

Votes and Proceedings

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

October 17, 2024

The Assembly commenced sitting at 1:33 p.m., with the Honourable Shane Thompson, Speaker, presiding.

Members' Attendance

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

Ministers' Statements

- 59-20(1) The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs made a statement regarding the 2024 territorial wildfire emergency response.
- 60-20(1) The Minister of Environment and Climate Change made a statement regarding the 2024 wildfire season.
- 61-20(1) The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment made a statement regarding pathways to employment and entrepreneurship.
- 62-20(1) The Deputy Premier made a statement regarding the absences of the Honourable Member for Hay River North and the Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes from the House.

Members' Statements

- 320-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding energy security.
- 321-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding change management.
- 322-20(1) The Member for Monfwi made a statement regarding education outcomes.
- 323-20(1) The Member for Sahtu made a statement regarding the Norman Wells rising fuel costs situation.
- 324-20(1) The Member for Mackenzie Delta congratulated Order of the Northwest Territories recipient Mary Teya.
- 325-20(1) The Member for Great Slave made a statement regarding immigration.
- 326-20(1) The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake made a statement expressing gratitude for community and Legislative Assembly support following the loss of the Member's home to fire.
- 327-20(1) The Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh made a statement regarding the illicit drug trade in communities.
- 328-20(1) The Member for Range Lake made a statement about making positive change through the four priorities set by the 20th Legislative Assembly.
- 329-20(1) The Member for Dehcho made a statement regarding fire towers.
- 330-20(1) The Honourable Member for Hay River South made a statement regarding one year post-evacuation in Hay River.
- 331-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife Centre delivered a tribute to the late Anthony (Tony) Whitford.
- 332-20(1) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh made a statement celebrating the life of Bob Hanna.

Motions

The Member for Range Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Sahtu, that pursuant to Rule 3.5, that the ordinary business of the House be set aside to discuss a matter of urgent public importance requiring immediate consideration, namely the humanitarian crisis in the Sahtu, specifically in the town of Norman Wells, where the Town Council has unanimously declared a local state of emergency on October 15, 2024;

AND FURTHER, the people of the Sahtu urgently require an indication of the kind of short-term and long-term strategies that the Government of the Northwest Territories will employ to ensure that necessary support is provided to residents and businesses and is of territorial significance as local authorities do not have the resources required to provide the required humanitarian relief to the residents of the Sahtu.

The Member for Yellowknife Centre requested a recorded vote. The results of the recorded vote were:

Members for: Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, Deh Cho, Sahtu, Yellowknife Centre, Range Lake, Inuvik Boot Lake, Monfwi, Frame Lake, Great Slave, Mackenzie Delta, Yellowknife North, Thebacha, Yellowknife South, Kam Lake, Hay River South, Nunakput. (16)

Members against: None. (0)

Members abstaining: None. (0)

The motion was CARRIED.

An emergency debate on the topic of the motion took place.

Returns to Written Questions

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| 6-20(1) | The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 6-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Range Lake regarding agency nurses. |
| 7-20(1) | The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 7-20(1) from the Minister Responsible for Housing Northwest Territories to the Member for Monfwi regarding housing debt among elders and seniors. |

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

- Bill 8 -20(1) The Member for Monfwi reported that the Standing Committee on Social Development had reviewed Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*, and that Bill 8 was ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.
- Bill 7 -20(1) The Member for Frame Lake reported that the Standing Committee on Government Operations had reviewed Bill 7, *Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2024*, and that Bill 7 was ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

- 9-20(1) Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*

The Member for Monfwi, seconded by the Member for Mackenzie Delta, moved that Committee Report 9-20(1), Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Bill 8, *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act*, be received by the Assembly and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The motion was CARRIED.

Tabling of Documents

- 137-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 29-20(1): Municipal Block Land Transfer. Tabled by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.
- 138-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 205-20(1): Climate Change. Tabled by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.
- 139-20(1) Additional Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 205-20(1): Climate Change. Tabled by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.
- 140-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 216-20(1): Guardians of the Land Program. Tabled by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.
- 141-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 278-20(1): Disaster Assistance Programs for Traditional Cabin Owners. Tabled by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.

- 142-20(1) Conference of Management Authorities Species at Risk Annual Report 2023-2024. Tabled by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.
- 143-20(1) Northwest Territories Species at Risk Committee Annual Report 2023-2024. Tabled by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.
- 144-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 2-20(1): Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Bill 2: *Missing Persons Act*. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Premier and Minister of Justice.
- 145-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 3-20(1): Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Information and Privacy Commissioner. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Premier and Minister of Justice.
- 146-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 5-20(1): Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Premier and Minister of Justice.
- 147-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 6-20(1): Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Ombud. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Premier and Minister of Justice.
- 148-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 17-20(1): Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Tabled Document 27-20(1): Petition: Demand a Public Inquiry into the Hay River – Enterprise – Kakisa Wildfire. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Premier and Minister of Justice.
- 149-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 31-20(1): Cross-Border Crime Reduction Forum. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Premier and Minister of Justice.
- 150-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 32-20(1): Increasing RCMP Response in Hay River. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Premier and Minister of Justice.

- 151-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 34-20(1): Supporting RCMP Response to Mental Health. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Premier and Minister of Justice.
- 152-20(1) Department of Justice Corrections Service Annual Report 2023-2024. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Premier and Minister of Justice.
- 153-20(1) Annual Report on the Activities of the Rental Officer April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Premier and Minister of Justice.
- 154-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 202-20(1): After-Action Review of the 2023 Wildfires. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Premier and Minister of Justice.
- 155-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 233-20(1): Food Security. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Premier and Minister of Justice.
- 156-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 254-20(1): High Cost of Food in Northwest Territories. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Premier and Minister of Justice.
- 157-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 256-20(1): Nutrition North Program. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Premier and Minister of Justice.
- 158-20(1) Additional Information for Return to Written Question 6-20(1): Agency Nurses. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 159-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 215-20(1): Use of Agency Nurses. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 160-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 244-20(1): Transitional Housing Pilot Project. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 161-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 249-20(1): Clients' Medical Records Required for Medical Travel. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Minister of Health and Social Services.

- 162-20(1) Follow-up for Oral Question 280-20(1): Apply for a Name Change. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 163-20(1) Follow-up for Oral Question 284-20(1): Mental Health Training. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 164-20(1) Follow-up for Oral Question 297-20(1): Wellness and Addictions Recommendations. Tabled by the Acting Government House Leader for the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 165-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 7-20(1): Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Public Accounts. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 166-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 37-20(1): Mackenzie Valley Highway Business Case Renewal. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 167-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 28-20(1): Consideration for Elders and Seniors in Debt Elimination. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 168-20(1) Response to Petition 2-20(1): Improved Fertility and Family Planning Supports in the Northwest Territories. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 169-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 175-20(1): Marine Transportation Services 2024 Season Cancellations. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 170-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 213-20(1): Government of the Northwest Territories' Asset Security Package. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 171-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 243-20(1): Forgiveness of Debt for Elders and Seniors. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 172-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 266-20(1): Burial Sites in Taltson River Area. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 173-20(1) Follow-up for Oral Question 289-20(1): Extending Government of Northwest Territories Employee Training to Non-Governmental Organizations Staff. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.

- 174-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 33-20(1): Municipal Funding Gap. Tabled by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.
- 175-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 35-20(1): Emergency Plan Support for Municipalities and Community Governments. Tabled by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.
- 176-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 38-20(1): Consideration for the Hamlet of Enterprise to Receive Top-Up Federal Funding. Tabled by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.
- 177-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 4-20(1): Report on the Review of the 2022-2023 Annual Report of the Languages Commissioner. Tabled by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.
- 178-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 21-20(1): Taking Action to Address Housing as a Human Right. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.
- 179-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 30-20(1): Maintaining Northwest Territories' Housing Stock. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.
- 180-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 158-20(1): Collaboration with Indigenous Governments on Home Renovations. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.
- 181-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 184-20(1): Affordable Housing for Elders. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.
- 182-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 196-20(1): Housing Units Destined for Sahtú. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.
- 183-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 245-20(1): Housing as a Human Right. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.
- 184-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 264-20(1): Elders' Home Inspections. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.

- 185-20(1) Petition to Update the *Cannabis Products Act* to Allow Licensed Producers to Farmgate. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife Centre.
- 186-20(1) Petition for a Fair Deal for Fort Simpson Housing Authority Workers. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife Centre.
- 187-20(1) Northwest Territories Equal Pay Commissioner Annual Report 2023-2024. Tabled by the Deputy Speaker.
- 188-20(1) Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2023-2024. Tabled by the Deputy Speaker.
- 189-20(1) Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories Annual Report 2023-2024. Tabled by the Deputy Speaker.
- 190-20(1) Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories Annual Report 2023-2024. Tabled by the Deputy Speaker.
- 191-20(1) Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly Annual Report 2023-2024. Tabled by the Deputy Speaker.
- 192-20(1) Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowance Fund Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2024. Tabled by the Deputy Speaker.

The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House at 5:56 p.m.



Richard Edjericon
Deputy Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Glen Rutland
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly