior representative of the Indian affairs and northern development department in Yukon and performs duties similar to those of a lieutenant-governor in relation to the legislature. The executive council members are assigned portfolio responsibilities by the government leader.

The government sets its own private and corporate income tax rate. Tax collection is administered by the federal government. The Yukon government negotiates an annual deficit grant or transfer payment with the federal government to help defray the expenses of the territory.

The Yukon public service has approximately 1,200 employees, 18 conventional administrative departments and several special service departments. Whitehorse is the administrative centre of the government. A few departments have necessary regional postings and territorial agents represent the government in rural communities.

Certain areas have been designated to the commissioner for administration under the territory's Lands Ordinance. The remaining land is under the jurisdiction of the Indian affairs and northern development department.

The Yukon Act delineates the jurisdiction of the legislative assembly. It is like those of the provincial assemblies and has jurisdictional control of all matters of a local nature except that the federal government, through the Indian affairs and northern development department, retains control of Yukon's renewable and non-renewable natural resources. Jurisdiction for the territory's wildlife rests with the Yukon government. The legislature is called into session by the commissioner on the advice of the majority party leader.

Legislative authority for Yukon is vested in the Commissioner-in-Council. All bills must be approved by council and assented to by the commissioner before becoming law. As in other jurisdictions, the Governor-in-Council may disallow any ordinance within one year. Ordinances are printed on a sessional basis and consolidated annually.

Amendments to the Yukon Act passed by Parliament provided for an expansion of council membership from 12 to 16 and for future expansion to 25. Further amendments resulted in constitutional changes in 1979. These included the transfer of the daily administration of the government of Yukon from the commissioner to the five-member executive council.

Members are nominated to the executive council on the advice of the majority party leader and are responsible for all Yukon government portfolios.

Yukon legislative assembly members are elected for four-year terms. At the Yukon election in November 1978, 11 Conservatives, two Liberals, one New Democrat and two independents were elected from around the territory. The assembly usually meets twice a year in Whitehorse.

The commissioner, assembly and assembly staff are given in Appendix 8.

**Northwest Territories.** The Northwest Territories Act (RSC 1970, c.N-22) provides for an executive, legislative and judicial structure. The commissioner is the chief executive officer, appointed by the federal government and responsible for the administration of Northwest Territories under the direction of the minister of Indian affairs and northern development. The commissioner spends funds voted by council and all new revenue measures are subject to council approval. Normally the commissioner obtains federal approval of proposed legislation and budgetary measures before submitting them to council.

The council of Northwest Territories consists of 22 members elected for four years. It is required to meet at least twice a year, and in practice generally meets three times a