Government of
Northwest Territories

Government of the Northwest Territories Response to

Motion 50-20(1): Appointment of Person to Investigate the Critical Incident of Avery Burke Wesley Marcellais and Hilary Norwegian

Motion

WHEREAS the ongoing effects of colonialism and anti-Indigenious racism continue to impact the health care system in the Northwest Territories;

AND WHEREAS an unnecessarily delayed treatment for a treatable illness contributed to the deaths of Avery Burke, Wesley Marcellais and Hilary Norwegian;

AND WHEREAS the families state that the treatment of Avery Burke, Wesley Marcellais and Hilary Norwegian are examples of substandard health care for Indigenous people;

AND WHEREAS clear, immediate and measured actions from the Minister of Health and Social Services are required to prevent such incidents from happening again;

AND WHEREAS Section 25.3(3.) of the Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Servies Administration Act (the Act) states that the Minister of Health and Social Services shall, when directed by motion of the Legislative Assembly, appoint a person to investigate, in accordance with the Act and the regulations, a critical incident or an alleged critical incident;

NOW THEREFORE, I move, seconded by the Member for Dehcho, that the Minister of Health and Social Services appoints a person to investigate the incident of the treatment of Avery Burke, Wesley Marcellais and Hilary Norwegian;

AND Further, that the Minister of Health and Social Services table before the Assembly at the earliest opportunity any recommendations that the investigator includes in their investigation report alongside a plan to advance such recommendations;

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

GNWT Response

The Minister of Health and Social Services appointed Ms. Gillian Burles on August 18, 2025, to investigate the critical incidents or alleged critical incidents resulting in the deaths of Avery Burke, Wesley Marcellais and Hilary Norwegian.