

## Votes and Proceedings

### FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

#### **February 5, 2025**

The Assembly commenced sitting at 1:31 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 Nunakput, Member for Range Lake, Member for Sahtu, Honourable Member for Thebacha, Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Yellowknife North, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.
- Absent: Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Member for Monfwi, Member for Mackenzie Delta, Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh.

#### Ministers' Statements

- 86-20(1) The Minister of Finance provided notice of a Budget Address.
- 87-20(1) The Premier made a statement advising of the absence of the Honourable Member for Kam Lake from the House.
- 88-20(1) The Premier delivered a Sessional Statement.

#### Members' Statements

- 430-20(1) The Member for Great Slave Lake made a statement regarding support for Northwest Territories residents.
- 431-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding the state of the Northwest Territories.
- 432-20(1) The Member for Sahtu made a statement requesting support for the Town of Norman Wells.

- 433-20(1) The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake made a statement about improving the land use permitting process.
- 434-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding respite and at-home care.
- 435-20(1) The Member for Dehcho made a statement offering a welcome-back message.
- 436-20(1) The Member for Range Lake made a statement regarding tariffs.
- 437-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife Centre made a statement regarding the state of the Northwest Territories.
- 438-20(1) The Honourable Member for Hay River South made a statement regarding the success of the Hay River Curling Team.
- 439-20(1) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh made a statement celebrating the life of Avery Julianna Burke.

#### Returns to Written Questions

- 8-20(1) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 8-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Great Slave about improving fertility and family planning supports.
- 9-20(1) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 9-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Yellowknife Centre about staffing of doctor and specialist positions within the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority.
- 10-20(1) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 10-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh regarding complaints in the health care system.
- 11-20(1) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 11-20(1) from the Minister of Justice to the Member for Range Lake regarding ground search and rescue.
- 12-20(1) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 12-20(1) from the Premier to the Member for Yellowknife Centre regarding the cost of living.

## Tabling of Documents

238-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 303-20(1): Local Housing Organizations Support. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.
239-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 306-20(1): Housing Repairs. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.
240-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 378-20(1): Housing Waitlist. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.
241-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 405-20(1): Winter Road Season Planning. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.
242-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 305-20(1): Heating Oil. Tabled by the Minister of Infrastructure.
243-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 323-20(1): Dempster Highway and Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway Conditions. Tabled by the Minister of Infrastructure.
244-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 325-20(1): Project Cost Overruns. Tabled by the Minister of Infrastructure.
245-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 343-20(1): Impacts of Climate Change on Winter and Ice Roads. Tabled by the Minister of Infrastructure.
246-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 374-20(1): Mackenzie Valley Fibre Line Backup. Tabled by the Minister of Infrastructure.
247-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 421-20(1): Regulations for E-Scooters. Tabled by the Minister of Infrastructure.
248-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 333-20(1): Fiscal Policy. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
249-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 334-20(1): Housing Budget Allocations. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
250-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 418-20(1): Cell Service. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.

251-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 423-20(1): Carbon Tax. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
252-20(1)	Additional Information for Written Question 11-20(1): Ground Search and Rescue. Tabled by the Minister of Justice.
253-20(1)	Additional Information for Written Question 12-20(1): Cost of Living. Tabled by the Premier.
254-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 312-20(1): Transitional Housing Options and Supports. Tabled by the Premier.
255-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 361-20(1): Health Care Sustainability Initiative. Tabled by the Premier.
256-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 413-20(1): Economic Viability of Northwest Territories. Tabled by the Premier.
257-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 397-20(1): Overdose-Related RCMP Calls. Tabled by the Minister of Justice.
258-20(1)	Additional Information for Written Question 9-20(1): Physician Vacancy Rates. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
259-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 328-20(1): Speech Language Pathologist Positions. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
260-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 340-20(1): Supported Living Review and Recommendations. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
261-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 342-20(1): Primary Care Reform. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
262-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 347-20(1): Physician Workforce Plan. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
263-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 348-20(1): Healthcare Services. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
264-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 358-20(1): Primary Care Physicians. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
265-20(1)	Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 364-20(1): Tulita Health Centre Project. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.

- 266-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 369-20(1): Dene Nation Healthcare Concerns. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 267-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 375-20(1): Updates to Diagnostic Imaging Medical Communications System. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 268-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 376-20(1): Online Physician Booking Service. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 269-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 382-20(1): Approval of Non-Medical Escorts. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 270-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 399-20(1): Diagnostic Rates for Autism. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 271-20(1) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 419-20(1): Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority Operational Concerns. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 272-20(1) Documents Compiled by Town of Norman Wells regarding the Town's Declaration of a Local State of Emergency for Humanitarian Reasons. Tabled by the Member for Sahtu.
- 273-20(1) Report of the Northwest Territories Integrity Commissioner on the Complaint by Mr. Daniel Richards (Deneze Nakehk'o) about Staffing Appeals from Hiring Decisions by the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. Tabled by the Speaker.
- 274-20(1) Report of the Northwest Territories Integrity Commissioner Dismissing the Complaint by Deneze Nakehk'o about Minister Wawzonek's Husband's Owing Shares in Canadian Utilities Limited. Tabled by the Speaker.

#### Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

- Bill 17 *Municipal and Community Affairs Statutes Amendment Act*  
Notice given by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.
- Bill 18 *An Act to Amend the Partnership and Business Names Act*  
Notice given by the Minister of Justice.

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

The Deputy Chair, the Member for Sahtu, reported that the Committee of the Whole considered Committee Report 17-20(1): Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges Report on the Review of the Rules of the Northwest Territories, and reported progress, with 16 motions carried.

#### **Committee Motion 54-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that Chapter Four be amended by adding the words “or reflection” after each instance of the word “prayer”.

The motion was CARRIED.

#### **Committee Motion 55-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that Rule 5.4(2) be amended by adding the words “or reflection” after the word “prayer”.

The motion was CARRIED.

#### **Committee Motion 56-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that Rule 5.8(2) be amended by deleting the words “one hour” and inserting the words “24 hours”.

The motion was CARRIED.

#### **Committee Motion 57-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Clerk be granted authority to produce consolidations of the Rules to correct spelling, grammatical and punctuation errors alongside non-controversial changes within the Rules, without requiring those changes to be made by way of motion in the House.

The motion was CARRIED.

### **Committee Motion 58-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that Rule 5.2(2) be amended by inserting the words “or the final sitting day prior to the dissolution of a Legislative Assembly” after the word “prorogation”.

The motion was CARRIED.

### **Committee Motion 59-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the following Rule be added to Chapter Four:

4.1 (5) the daily Orders of business in the Assembly on Thursdays shall be:

1. Prayer
2. Ministers' Statements
3. Members' Statements
4. Motions
5. Returns to Oral Questions
6. Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery
7. Acknowledgements
8. Oral Questions
9. Written Questions
10. Returns to Written Questions
11. Replies to Commissioner's Address
12. Petitions
13. Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills
14. Reports of Standing and Special Committees
15. Tabling of Documents
16. Notices of Motion
17. Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills
18. First Reading of Bills
19. Second Reading of Bills
20. Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
21. Report of Committee of the Whole
22. Third Reading of Bills
23. Orders of the Day

The motion was CARRIED.

### **Committee Motion 60-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that Rule 7.2(2)(b) be amended by adding the words “within 21 calendar days, or on the first day of the next sitting if 21 calendar days lapse between sittings,” after the words “Return to Oral Questions”.

The motion was CARRIED.

### **Committee Motion 61-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that Rule 7.2(4) be amended by replacing the word “three” with “two”.

The motion was CARRIED.

### **Committee Motion 62-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that Rule 7.2(6) be amended by deleting the words “table that information in the Assembly” and replacing them with the words “file that information with the Clerk”.

The motion was CARRIED.

### **Committee Motion 63-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that Rule 7.2(7) be added:

Under the item “Oral Questions”, the Clerk shall inform the Assembly of the follow-ups to Oral Questions received, deliver copies to the Members who asked the questions, and have the returns printed in Hansard.

The motion was CARRIED.

### **Committee Motion 64-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:



I MOVE that this committee recommends that Rule 2.2(1) be deleted and replaced with the following:

2.2(1) unless otherwise ordered, the sitting hours of the Assembly shall be as follows:

- (a) Mondays and Wednesdays from 1:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.
- (b) Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1:30 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.
- (c) Fridays from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

The motion was CARRIED.

### **Committee Motion 65-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that Rule 2.2(2) be amended by replacing the words “at 6:00 p.m. on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and at 2:00 p.m. on Fridays” with “at the designated adjournment time of a sitting day,”.

The motion was CARRIED.

### **Committee Motion 66-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the following Rule be added to Chapter Nine:

9.1 (15) when Committee of the Whole is considering a Minister's Statement, questions relating to the content of the statement shall only be directed to the Minister.

The motion was CARRIED.

### **Committee Motion 67-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the following Rule be added to Chapter Nine:

9.1 (16) when Committee of the Whole is considering a Minister's Statement, the Minister may have witnesses appear to supply information as required.

The motion was CARRIED.

**Committee Motion 68-20(1)**

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories bring forward legislation that includes provisions for bills to have both a technical title and a short title.

The motion was CARRIED.

**Committee Motion 69-20(1)**


The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that Rule 4.3(1) be amended by replacing the words “Member or the Clerk” with “person”.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Sahtu, seconded by the Member for Dehcho, moved concurrence of the report of the Committee of the Whole. The motion was CARRIED.

The Speaker adjourned the House at 4:59 p.m.



Hon. Shane Thompson  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Glen Rutland  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly