

Establishment of an Office of the Child and Youth Advocate

WHEREAS the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, to which Canada is a signatory, affirms that children have the right to express their views on all matters affecting them and to have their best interests treated as a primary consideration;

AND WHEREAS most children in care in the Northwest Territories are First Nations, Inuit, and Métis, reflecting a long-standing and well-documented historical inequity that continues to impact Indigenous children and families;

AND WHEREAS children and youth in the Northwest Territories, particularly those engaged with child and family services, those living with disabilities, and Indigenous youth, face systemic barriers that require independent, consistent, and culturally informed advocacy;

AND WHEREAS the Northwest Territories has an Ombud to investigate administrative fairness across territorial public bodies, but does not have a legislated, child and youth-specific advocate or a child and youth-specific ombudsman unit, leaving a gap in dedicated, rights-based oversight for children and youth;

AND WHEREAS the Northwest Territories remains the only Canadian jurisdiction without a legislated Child and Youth Advocate or comparable, dedicated office;

AND WHEREAS the Auditor General of Canada identified significant accountability concerns within the Northwest Territories child and family services system, including inconsistent contact with children in care and deficiencies in service oversight;

AND WHEREAS Call for Justice 12.9 of the Final Report of the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls, which calls for independent child and youth advocate mechanisms, has not yet been implemented in the Northwest Territories;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Monfwi, that this Legislative Assembly calls upon the Government of the Northwest Territories to take immediate steps to establish an independent Office of the Child and Youth Advocate as an Officer of the Legislative Assembly;

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Date of Notice: February 24, 2026
Date de l'avis : 24 février 2026

Date of Introduction:
Date de présentation :

Disposition:
Disposition :

Carried:
Adoptée :

Moved by:
Proposée par :

Seconded by:
Appuyée par :

Ruled Out of Order:
Déclarée irrecevable :

Mr. Testart
M. Testart

Mrs. Weyallon Armstrong
M^{me}. Weyallon Armstrong

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories introduce enabling legislation defining the Advocate's mandate, powers, and responsibilities, including but not limited to the authority to investigate complaints, initiate systemic reviews, make recommendations, and report directly to the Legislative Assembly;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories make comprehensive amendments to the *Child and Family Services Act* to strengthen transparency and accountability and to require cooperation with, and responsiveness to, the oversight exercised by the Child and Youth Advocate in relation to the administration of the *Act*.