



**Budget Address**  
**2016 - 2017**

*presented by*  
**Premier**  
**Darrell Pasloski**

**First session of the Thirty-Third  
Yukon Legislative Assembly**

**Whitehorse, Yukon**  
**April 7, 2016**

*Mr. Speaker*, I am honoured to rise today to present the 2016/17 Budget, for the 5<sup>th</sup> time as Minister of Finance.

This is a plan that will give Yukoners confidence that our government's focused and principled approach to fiscal management is working.

But I hope it is also a plan that will make them proud – proud to live in a place where we look out for each other and we take care of our most vulnerable...

...and proud to see continued investments in the areas that matter most to families – in job creation, health care and education.

Mr. Speaker, I am tremendously optimistic about the future of this territory.

Yukoners have big ideas. They have ambition. And they have their eyes on the future.

They want to build something great.

And, like our government, they want to position the next generation to build something even greater.

I hope all Yukoners see themselves...their families...and their hopes in this budget...

...after all, they are the people who made it possible.

They are the taxpayers, caregivers and volunteers in this territory.

They are the people who get up every morning, pull on their work boots and head into our mines...put on their scrubs and take care of patients in our hospitals...or put on their aprons and serve food in our restaurants.

Whether you are working in private industry, or in the public service...

...I want to say thank you.

Our success is possible because of your hard work...

...Because you give back to your communities by paying taxes, employing other Yukoners and providing an essential service.

And our business owners are no different. They are the people who took the risk to start something here...

...Who looked at the Yukon and saw opportunity...

You got a business number...hired employees and went to work. And like your employees, you give back to this territory in so many ways...

...and you pay taxes, too.

And those taxes help make our public services possible.

So, I want to thank you all for your contributions...your sacrifices for the greater good of everyone who lives here.

And for placing your trust in our government to make sure your contribution goes toward the people and projects that need it most.

...

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege to table the 2016/17 Yukon Budget in the Legislature today.

Today, I am proud to stand here and tell all Yukoners how we are investing their money. And how those investments will help make the Yukon an even better place to work and live.

The choices we're making are informed by what we heard from Yukoners in our pre-budget consultations.

We traveled to every corner of this territory...we did 60 consultations and we spoke to hundreds of people.

We wanted to know what was important to them...

...what was keeping them up at night...

...the aspirations they had for their children and grandchildren...and for their mothers and grandmothers.

This budget would not be possible without their input. So, from the bottom of my heart, and on behalf of all of my colleagues, I thank them for taking the time to contribute.

I remember a few of them exceptionally well.

Betty Stokes Burns is a teacher who also runs a toy boutique and retail shop...her children grew up here...she cares about this community.

And at our community conversation this past Fall, Betty spoke with pride about her staff and all that they do to make Yukoners feel valued and well served.

I remember Chris Lane, the owner of Make IT Solutions, who spoke passionately about growing his company so that he could employ local people and show the world that Yukoners can be at the forefront of software development.

And I remember Hillary Aitken from the Victoria Faulkner Women's Centre talking about the transformative impact their work, in partnership with other NGOs and like-minded organizations, have made in the lives of local women. And how government investments have helped in that effort.

So when I think about our job as a government, I think of conversations with people like Betty, Chris and Hillary.

All of them expect us to manage responsibly.

To plan for the future.

And to maximize every single dollar so that we can invest government funds in a way that benefits all Yukoners.

That's the very principle that forms the backbone of our focused economic plan.

Make every dollar count.

And Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to tell you that, for the fifth year in a row, we are doing just that.

I'm pleased to tell the legislature that we are tabling a surplus of \$9.483 million.

This is ...as governments across the country are tabling budgets in the red.

In fact, not only are we introducing a budget with a surplus, we are also increasing spending to ensure we can deliver our most important services to the people who need them most.

This year, the increase to our operating and maintenance budget is \$30.7 million, bringing it to a total of \$1.085 billion; and increase of approximately 3%.

Within that increase is a major boost to health care funding – I'm looking forward to highlighting how we're better supporting the Yukon's seniors and patients later in this speech.

While achieving our surplus required some very tough decisions, they were the right decisions.

There's an old saying that you hear around government every so often:

“If you have 50 priorities, you have no priorities.”

You hear it, because it's true.

So, Mr. Speaker, we have prioritized new spending to the areas where it is needed most.

It's focused. And targeted.

It makes every dollar count.

Today, you're going to hear about:

- our focused and principled approach to fiscal management and how it is working for Yukoners;
- how we are investing in our economy, because it's fundamental to the future of our territory...;
- ...how we're investing in education, because we want our young people to succeed...;
- ...how we are increasing spending in health care, so our families get the right supports...; and
- ...how we're spending on infrastructure that will strengthen our communities.

Mr. Speaker, a strong economy allows us to have the best public services.

## PREVENTING NET DEBT

As Premier and Finance Minister we have never run a deficit –

And we have never raised taxes. In fact, the average family of 4 is paying \$777 less per year in taxes than in 2011.

Mr. Speaker, I want to put our achievement in context.

In this year's budget, we are increasing spending to the sectors that need it most.

We are maintaining the incredible quality of life that Yukoners enjoy.

We are doing more to support our businesses.

And we are tabling a surplus, because we believe that's what the people of the Yukon deserve and expect.

We are doing all of this with absolutely no net debt.

I will repeat that: the government of Yukon continues to have no net debt.

This is at a time when the Canadian Federation of Independent Business estimates that, as a whole – all of Canada's provinces and territories are carrying almost \$600 billion in net debt.

That's billion, with a 'B.'

To put that in context, it's enough to fund the Yukon's total budget for more than 400 years.

Not only that, but other provinces and territories pay interest on that debt.

There is a line in their budgets that is devoted to paying the long-term interest costs.

And every dollar they are using to pay off that debt – and pay the interest on that debt – is a dollar they aren't putting toward programs and services...

...It's a dollar they aren't investing into families or better health care...or supporting businesses, or innovation...

...It's a dollar that they aren't using to reduce taxes, like we did last year here in the Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, all Yukoners should be incredibly proud to know that we have money in the bank, our investment income exceeds any interest charges we face, meaning that no money is diverted from serving Yukoners to servicing debt.

Because we have a focused, principled long-term fiscal plan, we are extremely well positioned for the years to come.

We are small economy and vulnerable to external forces.

We need to be resilient, and ensuring we are debt free provides us with more choices and more independence.

It means we have to reduce waste any chance we have.

We know we can avoid debt because my government has always done that.

It's a choice; it's a principle.

It's something my colleagues and I stand strongly behind.

Debt is easy and insidious in a small economy like ours.

If you don't stand for a debt free Yukon, you don't stand for Yukoners.

I believe that we should never put our economic future at risk...

Or that we have any right to ask our children – or our children's children – to pay for the cost of our ER visits...or the social services we all use today.

Instead, we should do everything we can to grow the economy and create good, high-paying jobs, so that our kids inherit a territory full of opportunity.

Maintaining our principled and focused approach to fiscal management is crucial.

That's why, this year, we will be launching an initiative we're calling "Innovative Budgeting."

It's pretty simple, really.

Together with our public service, we are going to look closely at our budget and ask ourselves one simple question: Can we get more for our money?

Every Yukon family is looking at their bills and trying to figure out how to squeeze a little more out of their paycheques.

I want Yukoners to know that we are doing the same thing in government.

It goes back to the principle of making every dollar count.

We need to make sure the rationale for spending isn't – and I quote: “because that's the way we have always done it.”

To use an analogy: We shouldn't be investing in a horse and buggy if we can get a hybrid car for the same price.

Just like families, we should always be looking at ways to get more for our money.

We need to challenge ourselves to do things smarter.

And, over the next year, we will be doing just that.

This year's budget shows \$2 Million towards in year savings under the “Innovative Budgeting Initiative.” This will be accomplished with zero job losses and no reduction in services.

We look forward to meeting or exceeding that goal by relying on government's best resource – the public service itself.

## GROWING THE ECONOMY

Mr. Speaker, a strong economy allows us to have the best public services.

This government firmly believes that when it comes to economy, the Government's job is to make it easier for business.

Government needs to support the economy, not become the economy.

So, Mr. Speaker, as a government, we are doing everything we can to empower our businesses so, together, we can grow this economy.

First, we are positioning the mining sector for the inevitable rebound.

Right now – when commodity prices are low – that is not the time to turn our backs on the sector.

It's an opportunity to make sure we're training Yukoners, so that high-paying mining jobs go to people trained at home.

We're asking more companies to work with the Centre for Northern Innovation in Mining to make sure we're getting the right training to the right people.

It also presents a chance for us to modernize our mining regulations to create greater certainty, regulatory streamlining and a more integrated approach to permitting...

...and to continue to engage First Nations around how we can improve mine licensing.

And, it's an opportunity to work with our mining partners to promote the industry.

The Government of Yukon is providing support to the Yukon Mining Alliance for a \$1 million mining attraction initiative to be undertaken over the next three years.

Combined with its own contribution, the Mining Alliance will design, deliver and manage the promotion of our mining sector to key markets in Europe, Asia and North America.

Closer to home, we are investing \$335,000 towards the North Yukon Regional Economic Development Initiative – a project aimed at developing an even more vibrant North Yukon economy.

This year's commitment is \$150,000 and reflects a partnership between our government, the Tr'ondek Hwech'in and Vuntut Gwitch'in First Nations, and the City of Dawson.

We are also moving aggressively to support our tourism industry.

This government does not see it as an either / or choice when it comes to mining and tourism.

We believe we need both those sectors to be vibrant and strong.

That's why, Mr. Speaker, we want the Yukon to be the world's worst kept secret.

Every tourist who enters our borders spends an average of \$82 per day in the summer and \$151 per day in the winter.

That's new money that flows directly into our economy – driving job creation and creating a better quality of life for our families.

Tourism has always been a key sector for Yukon and it continues to be a big part of the economy. That's why we continue to invest in the sector with this budget.

This includes a \$100,000 increase in annual funding for the First Nation Cultural Tourism Association, up from \$60,000 to \$160,000 annually.

And it's why this government has repeatedly increased investments in our museums, such as our recent contribution of \$450,000 to MacBride Museum to help them plan their expansion.

In this budget, there's \$1.84 million for museums and First Nation cultural centres.

These facilities are a key part of Yukon's tourism infrastructure and we believe supporting them is an important investment in the tourism industry's present and future.

And at a broader scale, in this budget we are re-committing to funding the incredibly successful Yukon Now campaign.

It's the single largest tourism marketing campaign in Yukon history.

This campaign is running nationally, using homegrown talent. And we know it's having an impact.

Since our campaign began, traffic to our tourism websites has increased by 26,216 hits – almost 9%.

Our government is committed to another three years of funding – at just under \$900 thousand a year.

Hopefully, the federal government will match our funding, as they did last time.

But if they do not meet that need, we will.

This initiative is too important to our economic future for us to ignore.

## **CARBON TAX**

Mr. Speaker, standing up for our economy means taking a clear stand on a carbon tax.

Our government has stood firmly against any sort of new carbon tax.

Put simply, up here, a carbon tax is a consumption tax.

It has different implications for us Yukoners than it does for the people who live in downtown Toronto – we don't think a one-size-fits-all solution is the answer.

A carbon tax would force our families and our businesses to pay more. And it would put our economy at a disadvantage.

We know climate change is real. And we are doing our part to address it.

The Yukon and the North are harder hit by climate change than anywhere else in Canada.

But it should be noted that the Yukon has reduced emissions since 1990 while much of the rest of Canada has increased.

We have a climate plan that is working. By focusing on more efficient energy systems, reducing emissions in government, and providing incentives to individuals, we are protecting the environment while supporting the economy.

And while some provinces derive most of their energy from fossil fuels, we are 95% hydroelectric.

That's why this budget includes another \$2 million for continued investment in the development of Next Generation Hydro.

If we can find a way to create more hydro power, we can get the entire territory off home heating fuel and on to clean electrical heat.

What doesn't work for the Yukon is a Carbon Tax. It doesn't work for the northern way of life.

We will not raise the barriers to northerners getting to and around the Yukon.

We will not make the cost of heating homes more expensive.

Finally, we are not going to punish our resource industries and place them in an uncompetitive position.

We're the only party that has a made-in-Yukon solution that puts the focus on results and not on ideology.

The NDP and Liberals both support a carbon tax. They follow the line of their federal parties.

Proposing carbon taxes may make the Liberals and NDP feel warm at night.

For the rest of us, it's our furnace.

## EDUCATION

Mr. Speaker, besides avoiding a carbon tax, we are protecting tax credits that help our Yukon families.

The recent federal budget eliminated the children's fitness tax credit and the children's arts tax credit.

But Mr. Speaker, we know these credits were making an impact here in the Yukon. They meant parents had the supports they needed to enroll their daughter in swimming, or their son in piano lessons.

We think that inspiring children to stay healthy through sport, or grow their minds through the arts, is too important to walk away from.

That's why we will be preserving these tax credits in the Yukon and continuing to pay parents the territorial portion of the grant.

Mr. Speaker, today's children are our future Olympians, composers, NHL players and Juno nominees. We want to make sure they can continue to strive for those dreams.

Our government believes we need to invest in our children...and make sure they grow into adults who are ready to take on the world, get well-paying jobs and have families of their own.

That's why this budget includes a number of new spending initiatives around education.

For starters, we are going to take some stress and strain off every parent in the Yukon by making the first day of school a little bit easier.

This budget includes \$520,000 to defray the costs of school supplies for every single child in the Yukon.

That means we will be able to provide \$100 of school supplies for every child in the system this September.

That's \$100 parents won't have to spend...

...and for those who struggle to afford supplies, it's one small thing they won't have to worry about.

Beyond these kinds of smaller investments, our government is continuing to invest to ensure the long-term educational success of our children.

Last year, I stood in this house and talked about working towards a new, made-in-Yukon education system.

A year later, we are well on our way to making our New Vision for Education a reality.

By combining work that was already underway with engagement from First Nations and stakeholders, we know we are building a system every Yukoner can take pride in.

Last year alone, our government signed accords or MOUs with four First Nations – Kluane, Kwanlin Dun, Carcross/Tagish and Selkirk – that either focus solely on Education or include education components.

These agreements will help us work in partnership with First Nations to address issues as diverse as language proficiency...to student attendance...to staffing.

In the years ahead, we will be including Yukon context and First Nations' culture in every grade level from K to 9, as well as specially developed coursework for grades 10 to 12.

And we will build a curriculum and an approach to education that allows each community and each First Nation to include locally appropriate content.

There is a long way to go, but we are well on our way and it is an exciting path we are charting.

Beyond curriculum, we are investing in education assistants in every Yukon community.

Since 2011, we have increased the number of assistants from 159 to 220 and we have increased funding by just over \$3 million.

That means children are benefiting from an additional 59,780 hours in the classroom.

At the same time, we are working to improve our schools, through infrastructure investment. We just opened a brand new one in Whitehorse this January – now, the new FH Collins has 639 bright minds in its classrooms every day.

And when our kids graduate from our public schools, we want to make it easier for them to pursue post-secondary education. And we want them to be able to do it closer to home.

We know that, if our students study here, they are more likely to stay here...raise a family here...start a business here. And give back to the economy.

That's one of the reasons we are contributing \$1.5 million over three years to Yukon College to help them develop into Yukon University.

By providing these funds, we are able to help the dedicated college staff move towards a university, while giving them the resources to ensure that vital community programming is preserved.

It's also why we are making some significant changes, and adding \$376,000 in overall funding, to our Student Financial Assistance Program.

We are removing administrative burdens and reducing disincentives for studying here at home, through Yukon College.

The Minister will share more details once we table the necessary legislative changes – which I look forward to all parties supporting.

Mr. Speaker, this is a major reform to our grant system. I hope it's one that will encourage more students to pursue a post-secondary education.

As a government, we are committed to giving our young people the tools to succeed in tomorrow's economy...

And I think this budget takes some very important steps toward that goal.

## HEALTH

We also want to make sure that our young people are inheriting a strong health care system.

After all, having a strong health care system is an important part of our economic strategy:

It makes businesses more likely to want to invest here...

...It means families don't have to worry about how to juggle everything – and take months off work – when a grandparent falls and needs around-the-clock care.

...It allows our youth who might be struggling with addiction and mental health issues to get the supports they need, so they can go back to school or get jobs.

Investing in health care is the right thing to do, and it just makes good economic sense.

Health care is an issue that's at the heart of our government. It's about caring for our society's most vulnerable people.

That's why we opened new hospitals in Dawson City and Watson Lake.

It's also why we are building the new Sarah Steele facility for alcohol and drug addiction programs for adults and youth.

Mr. Speaker, I'm pleased to tell you that this year, the facility will receive \$2.048 million in operational funding.

That means more than 300 additional detox admissions per year and an increase for in-patient capacity from 90 clients a year to more than 250.

With 50 beds, we have more than doubled the capacity at Sarah Steele, so that Yukoners beginning at age 13 can access services.

Our government committed to the Sarah Steele enhancement and we are following through. Families are counting on it.

We're also following through on the rebuild of the St. Elias Group Home.

We are committed to supporting Yukoners with cognitive disabilities.

The home will open its doors this year and, with the \$487,000 operating budget from the government of Yukon, it will have twice as many beds, and serve twice as many adults in need.

Mental Health is another area where we recognize there is a major need that government can help address.

That's why the Minister of Health will be tabling a Mental Wellness Strategy later this session.

This budget includes \$1 million for implementation of the strategy because, once it has been tabled, we want to move quickly.

This new funding is in addition to the millions we already spend every year in this area.

But it's a needed investment. And one families are counting on.

Just like they are counting on their hospitals and emergency health care.

It's why, together with Yukon Hospital Foundation, we opened Canada's first MRI north of 60°.

It's also why we are working to improve the ER department at the Whitehorse Hospital campus.

We hope most Yukoners never have reason to use this investment.

But, for those who do need emergency care, we want to make sure they get it in a modern, state of the art facility.

To do this we have committed almost \$22 million for 2016/17 and another \$18 million for 2017/18 to complete this project.

When it comes to health care, we recruited more doctors, trained more nurses.

And this year's budget will increase the number of hours of home care available to Yukoners as well.

In fact, our government has funded and added nearly 22,000 additional hours of home care since 2011. That's nearly one thousand full days of additional care for our seniors.

And, when home care is no longer enough for some seniors, we want to make sure they can continue to get the very best supports.

So we are moving ahead with the construction of the Whistle Bend continuing care facility.

The 150-bed home will be located right here in Whitehorse and it will provide support and care – around the clock – for seniors and others with complex health care needs.

Along with the replacement and expansion of McDonald Lodge in Dawson City, we are going to be far better equipped to care for our seniors.

We need to be. It's anticipated that, by 2031, Yukon residents over the age of 65 will make up almost 20 per cent of the total Yukon population, doubling the population share of seniors since we began planning this project in 2013.

In a time when we are making careful choices about how we spend Yukoners' tax dollars, we are investing more in health care than in any other sector.

This year, the total health budget is increasing by over \$11 million or nearly 9%.

We already spend more per capita than any Canadian province – we do it because we want to make sure the people of Yukon get the care they need.

Nobody can legitimately claim that this government doesn't invest extensively in health care for Yukoners.

And I wouldn't have it any other way. The health of our children, our mothers and our grandfathers is too important.

When faced with a family member in need, who among us would say: "spend less."

Health spending comes down to more than dollars and cents. It comes down to compassion, to quality of life...and, in some cases, to life itself.

We're going to continue to invest in health care – by increasing operational spending and capital spending – because we know it's important to Yukoners and their families.

# INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. Speaker, as I outlined our commitments in health care and education, I emphasized a number of new infrastructure projects that are – or will – make a tremendous difference in the lives of Yukoners.

But our commitment to infrastructure spending goes far beyond those two sectors.

As I outlined to the Chamber of Commerce yesterday, this year's budget includes the largest ever single-year investment in IT.

This year, we will inject an additional \$3 million to IT projects.

This will bring our total IT investment to \$9.5 million – an unprecedented amount in the Yukon.

And that total doesn't even include all of the hardware and other technology investments we make.

This is on top of our planned investment to ensure the completion of a fully redundant fibre loop and our five year, \$760,000 investment in bringing 4G to our communities.

Already our government has invested to bring 4G service to 17 Yukon communities.

We're making these investments because we know these initiatives matter to our families and our businesses.

As do our roads and bridges. A well-maintained transportation network is an essential part of a strong economy.

And infrastructure is a key driver of local job creation across this territory...and prosperity for our home-grown companies.

That's why this budget supports related work for highways, roads, bridges and airports totalling almost \$56 million.

Significant investments include:

- \$12 million related to Shakwak;
- \$11.4 million for Campbell Highway;
- \$3.2 million for Dempster Highway; and
- and territory-wide works totalling just over \$29.4 million.

In fact, in total, the current Capital investment targeted for 2016/17 through our budget is over \$300 million.

That \$300 million is spread across the territory, with investments being made in all corners... in Beaver Creek, in Carcross, in Dawson City, Faro, Haines Junction, Keno City, Mayo, Old Crow, Pelly Crossing, Stewart Crossing, Swift River, Tagish, Watson Lake, Whitehorse... the list goes on.

Mr. Speaker, our budget also includes just over \$40 million to jump-start a new Yukon-Canada partnership under the Build Canada infrastructure program.

We have had tremendous success with attracting Build Canada dollars to the Yukon.

We are looking forward to having further discussions with the federal government to ensure it will continue.

## RELATIONSHIPS

But Mr. Speaker, before I close, I want to take a moment to address our relationship with Ottawa.

Much has changed since our last budget and since the Build Canada program was first introduced.

There is a new government in Ottawa.

But, while the Prime Minister and I may represent different parties, as Premier, it's my job to work together with the federal government when they are putting the Yukon's interests first.

It's also my job to stand up – and speak up – when the Yukon will not benefit.

We want this new federal government to know that their partnership matters...

...that their commitment to helping us build our roads and our bridges is something Yukoners expect.

We are forging a new relationship – I hope it is a productive one and a strong one...

...One that recognizes just how important this territory is, to Canada...

...to its economy...its sense of identity...and its future.

Mr. Speaker, our voice in Ottawa will be unwavering and resolute.

We will be clear about Yukoners' hopes for this territory...

...and we will pursue every opportunity to talk to the federal government about growing the economy, so we can create more prosperity and build more infrastructure.

And while we will never stop advocating for Yukoners, we won't be shy about sharing our successes, either...

...Especially when they are models the rest of Canada can look to, learn from and emulate.

Mr. Speaker, we are already seeing our advocacy pay off.

I was encouraged that the Government of Canada listened to our advice and continued the Mineral Exploration Tax Credit for another year.

It's important to our mineral industry and provides an incentive for junior mining companies to invest in high-value projects, like those found throughout Yukon.

Mr. Speaker, we will work hard to ensure we have an open and productive dialogue with the new federal government and Prime Minister Trudeau – and all provincial and territorial governments across Canada.

In fact, I look forward to having all 13 premiers here in July for the Council of the Federation meeting – the first time this event will ever be held North of 60.

Yukoners will have a chance to showcase our territory not only to the provincial and territorial leaders, but also to Canada's national media and, through them, to Canadians.

And it's an opportunity to show and tell them about some of the things we are most proud of – like the work we have done to build relationships with First Nations.

Mr. Speaker, every Yukoner is proud of the fact that we are one of Canada's leaders in the negotiation of modern treaties.

Eleven of fourteen Yukon First Nations have modern treaties and self-government agreements.

To put that into perspective, there are only twenty-nine modern treaties and self-government agreements in Canada.

The Yukon Final and Self-Government Agreements have proven to be one of the most significant and effective means to reconciliation and positive change for all Yukoners.

We are working with Yukon First Nations on implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations.

While we still have work to do, we have made some significant strides – as mentioned earlier, we are working together to improve education outcomes...

...we have collaborated around child welfare...

...and we have taken leadership when it comes to seeking answers around missing and murdered Indigenous women.

In fact, through the partnership between our government and First Nation leaders, Yukon has become a national model for how to approach this very difficult topic.

I look forward to working with the Yukon's First Nation communities to do more to strengthen our relationships and to build a future where all Canadians and Yukoners are treated justly and equitably.

There is always more we can do.

## CONCLUSION

Mr. Speaker, I am tremendously energized and optimistic about the road ahead.

The targeted investments we are making today, along with our commitment to principled and focused fiscal management, is setting Yukon on the course for prosperity.

We are forging ahead and taking the right steps for the future of this territory.

We are going to maintain our focus on:

- strengthening the economy and renewing our mining sector;
- giving our students a better education and more opportunity;
- ensuring our families have access to the best possible health care; and
- investing in infrastructure.

And we are going to do it all while ensuring we never spend beyond our means...

...That we make every dollar count...

...and that we never lose sight of the tremendous possibility that exists in this place we call home.

If you live in the Yukon, you know what potential is.

We are as ambitious as we are resilient.

And we dream BIG.

I'm beyond proud to live in this great territory.

And honoured to have the privilege of tabling a budget that reflects our values and helps shape the future.

I look forward to hearing the feedback from my colleagues in the legislature and from all Yukoners.

Working together, I know we can turn the 2016/17 Budget into a roadmap for the Yukon's future success.

Thank you.