

## FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

### **February 29, 2024**

The Assembly commenced sitting at 1:30 p.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 Mackenzie Delta, 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: None.

### Ministers' Statements

- 30-20(1) The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs made a statement regarding the 2022 and 2023 Outstanding Volunteer Awards.
- 31-20(1) The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment made a statement regarding additional investment to bolster digital adoption by businesses.

### Members' Statements

- 143-20(1) The Member for Range Lake made a statement regarding recreational land leases.
- 144-20(1) The Member for Great Slave made a statement regarding Gaza.
- 145-20(1) The Member for Sahtu made a statement regarding the Nechalacho project.

- 146-20(1) The Member for Mackenzie Delta made a statement recognizing the 100th birthdays of Gwich'in elders Andrew Neyando and Rose Potts.
- 147-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding a regional study of the Slave Geological province.
- 148-20(1) The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake made a statement about partnering with Indigenous Governments.
- 149-20(1) The Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh made a statement regarding taxation of Treaty 8 people.
- 150-20(1) The Member for Monfwi made a statement regarding police brutality against Indigenous women.
- 151-20(1) The Member for Dehcho made a statement regarding the importance of respecting Elders.
- 152-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife Centre delivered an ode to Premier Simpson's government.
- 153-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake delivered a eulogy for Greg Pratt.
- 154-20(1) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh delivered a eulogy for Isadore Simon.

### Acknowledgements

- 1-20(1) The Member for Range Lake acknowledged the 55th anniversary of John and Gerda Hazenberg.

### Tabling of Documents

- 57-20(1) Housing Northwest Territories 2022-2023 Annual Report. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.
- 58-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 17-20(1): Elders Housing and Oral Question 20-20(1): Arrears Collection for Elders. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.
- 59-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 25-20(1): Housing Northwest Territories Board Policy. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.

- 60-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 34-20(1): Construction and Retrofitting of Housing Northwest Territories Units. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.
- 61-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 49-20(1): Yellowknife Aspen Apartments. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.
- 62-20(1) NWT Carbon Tax Report 2022-2023. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 63-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 45-20(1): Expansion of Snare Hydro System to Tłı̄ch̄ Communities. Tabled by the Minister of Infrastructure.
- 64-20(1) Waste Reduction and Recovery Program 2022-2023 Annual Report. Tabled by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.
- 65-20(1) Summary of Members' Absences for the period December 8, 2023 - February 5, 2024. Tabled by the Speaker.
- 66-20(1) Statutory Declarations of Principal Residence – Members of the 20th Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. Tabled by the Speaker.

### Motions

- 22-20(1) Extended Adjournment of the House to May 23, 2024

Moved by the Member for Yellowknife North:

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River North, that notwithstanding Rule 2.1, when the House adjourns on Thursday, February 29, 2024, it shall be adjourned until Thursday, May 23, 2024;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to May 23, 2024, if the Speaker is satisfied after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, the Speaker may give notice;

AND THEREUPON, the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as it has been duly adjourned to that time.

The motion was CARRIED.

23-20(1)

Call to Uphold Human Rights in Gaza

Moved by the Member for Great Slave:

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife North, that this Legislative Assembly condemn all acts of antisemitism and anti-Palestinian racism in our territory;

AND FURTHER, that this Legislative Assembly calls upon the Premier to write a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly, and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Bob Rae, that will call upon the Canadian Government to:

- call for an immediate and effective ceasefire and halt to violence by both Israel and Hamas;
- advocate for the immediate release of all hostages;
- advocate for, and provide funds for unhindered access for humanitarian aid for all those in need in Gaza; and
- take all actions necessary to fully uphold its obligations under the Genocide Convention;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Northwest Territories Member of Parliament, Michael McLeod, receive a copy of this letter;

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

Motion to Amend Call to Uphold Human Rights in Gaza  
Motion 23-20(1)

Moved by the Member for Yellowknife Centre:

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Mackenzie Delta, to amend Motion 23-20(1): Call to Uphold Human Rights in Gaza, by inserting the words "in an accountable method that demonstrates transparency which ensures Canadian aid, given by the Canadian Government, goes direct to support humanitarian need" to the third bullet point in the second clause, after the word "Gaza", such as the bullet point reads:

advocate for, and provide funds for unhindered access for humanitarian aid for all those in need in Gaza, in an accountable method that demonstrates transparency which ensures Canadian aid, given by the Canadian government, goes direct to support humanitarian need,"

The motion to amend Motion 23-20(1) was CARRIED.

23-20(1) Motion to Amend Motion 23-20(1): Call to Uphold Human Rights in Gaza (As Amended)

Moved by the Member for Yellowknife Centre:

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Mackenzie Delta, to amend Motion 23-20(1): Call to Uphold Human Rights in Gaza, by inserting the following clause after the second whereas clause:

AND WHEREAS this Assembly, recognizes through the Government of Canada's designation, that Canada has listed Hamas as a terrorist entity under the Criminal Code since November 2022.

The motion to amend Motion 23-20(1) was CARRIED.

The Member for Great Slave requested a recorded vote. The results of the recorded vote were:

Members for: Sahtu, Yellowknife Centre, Range Lake, Inuvik Boot Lake, Frame Lake, Great Slave, Mackenzie Delta, Yellowknife North. (8)

Members against: (0)

Members abstaining: Tu Nedhé-Willideh, Dehcho, Monfwi, Thebacha, Yellowknife South, Kam Lake, Hay River North, Hay River South, Nunakput. (10)

The motion was CARRIED AS AMENDED.

#### Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

The Chair, the Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh, reported that the Committee of the Whole considered Minister's Statement 4-20(1): 2023 Wildfire Season Review and Planning for the 2024 Season; Minister's Statement 5-20(1): Emergency Management Preparation; Minister's Statement 17-20(1): Reaching Average \$10 a Day Child Care in the NWT; and Minister's Statement 24-20(1): Health Human Resources Recruitment and Retention, and reported progress.

The Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh, seconded by the Member for Dehcho, moved concurrence of the report of the Committee of the Whole. The motion was CARRIED.

#### Assent

The Commissioner of the Northwest Territories assented to the following Bills:

Bill 1: *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*

- Bill 4: *Interim Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) 2024-2025*
- Bill 5: *Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2024-2025*
- Bill 6: *Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024*

The Speaker adjourned the House at 4:41 p.m.



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Hon. Shane Thompson  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



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Glen Rutland  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly