



Government of Yukon

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NEWS *release*

FOR RELEASE #11-164
November 18, 2011



Speaker nominee announced

WHITEHORSE—Premier Darrell Pasloski announced today that the nominee for Speaker of the Yukon Legislative Assembly is the Member for Porter Creek Centre, David Laxton.

Pasloski discussed the government's nominee with Elizabeth Hanson, Leader of the Official Opposition and Darius Elias, Leader of the Third Party. The premier's motion to nominate Laxton as Speaker will be seconded by Hanson at the first sitting of the 33rd legislative assembly commencing on December 1. The nomination will then be put to a vote by members of the assembly.

As Speaker, one of Laxton's main duties would be to ensure that the level of debate in the legislature is conducted in a responsible and civil manner, while allowing government to carry out its business and the voice of the opposition to be heard.

Pasloski expressed his thanks to the Leader of the Official Opposition for her co-operation.

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See backgrounder below.

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Backgrounder: Biographies

David Laxton MLA - Porter Creek Centre Yukon Party

David Laxton was elected to the Yukon Legislative Assembly in the October 11 general election.

Laxton has lived in Whitehorse since moving to Yukon in 1998. During his time in Yukon, he has been employed by the federal and territorial governments doing geomatics work and website development.

Prior to arriving in Yukon, he served 22 years with the Canadian Armed Forces, primarily with the Lord Strathcona Horse (Royal Canadians) and the Mapping and Charting Establishment. His military service included three United Nations postings, one in Egypt and two in Bosnia. He also carried out major survey work in the High Arctic and regional gravity surveys across Yukon.

Laxton is an active member of the community, having served as Child Development Centre chair and Whitehorse Housing Authority chair. He also served in various executive positions

(including president) with the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 254 (Whitehorse) and national vice president (Western Arctic) of the Army Cadet League of Canada. He also served on the executive of the B.C./Yukon Command of the Royal Canadian Legion and is the only Yukoner to serve at that level.

Throughout Laxton's years in Whitehorse, he has volunteered with many local organizations, including the Abbeyfield Society, the Canadian Cancer Society, Freedom Trails Therapeutic Riding Association and the New Chelsea Society. He also served as MC for Remembrance Day ceremonies in Whitehorse on several occasions and for the Yukon Commissioner's New Year's Day Levee.

Laxton lives in Porter Creek with his spouse Leslie Goring. He has two grown children, Cheryl and Aron, and two grandsons.

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