

Reorganization of Social and Health Governance

WHEREAS the Auditor General of Canada has repeatedly identified systemic deficiencies in the delivery of child and family services by the Government of the Northwest Territories, including failures to meet key requirements related to the safety, permanency, and well-being of children in its care;

AND WHEREAS these persistent policy failures highlight a critical need for a departmental structure that prioritizes social intervention and child welfare as a primary mandate, rather than a secondary function of a health-centric department;

AND WHEREAS the Northwest Territories remains the only jurisdiction in Canada that lacks an independent Child and Youth Advocate to provide external oversight and ensure the rights of vulnerable youth are protected;

AND WHEREAS the current Department of Health and Social Services manages an exceptionally broad mandate, in which the distinct operational requirements of clinical health delivery often compete with the specialized needs of social service programming;

AND WHEREAS income support programs are currently administered by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, creating a functional disconnect between financial assistance and the social services required by those same clients;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Range Lake, that the Government of the Northwest Territories take the necessary steps to restructure the current Department of Health and Social Services into two distinct departments:

1. a Department of Health, focused on clinical services, primary care, and public health; and
2. a Department of Social Services, focused on Child and Family Services, mental health and addictions, and community well-being;

AND FURTHER, that the Government transfer all income support programs and relevant social policy functions from other departments to the newly established Department of Social Services to ensure an integrated, "wrap-around" service delivery model; .../2

Date of Notice: June 2, 2026
Date de l'avis : 2 juin 2026

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

Date of Introduction:
Date de présentation :

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

Disposition:
Disposition :

Carried:
Adoptée :

Ruled Out of Order:
Déclarée irrecevable :

AND FURTHER, that the Government reflect this restructuring in the Main Estimates for the upcoming fiscal year to ensure dedicated budgetary oversight and accountability for these distinct mandates;

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