

**Taking Action on Energy Affordability
and Security in the Northwest Territories**

WHEREAS electricity rates in the Northwest Territories are among the highest in Canada, reflecting the Territory's remote geography, harsh climate, limited interconnection, reliance on diesel generation, high fuel transportation costs, and aging energy infrastructure;

AND WHEREAS residents and businesses across the Northwest Territories are experiencing an increasing number of power outages, due in part to the unique challenges of maintaining reliable electricity systems in remote northern conditions, including logistical constraints, diesel-reliant microgrids, and extreme climate events that complicate infrastructure maintenance and heighten outage risk;

AND WHEREAS residents and businesses are facing persistent and often severe increases in electricity bills, thereby placing extraordinary pressure on households and businesses;

AND WHEREAS businesses across the Northwest Territories continue to be adversely affected by repeated outages, resulting in operational disruptions, inventory loss, equipment damage, and reduced economic confidence;

AND WHEREAS the transition to renewable and locally controlled energy systems is underway through programs such as the Northern REACHE initiative, but further investment is required to decrease diesel dependence, improve grid reliability, and reduce long-term electricity costs;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Legislative Assembly calls upon the Government of the Northwest Territories to establish a Contingency Support Fund to assist Northwest Territories businesses experiencing financial losses due to power outages, including compensation for verifiable outage-related losses and support for preventative measures such as surge protection and continuity planning;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories expand and revise existing electricity rate subsidies to mitigate the escalating cost of power for both residents and businesses, recognizing the disproportionately high cost of electricity in northern and remote communities;

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Date of Notice: February 27, 2026
Date de l'avis : 27 février 2026

Date of Introduction:
Date de présentation :

Disposition:
Disposition :

Carried:
Adoptée :

Moved by: Mr. Testart
Proposée par : M. Testart

Seconded by: Mr. Hawkins
Appuyée par : M. Hawkins

Ruled Out of Order:
Déclarée irrecevable :

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories direct the responsible Minister to work with utilities, Indigenous governments, and federal partners to create a Territorial Grid Reliability and Modernization Investment Plan to address upgrades to aging transmission and distribution infrastructure, and invest in renewable and alternative energy sources to reduce diesel use and long-term costs;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories invest in emerging and proven technologies that reduce power costs, increase system efficiency, and improve grid reliability, including but not limited to community-scale battery energy storage systems and advanced artificial intelligence-based energy management solutions, to ensure sustainable, affordable, and resilient energy delivery for all residents.

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories take immediate action with new dedicated resources to ensure critical energy infrastructure is operational in all NWT communities, such as three phase power in the hamlet of enterprise;

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