

Votes and Proceedings

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

March 13, 2025

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

- 119-20(1) The Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission made a statement regarding the importance of workplace safety.
- 120-20(1) The Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories made a statement regarding local housing organizations - partnerships in housing.
- 121-20(1) The Minister of Health and Social Services made a statement regarding long-term care.
- 122-20(1) The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment made a statement regarding Northwest Territories critical minerals priorities and provided an advance projects update.

Members' Statements

- 605-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding collective bargaining.
- 606-20(1) The Member for Range Lake made a statement regarding the role of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police in the Northwest Territories.
- 607-20(1) The Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh made a statement welcoming astronaut Col. Jeremy Hansen.
- 608-20(1) The Member for Sahtu made a statement regarding Marine Transportation Services 2025 resupply for Sahtu communities.
- 609-20(1) The Member for Mackenzie Delta made a statement regarding illegal drug activity in small communities.
- 610-20(1) The Member for Great Slave made a statement offering reflections on the sitting and upcoming Yellowknife.
- 611-20(1) The Member for Monfwi made a statement regarding impacts of drugs in Tłı̄chǫ communities.
- 612-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding the St. John Therapy Dog Programs and its volunteers.
- 613-20(1) The Member for Dehcho made a statement regarding the impacts of climate change on Dehcho infrastructure.
- 614-20(1) The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake made a statement recognizing staff.
- 615-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife Centre made a statement regarding the *Scientists Act* and regulations and support for northern scientists.
- 616-20(1) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh made a statement regarding the events of February 28 to March 2, 2025.
- 617-20(1) The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South made a statement regarding the retirement of Steve Loutitt.

Acknowledgements

- 13-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake acknowledged King Charles III Coronation Medal recipient Yvonne Quick.

Written Questions

- 14-20(1) The Member for Monfwi asked a question of the Minister of Justice regarding title transfer issues in the Tłıchq̓ region.
- 15-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake asked a question of the Minister of Finance regarding environmental liabilities.

Tabling of Documents

- 311-20(1) Plain Language Summary for Bill 23: *An Act to Amend the Children's Law Act*. Tabled by the Minister of Justice.
- 312-20(1) Statement of Consistency for Bill 23: *An Act to Amend the Children's Law Act*. Tabled by the Minister of Justice.
- 313-20(1) Plain Language Summary for Bill 24: *An Act to Amend the Family Law Act*. Tabled by the Minister of Justice.
- 314-20(1) Statement of Consistency for Bill 24: *An Act to Amend the Family Law Act*. Tabled by the Minister of Justice.
- 315-20(1) Waste Reduction and Recovery Program 2023-2024 Annual Report. Tabled by the Minister of Environment and Climate Change.
- 316-20(1) Physical Activity, Sport, and Recreation Fund Annual Report 2023-2024 . Tabled by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.
- 317-20(1) 2025-26 Corporate Plan Northwest Territories Hydro Corporation and Northwest Territories Power Corporation. Tabled by the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.
- 318-20(1) A Draft for Discussion: Private Member's Bill – *An Act to Amend the Public Service Act*. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife North.
- 319-20(1) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Statement of Consistency for *An Act to Amend the Public Service Act*. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife North.
- 320-20(1) Explanation of the Proposal for a Private Member's Bill: *An Act to Amend the Public Service Act*. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife North.
- 321-20(1) Frequently Asked Questions on a Private Member's Bill Proposal to Address Concerns Raised by Nurses Regarding the *Public Service Act* – by Shauna Morgan, Yellowknife North.

322-20(1) Summary of Members' Absences for the Period May 23, 2024 to February 4, 2025. Tabled by the Speaker.

Motions

51-20(1) Affirmative Action Policy

Moved by the Member for Yellowknife Centre:

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE seconded by the Member for Range Lake, that this Legislative Assembly calls upon the Government of the Northwest Territories to immediately halt any further advancement and implementation of the new Indigenous Employment Policy, also known as IEP, and return to using the Affirmative Action Policy without delay as the primary hiring guidelines for the Government of the Northwest Territories;

AND FURTHER, that the Minister of Finance engage with the Standing Committee on Government Operations prior to any further changes in the Government of the Northwest Territories' hiring policy, to discuss and seek guidance that can improve the Affirmative Action Policy which ultimately strengthens the Government of the Northwest Territories hiring practices, with the intent that supports northern Indigenous, longer-term northerners, women, persons with disabilities, as well as other marginalized communities

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

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

Members for: Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh, Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Range Lake, Member for Frame Lake. (4)

Members against: Member for Dehcho, Member for Sahtu, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Member for Monfwi, Member for Great Slave, Member for Mackenzie Delta, Honourable Member for Thebacha, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Honourable Member for Hay River North, Honourable Member for Hay River South, Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Honourable Member for Nunakput. (13)

Members abstaining: Member for Yellowknife North. (1)

The motion was DEFEATED.

Moved by the Member for Yellowknife North:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Monfwi, that the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly undertake a comprehensive review of healthcare management practices, bargaining structures and labour policies, in consultation with nurses, labour unions, independent professional associations, frontline healthcare workers, and other key stakeholders to identify and recommend measures that:

- (i) reinforce workplace protections for nurses and healthcare workers, including improved work-life balance initiatives, competitive compensation, and mental health supports;
- (ii) address management practices that contribute to low workplace morale, fostering a supportive and collaborative working environment;
- (iii) strengthen recruitment and retention strategies for nurses and healthcare staff through focused incentives and stable workforce planning;
- (iv) increase accountability in the administration of healthcare in the Northwest Territories to ensure that policies reflect the realities of frontline work and lead to real improvements in working conditions in all healthcare settings including hospitals, health centres and health cabins;

AND FURTHER, that the Legislative Assembly engage thoroughly with labour unions, professional associations, health agencies and Indigenous governments to ensure that these measures accurately reflect the needs of healthcare workers in the Northwest Territories;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the comprehensive review of healthcare management practices, bargaining structures and labour policies be referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development for further study.

Motion to Amend Motion 52-20(1): Strengthening Support for
Nurses and Healthcare Workers

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, to amend Motion 52-20(1): Strengthening Support for Nurses and Healthcare Workers, by adding the words “the employer’s” between the words “of” and “management” in the fifth clause of the preamble, such that the clause reads:

“AND WHEREAS recruitment and retention of nurses and healthcare workers remain a serious challenge and require proactive review of the employer’s management and labour policies to ensure fair treatment, safe working conditions and adequate professional support to improve working conditions and job satisfaction”

The motion was CARRIED.

Motion to Amend Motion 52-20(1): Strengthening Support for Nurses and Healthcare Workers

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, to amend Motion 52-20(1): Strengthening Support for Nurses and Healthcare Workers, as amended, by adding the words “the employer’s” between the words “practices” and “bargaining” in the first clause, such that the clause reads:

“NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the member for Monfwi, that the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly undertake a comprehensive review of healthcare management practices, the employer’s bargaining structures and labour policies, in consultation with nurses, labour unions, independent professional associations, frontline healthcare workers, and other key stakeholders to identify and recommend measures that:

- (i) reinforce workplace protections for nurses and healthcare workers, including improved work-life balance initiatives, competitive compensation, and mental health supports;
- (ii) address management practices that contribute to low workplace morale, fostering a supportive and collaborative working environment;
- (iii) strengthen recruitment and retention strategies for nurses and healthcare staff through focused incentives and stable workforce planning;
- (iv) increase accountability in the administration of healthcare in the Northwest Territories to ensure that policies reflect the realities of frontline work and lead to real improvements in working conditions in all healthcare settings including hospitals, health centres and health cabins”

The motion was CARRIED.

Motion to Amend Motion 52-20(1) Motion to Amend Motion 52-20(1):
Strengthening Support for Nurses and Healthcare Workers

The Member for Great Slave moved the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, to amend Motion 52-20(1): Strengthening Support for Nurses and Healthcare Workers, as amended, by adding the words “the employer’s” between the words “practices” and “bargaining” in the third clause, such that the clause reads:

“AND FURTHERMORE, that the comprehensive review of healthcare management practices, the employer’s bargaining structures and labour policies be referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development for further study”

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Yellowknife North requested a recorded vote on Motion 52-20(1), Strengthening Support for Nurses and Healthcare Workers as amended. The results of the recorded vote were:

Members for: Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, Member for Dehcho, Member for Sahtu, Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Range Lake, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Member for Monfwi, Member for Frame Lake, Member for Great Slave, Member for Mackenzie Delta Member for Yellowknife North. (11)

Members against: None. (0)

Members abstaining: Honourable Member for Thebacha, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Honourable Member for Hay River North, Honourable Member for Hay River South, Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Honourable Member for Nunakput. (7)

The motion was CARRIED AS AMENDED.

Motions

54-20(1) Extended Adjournment of the House to May 22, 2025

Moved by the Member for Yellowknife North:

I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River North, that notwithstanding Rule 2.1, when the House Adjourns on Thursday, March 13, 2025, it shall be adjourned until Thursday, May 22, 2025;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to May 22, 2025, 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.

Motion to Amend Motion 54-20(1): Extended Adjournment of the House to May 22, 2025

The Member for Mackenzie Delta moved the following motion:

I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Hay River North, to amend Motion 54-20(1): Extended Adjournment of the House to May 22, 2025, by changing all references of Thursday, May 22, 2025, to Wednesday, May 21, 2025.

The motion was CARRIED.

Motion 54-20(1), Extended Adjournment of the House to May 22, 2025, was CARRIED AS AMENDED.

First Reading of Bills

Bill 25 *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2025-2026*

Introduced by the Minister of Finance.

In accordance with Rule 8.2(3), the Speaker deemed Bill 25, *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2025-2026* read for the first time and ready for second reading.

Second Reading of Bills

Bill 23: *An Act to Amend the Children's Law Act*

Introduced by the Minister of Justice.

The Honourable Member for Hay River North, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kam Lake, moved that Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Children's Law Act*, be read for the second time.

The motion was CARRIED.

Bill 23 was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development.

Bill 24: *An Act to Amend the Family Law Act*

Introduced by the Minister of Justice.

The Honourable Member for Hay River North, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kam Lake, moved that Bill 23, *An Act to Amend the Family Law Act*, be read for the second time.

The motion was CARRIED.

Bill 24 was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development.

Bill 25: *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2025-2026*

Introduced by the Minister of Finance.

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nunakput, moved that Bill 25, *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2025-2026*, be read for the second time.

The motion was CARRIED.

Third Reading of Bills

Bill 25: *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2025-2026*

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nunakput, moved that Bill 25, *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2025-2026*, be read for the third time and requested a recorded vote.

The Minister of Finance requested a recorded vote. The results of the recorded vote were:

Members for: Member for Dehcho, Member for Sahtu, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Member for Monfwi, Member for Frame Lake, Member for Great Slave, Member for Mackenzie Delta, Member for Yellowknife North, Honourable Member for Thebacha, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Honourable Member for Hay River North, Honourable Member for Hay River South, Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Honourable Member for Nunakput. (15)

Members against: Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Range Lake. (3)

Members abstaining: None. (0)

Assent

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

Bill 11: *An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act*

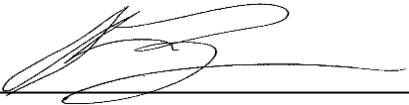
Bill 12: *Business Day Statute Law Amendment Act*

Bill 19: *Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures),
No. 3, 2024-2025*

Bill 20: *Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditure,) No. 2,
2024-2025*

Bill 25: *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2025-2026*

The Speaker adjourned the House at 8:24 p.m.



Hon. Shane Thompson
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Glen Rutland
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly