

## Votes and Proceedings

### FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

#### **October 23, 2025**

The Assembly commenced sitting at 1:30 p.m. with the Honourable Shane Thompson, Speaker, presiding.

#### **Members' Attendance**

Present: 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, 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 Dehcho, Member for Monfwi.

#### **Ministers' Statements**

- 156-20(1) The Minister of Environment and Climate Change made a statement regarding the 2025 NWT Environmental Audit.
- 157-20(1) The Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories made a statement regarding the Homelessness Strategy.

#### **Members' Statements**

- 756-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding jurisdictional responsibility for Commissioner's land within municipal boundaries.
- 757-20(1) The Member for Sahtu made a statement about preparing for a remediation economy in the Sahtu region.

- 758-20(1)      The Member for Mackenzie Delta made a statement regarding contingency power options in small communities.
- 759-20(1)      The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding mental health supports for Northwest Territories youth.
- 760-20(1)      The Member for Great Slave made a statement regarding the results of her gardening challenge to Cabinet Members.
- 761-20(1)      The Member for Range Lake made a statement regarding lead levels in drinking water at Yellowknife schools.
- 762-20(1)      The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake made a statement regarding the Housing Northwest Territories Maintenance Conference.
- 763-20(1)      The Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh made a statement regarding Dene Nation Public Safety Forum resolutions.
- 764-20(1)      The Member for Yellowknife Centre made a statement regarding impacts of encampments in Yellowknife.
- 765-20(1)      The Honourable Member for Nahendeh made a statement regarding Nahendeh region Premier's Award winners.

#### Motions

- 63-20(1)      Creation of an Emergency Management Agency for the Northwest Territories

Moved by the Member for Range Lake.

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife Centre, that the Government of the Northwest Territories accept the After-Action Review Report recommendation to "Create one dedicated territorial Emergency Management Agency for the NWT, providing coordination support to local authorities leading the emergency response(s)";

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories implement the recommendation to create one territorial Emergency Management Agency for the Northwest Territories within the recommended timeframe of 0-12 months;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories bring forward the necessary policy changes and resources to implement the recommendation by May 2026, as recommended by Transitional Solutions Inc.;

AND FURTHERMORE, that in accepting the recommendation the Government of the Northwest Territories consider repositioning existing resources within the

public service in addition to new investments, including establishing new mandates for existing, new or amalgamated line departments;

AND FURTHERMORE, that a dedicated Emergency Management Agency so established will work to implement the remaining recommendations of the After-Action Review Report, including ensuring that the care of children, elders and persons with disabilities are better supported by public safety policies and programs;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories respond to this motion in 120 days.

The Member for Range Lake requested a recorded vote. The results of the recorded vote were:

Members for: Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, Sahtu, Yellowknife Centre, Range Lake, Inuvik Boot Lake, Frame Lake, Great Slave, Mackenzie Delta, Yellowknife North. (9)

Members against: None. (0)

Members abstaining: Thebacha, Yellowknife South, Hay River North, Hay River South, Inuvik Twin Lakes, Nunakput. (6)

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Sahtu sought and received unanimous consent to return to Item 6 on the Orders of the Day, Recognition of Visitors in the Gallery.

#### Written Questions

21-20(1)      The Member for Yellowknife North asked a question of the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding changes to child and youth counselling services.

#### Reports of Standing and Special Committees

26-20(1)      Standing Committee on Social Development Report on the Statutory Review of the *Legal Aid Act*

The Member for Mackenzie Delta, seconded by the Member for Range Lake, moved that Committee Report 26-20(1), Standing Committee on Social Development Report on the Statutory Review of the *Legal Aid Act*, be received and adopted by the Assembly.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Mackenzie Delta, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife North, moved that 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.

27-20(1) Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Bill 23: *An Act to Amend the Children's Law Act* and Bill 24: *An Act to Amend the Family Law Act*

The Member for Mackenzie Delta, seconded by the Member for Range Lake, moved that Committee Report 27-20(1), Standing Committee on Social Development Joint Report on Review of Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Children's Law Act*, and of Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Family Law Act*, be deemed read and printed in Hansard in its entirety.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Mackenzie Delta, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife North, moved that Committee Report 27-20(1), Standing Committee on Social Development Joint Report on Review of *Bill 23, An Act to Amend the Children's Law Act*, and Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Family Law Act*, be received and adopted by the Assembly.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Mackenzie Delta, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife North, 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 its earliest opportunity subsequent to the passage of 120 days.

The motion was CARRIED.

28-20(1) Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Bill 27: *An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act*

The Member for Mackenzie Delta, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife North, moved that the remainder of Committee Report 28-20(1), Standing Committee on Social Development

Report Review of Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act*, be deemed read and printed in Hansard in its entirety.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Mackenzie Delta, seconded by the Member for Range Lake, moved that Committee Report 28-20(1), Standing Committee on Social Development Report on a Review of Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act*, be received and adopted by the Assembly.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Mackenzie Delta, seconded by the Member for Sahtu, 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

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| 409-20(1) | 36th Annual Victims Assistance Fund Report 2024-2025. Tabled by the Minister of Justice.   |
| 410-20(1) | Administration of the Northwest Territories <i>Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i> Annual Report 2024-2025. Tabled by the Minister of Justice. |
| 411-20(1) | Housing Northwest Territories Annual Report 2024-2025. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.                                       |
| 412-20(1) | Annual Report on Official Languages 2024-2025. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Official Languages.  |
| 413-20(1) | Aurora College Corporate Plan 2025-2026. Tabled by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.  |
| 414-20(1) | Northwest Territories 9-1-1 Service 2024-2025 Annual Report. Tabled by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.  |

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

Bill 33:                    *Technical Safety Statutes Amendment Act*

Notice given by the Minister of Infrastructure.

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 Bill 23: *An Act to Amend the Children's Law Act*, Bill 24: *An Act to Amend the Family Law Act*, Bill 27: *An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act* and Tabled Document 385-20(1): 2026-2027 Capital Estimates, and reported progress with one motion carried and that Bills 23, 24 and 27 are ready for Third Reading.

**Committee Motion 83-20(1)**

The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee defer further consideration of the Capital Estimates for the Department of Infrastructure.

The motion was CARRIED

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

The Speaker adjourned the House at 7:53 p.m.



Hon. Shane Thompson  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Glen Rutland  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly