

## **Creation of an Emergency Management Agency for the Northwest Territories**

WHEREAS public safety is a key priority of the 20th Legislative Assembly established through "safe and healthy communities";

AND WHEREAS climate change is exacerbating the frequency and intensity of flooding, wildfires and other natural disasters;

AND WHEREAS the 2023 wildfire evacuations of two-thirds of the population of the Northwest Territories, and subsequent evacuations due to severe climate events, have resulted in continuing trauma and negative mental health impacts;

AND WHEREAS, on June 13, 2024, the Government of the Northwest Territories contracted Transitional Solutions Inc. to review its management of the 2023 wildfire crisis through the production of a Northwest Territories 2023 Wildfire Season After-Action Review Report;

AND WHEREAS the After-Action Review Report was conducted and overseen by certified experts in emergency management and bore a cost to taxpayers of the Northwest Territories in the approximate amount of \$330,000;

AND WHEREAS the After-Action Review Report completed by Transitional Solutions Inc. was released on May 14, 2025, and made 35 recommendations, including the creation of a dedicated Emergency Management Agency;

AND WHEREAS this recommendation is consistent with previous recommendations to strengthen the Northwest Territories emergency management organization with dedicated resources and authorities, including the 2022 Spring Flooding After Action Review and the Government of the Northwest Territories Search and Rescue System Review Final Report;

And WHEREAS, on October 2, 2025, the Government of the Northwest Territories provided its response to the After-Action Review Report rejecting the recommendation to create a dedicated Emergency Management Agency;

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Date of Notice: October 21, 2025  
Date de l'avis : 21 octobre 2025  
Date of Introduction: October 23, 2025  
Date de présentation : 23 octobre 2025  
Disposition: CARRIED RV  
Disposition : ADOPTÉE VN  
Carried: October 23, 2025  
Adoptée : 23 octobre 2025

Moved by: Mr. Testart  
Proposée par : M. Testart  
Seconded by: Mr. Hawkins  
Appuyée par : M. Hawkins

Ruled Out of Order:  
Déclarée irrecevable :

AND WHEREAS the Government of the Northwest Territories did not conduct a thorough cost analysis for identifying a suite of options using existing human and financial resources to implement the recommendation;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the Government of the Northwest Territories accept the After-Action Review Report recommendation to "Create one dedicated territorial Emergency Management Agency for the NWT, providing coordination support to local authorities leading the emergency response(s)";

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories implement the recommendation to create one territorial Emergency Management Agency for the Northwest Territories within the recommended timeframe of 0-12 months;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories bring forward the necessary policy changes and resources to implement the recommendation by May 2026, as recommended by Transitional Solutions Inc.;

AND FURTHERMORE, that in accepting the recommendation the Government of the Northwest Territories consider repositioning existing resources within the public service in addition to new investments, including establishing new mandates for existing, new or amalgamated line departments;

AND FURTHERMORE, that a dedicated Emergency Management Agency so established will work to implement the remaining recommendations of the After-Action Review Report, including ensuring that the care of children, elders and persons with disabilities are better supported by public safety policies and programs;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories respond to this motion in 120 days.