

Votes and Proceedings

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

October 16, 2025

The Assembly commenced sitting at 1:34 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, Member for Mackenzie Delta, Member for Monfwi, Honourable Member for Nunakput, Member for Range Lake, Member for Sahtu, Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Yellowknife North, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Absent: Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Honourable Member for Thebacha.

Ministers' Statements

- 144-20(1) The Premier delivered a sessional statement.
- 145-20(1) The Premier made a statement regarding the absence of the Honourable Members for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Kam Lake and Thebacha from the House.

Members' Statements

- 698-20(1) The Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh made a statement regarding emergency medical transportation services in small communities.
- 699-20(1) The Member for Range Lake made a statement regarding Northwest Territories 2023 Wildfire Season After Action Review recommendations and implementation.

- 700-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife Centre made a statement regarding 2023 Wildfire Season After Action Review recommendations and implementation.
- 701-20(1) The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake made a statement regarding the condition of the Dempster Highway.
- 702-20(1) The Member for Monfwi made a statement about access to housing programs and services for elders.
- 703-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding 2023 Wildfire Season After Action Review recommendations and implementation.
- 704-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding recent activities of the Standing Committees of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly.
- 705-20(1) The Member for Dehcho made a statement regarding the 2025 Fort Providence wildfire evacuation.
- 706-20(1) The Member for Mackenzie Delta made a statement about missing person Frank Gruben.
- 707-20(1) The Member for Sahtu made a statement regarding nation building infrastructure projects.
- 708-20(1) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh made a statement celebrating the life of Hilary Norwegian.
- 709-20(1) The Member for Great Slave delivered a eulogy for Moses Larel Luwalira.

Returns to Oral Questions

- 666-20(1) The Premier on behalf of the Minister of Justice provided a return to Oral Question 666-20(1) asked by the Member for Monfwi regarding the Legal Aid Commission of the Northwest Territories.

Follow-up to Oral Questions

- 439-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 439-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Dehcho regarding respite and home care in Dehcho communities.

- 441-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 441-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Yellowknife Centre regarding services at primary health clinics.
- 502-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 502-20(1) from the Minister of Infrastructure to the Member for Yellowknife North regarding Stanton Territorial Hospital public-private partnership project leases.
- 503-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 503-20(1) from the Minister of Infrastructure to the Member for Great Slave regarding the Stanton Territorial Hospital public-private partnership project records management.
- 574-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Questions 574- and 752-20(1) from the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs to the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake regarding the development of a territorial building standards code.
and
752-20(1)
- 582-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 582-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Range Lake about reducing primary care wait times in Yellowknife.
- 628-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 628-20(1) from the Minister of Infrastructure to the Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh regarding junction lights on Highways No. 4 and No. 5.
- 656-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 656-20(1) from the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories to the Member for Range Lake about construction of new housing units.
- 693-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 693-20(1) from the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to the Member for Monfwi regarding the Elders in Schools Program.
- 694-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 694-20(1) from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to the Member for Frame Lake regarding targeted amendments to the *Waters Act* regulations.
- 706-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 706-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Monfwi regarding the Community Counselling Program.
- 712-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 712-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Yellowknife North regarding nurse practitioners.

- 733-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 733-20(1) from the Minister of Finance to the Member for Yellowknife Centre regarding the territorial liquor store bidding process.
- 742-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 742-20(1) from the Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs to the Member for Yellowknife North regarding shelter encampments in Yellowknife.
- 746-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 746-20(1) from the Minister of Finance to the Member for Range Lake regarding a mandate implementation update.
- 747-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 747-20(1) from the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs to the Member for Great Slave regarding a 9-1-1 service disruption update.
- 749-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 749-20(1) from the Minister of Finance to the Member for Range Lake regarding guidelines for use of generative artificial intelligence in the Government of the Northwest Territories.
- 757-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 757-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Yellowknife Centre regarding health permit requirements.
- 758-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 758-20(1) from the Minister responsible for the Status of Women to the Member for Monfwi regarding implementation of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls to Action.
- 762-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up to Oral Question 762-20(1) from the Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs to the Member for Great Slave regarding a functional communications review.

Returns to Written Questions

- 17-20(1) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 17-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Yellowknife Centre regarding staff turnover and vacancy rates.
- 18-20(1) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 18-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Yellowknife Centre regarding surgical wait times and backlogs.

Reports of Committees on the Review of Bills

- Bill 22-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake reported that the Standing Committee on Government Operations had reviewed Bill 22, *Legislation Act*, and that Bill 22 was ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole as amended and reprinted.

Bill 23-20(1) The Member for Monfwi reported that the Standing Committee on Social Development had reviewed Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Children's Law Act*.

The Member for Monfwi, seconded by the Member for Mackenzie Delta, moved that the review period for Bill 23: *An Act to Amend the Children's Law Act*, be extended to October 29, 2025.

The motion was CARRIED.

Bill 24-20(1) The Member for Monfwi reported that the Standing Committee on Social Development had reviewed Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Family Law Act*.

The Member for Monfwi, seconded by the Member for Mackenzie Delta, moved that the review period for Bill 24: *An Act to Amend the Family Law Act*, be extended to October 29, 2025.

The motion was CARRIED.

Bill 27-20(1) The Member for Monfwi reported that the Standing Committee on Social Development had reviewed Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act*.

The Member for Monfwi, seconded by the Member for Mackenzie Delta, moved that the review period for Bill 27: *An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act*, be extended to October 29, 2025.

The motion was CARRIED.

Bill 28-20(1) The Member for Monfwi reported that the Standing Committee on Social Development had reviewed Bill 28, *An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act, No. 2*, and that Bill 28 was ready for consideration in Committee of the Whole.

Bill 29-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake reported that the Standing Committee on Government Operations had reviewed Bill 29, *First Responders Workers Compensation Amendment Act*.

The Member for Frame Lake, seconded by the Member for Great Slave, moved that the review period for Bill 29: *First Responders Workers' Compensation Amendment Act*, be extended by 120 days.

The motion was CARRIED.

Tabling of Documents

- 366-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 49-20(1): Compassionate Medical Evacuation Policy. Tabled by the Premier for the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 367-20(1) 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. Tabled by the Premier for the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 368-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Motion 55-20(1): Staffing Solutions to Rebuild and Reform Healthcare Now. Tabled by the Premier for the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 369-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 23-20(1): Report on the Review of Land Use Permitting and Water Licensing Regulatory Framework in the Northwest Territories. Tabled by the Premier for the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.
- 370-20(1) Additional Information for Return to Written Question 17-20(1), Staff Turnover and Vacancy Rates. Tabled by the Premier for the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 371-20(1) Additional Information for Return to Written Question 18-20(1), Surgical Wait Times and Backlogs. Tabled by the Premier for the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 372-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 22-20(1): Standing Committee on Public Accounts Report on the Review on the 2023-2024 Public Accounts. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 373-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 24-20(1): Standing Committee on Public Accounts Report on the Review of the Auditor General's 2024 Audit of the Stanton Territorial Hospital Renewal Project. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 374-20(1) 2024-2025 Interim Financial Report - Non-consolidated Financial Statements (unaudited). Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 375-20(1) Northwest Territories Power Corporation Amended Capital Budget. Tabled by the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

- 376-20(1) Report of the Northwest Territories Integrity Commissioner on the Complaint by Mr. Benjamin Adams about Mr. Shane Thompson, MLA. Tabled by the Deputy Speaker.
- 377-20(1) Elections NWT Annual Report 2024-2025. Tabled by the Speaker.
- 378-20(1) Northwest Territories Equal Pay Commissioner Annual Report 2024-2025. Tabled by the Speaker.
- 379-20(1) Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report 2024-2025. Tabled by the Speaker.
- 380-20(1) Northwest Territories Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner Annual Report 2024/2025. Tabled by the Speaker.
- 381-20(1) Northwest Territories Integrity Commissioner Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly for 2024. Tabled by the Speaker.
- 382-20(1) Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories Annual Report 2024/2025. Tabled by the Speaker.
- 383-20(1) Speaking Up for Fairness – 2024/2025 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Ombud. Tabled by the Speaker.
- 384-20(1) Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly Annual Report 2025. Tabled by the Speaker.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

Bill 32: *An Act to Amend the Public Service Act, No. 2*

Notice given by the Minister of Finance

The Speaker adjourned the House at 4:27 p.m.



Hon. Shane Thompson
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Glen Rutland
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly