

Votes and Proceedings

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

February 27, 2026

The Assembly commenced sitting at 10:01 a.m. with the Honourable Shane Thompson, Speaker, presiding.

Members' Attendance

Present: Member for Dehcho, Member for Frame Lake, Member for Great Slave, Honourable Member for Hay River North, Honourable Member for Hay River South, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Member for Monfwi, Honourable Member for Nunakput, Member for Range Lake, Member for Sahtu, Honourable Member for Thebacha, Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Yellowknife North, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Absent: Member for Mackenzie Delta.

Ministers' Statements

189-20(1) The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment made a statement regarding the Northwest Territories film industry.

Members' Statements

939-20(1) The Member for Range Lake made a statement regarding unsustainable nurse-to-patient ratios in the Northwest Territories.

940-20(1) The Member for Sahtu made a statement regarding economic and funding impacts on Mackenzie Mountain School in Norman Wells.

941-20(1) The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake made a statement regarding the Northwest Territories Association of Communities Annual General Meeting.

- 942-20(1) The Member for Dehcho made a statement regarding dental care.
- 943-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding the Still Dead Film Festival.
- 944-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding inclusion in sports.
- 945-20(1) The Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh made a statement regarding addictions and wellness.
- 946-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife Centre made a statement regarding the importance of dental therapists.
- 947-20(1) The Member for Monfwi made a statement regarding the economic impacts of mine closures.
- 948-20(1) The Member for Great Slave made a statement regarding the importance of poetry.
- 949-20(1) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh made a statement regarding Nahanni Butte housing projects.

Follow-up to Oral Questions

- 977-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up for Oral Question 977-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Yellowknife Centre regarding online healthcare booking services.
- 1007-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up for Oral Question 1007-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Yellowknife Centre regarding support for speech and language pathologists.

Returns to Written Questions

- 26-20(1) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 26-20(1) from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to the Member for Yellowknife North regarding the application of *Waters Act* provisions to the sale or transfer of mining assets.
- 28-20(1) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 28-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Yellowknife North regarding medical travel.

30-20(1) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 30-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Yellowknife North regarding Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority action plans.

31-20(1) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 31-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Frame Lake regarding prenatal, pregnancy and postpartum costs.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

Bill 29-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake reported that the Standing Committee on Government Operations had reviewed Bill 29-20(1), *First Responders Workers' Compensation Amendment Act*, and that Bill 29 was ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted.

The Member for Range Lake sought unanimous consent to waive Rule 8.2(7) and have Bill 29 moved directly to Item 22 on the Orders of the Day, Third Reading of Bills. Unanimous consent was not granted.

Point of Order

The Honourable Member for Thebacha rose on a point of order on Private Member Bill 29, *First Responders Workers' Compensation Amendment Act*, related to Rule 1.2(i) of the Rules of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly and the parliamentary convention across Westminster-style Parliaments which prohibits Private Members' bills from requiring expenditure of public funds.

After hearing from the Honourable Member for Thebacha and the Member for Range Lake, the sponsor of Bill 29, the Speaker took the matter under advisement to provide a ruling at a later date.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

36-20(1) Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on Bill 29, *First Responders Workers' Compensation Amendment Act*

The Member for Frame Lake, seconded by the Member for Great Slave, moved that the remainder of Committee Report 36-20(1), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of Bill 29: *First Responders Workers' Compensation Amendment Act*, be deemed read and printed in Hansard in its entirety.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Frame Lake, seconded by the Member for Great Slave, moved that Committee Report 36-20(1), the Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of Bill 29: *First Responders Workers' Compensation Amendment Act*, be received and adopted by the Assembly.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Frame Lake, seconded by the Member for Great Slave, moved that pursuant to rule 9.4(5)(a), the Government of the Northwest Territories table a comprehensive response to this report, including all recommendations, within 120 days, or at the earliest opportunity subsequent to the passage of 120 days.

The motion was CARRIED.

Tabling of Documents

- 482-20(1) Additional Information for Written Question 30-20(1): Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority Action Plans. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 483-20(1) 2025-26 Electoral Boundaries Commission Final Report. Tabled by the Speaker.

Notices of Motion

- 69-20(1) Taking Action on Energy Affordability and Security in the Northwest Territories

Notice given by the Member for Range Lake.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

- Bill 45-20(1): *Civil Forfeiture Act*

Notice given by the Minister of Justice.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

The Chair, the Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, reported that the Committee of the Whole considered Tabled Document 448-20(1): 2026-2027 Main Estimates, and Committee Report 35-20(1): Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of Bill 29: *First Responders Workers' Compensation Amendment Act*, and reported progress with 19 motions carried and that Committee Report 35-20(1) concluded.

Committee Motion 139-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories create a program line item for Conservation Planning and Implementation in the 2027–2028 Main Estimates and adopt staged funding triggers tied to milestones under the *Protected Areas Act*.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 140-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories stabilize its operational capacity for Territorial Protected Areas by increasing capacity funding to support management boards and by fully funding the staffing of positions identified in establishment agreements;

AND FURTHER, the Government should allocate sufficient resources in the 2027–2028 Main Estimates to close capacity gaps and ensure the effective delivery of management plans, monitoring programs, and Guardians initiatives.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 141-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories identify its financial obligations and resource requirements for conservation initiatives outside the *Protected Areas Act* and provide the necessary funding, including working with the federal government to secure appropriate long-term resources for these activities within one year and report back to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts on its progress.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 142-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories establish more flexible multi-year financing tools by amending the *Financial Administration Act* and related policy instruments to enable funding

mechanisms suitable for inter-generational conservation commitments, and to complete this work in time for it to be reflected in the 2027–2028 Main Estimates.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 143-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide new capacity funding, including funding new grants and contributions, to provide dedicated new budget and resources to Indigenous Governments to support their participation in conservation work under the *Protected Areas Act* that would not otherwise be covered by Project Finance for Permanence funds.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 144-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories table by the end of the May–June 2026 sitting a comprehensive action plan for advancing Dinàgà Wek'èhodì and the four Dehcho candidate protected areas. The plan should set clear timelines, milestones, and accountability measures aligned with the 2028 Nature Agreement targets and include a strategy for resourcing and capacity support.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 145-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories table information by the end of the May–June 2026 sitting on how its strategy for advancing candidate protected areas in the Dehcho is coordinated with on-going land claim negotiations in the region.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 146-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories publish the annual report committed to in the Nature Agreement including progress on commitments scheduled for the previous fiscal year and anticipated timelines for establishing the candidate protected areas under the Healthy Lands, Healthy People workplan.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 147-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories demonstrate how current measures to involve management boards in hiring are improving Indigenous representation and how these measures will be sustained and strengthened;

AND FURTHER, that the government establish timelines, metrics, and clear indicators of success to show how these actions ensure meaningful community representation in hiring for positions associated with Territorial Protected Areas.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 148-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories table by the end of the May–June 2026 sitting a detailed update, including an implementation framework for Territorial Protected Area agreements, that responds fully to the Auditor General’s recommendation at paragraph 56 of the audit report.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 149-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories finalize the regulations for Thaidene Nënë and bring forward any outstanding policy instruments required for Thaidene Nënë and Ts’udé Niljné Tuyeta, sequenced with the approval of management plans and supported by publicly shared target dates within one year.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 150-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories update the regulatory, legislative, and policy framework so that it works coherently with Territorial Protected Areas under the *Protected Areas Act* and resolves existing gaps;

AND FURTHER, the Government of the Northwest Territories should begin the required policy work to identify and assess options for legislative amendments and bring forward recommended changes for decision;

AND FURTHERMORE, timelines for this work should be expedited, with milestones for delivery within the lifetime of the 20th Legislative Assembly.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 151-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories table in the May–June 2026 sitting a plan that sets out how the Government will lead conservation planning in collaboration with partners through the Northwest Territories Council of Leaders and the Intergovernmental Council of the Northwest Territories without overriding Indigenous authorities;

AND FURTHER, that the plan outlines the sequence of Government of the Northwest Territories decisions required to advance each protected area;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the plan commits to a public, milestone-based update each November, as part of the reporting obligations under the Nature Agreement, to summarize progress and any variance from plan.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 152-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories establish a process to obtain independent reviews, including legal or analytical reviews conducted through an Indigenous lens, when co-management partners encounter an impasse.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 153-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories establish an audit performance plan for Deputy Ministers;

AND FURTHER, the plan should link performance pay to timely implementation of Office of the Auditor General of Canada audit recommendations that have been accepted by the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 154-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories examine specific historic harms that have been raised by Indigenous governments and communities, identify those that warrant a formal apology and compensation, and take timely action to deliver those apologies along with appropriate reparations.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 155-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide an update on the status of the action plan required by Section 10 of the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People Implementation Act*.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 156-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide sufficient funding in the 2026–2027 Main Estimates and establish ongoing multi-year implementation funding, including capacity funding for Indigenous governments and organizations, to support and sustain participation in the implementation of the *United Nations Declaration on the*

Rights of Indigenous People Implementation Act until implementation is fully achieved.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 157-20(1)

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a response to this report within 120 days.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River North, moved concurrence of the report of the Committee of the Whole. The motion was CARRIED.

The Speaker adjourned the House 1:54 p.m.



Hon. Shane Thompson
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Harjot Sidhu
Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly