

Votes and Proceedings

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

May 27, 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 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: Member for Dehcho, Member for Mackenzie Delta.

Ministers' Statements

- 134-20(1) The Minister of Finance made a statement regarding strategic information technology modernization for enhanced service delivery.
- 135-20(1) The Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories made a statement regarding the 2025 Canadian Biomass Award.
- 136-20(1) The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment made a statement regarding the 2025 NorthWords Writers Festival.
- 137-20(1) The Minister of Health and Social Services made a statement providing updates to improving Cultural Safety and Anti-Racism.

Members' Statements

- 661-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding 2025 NorthWords Writers Festival and Launch of Book of Hope: Healthcare and Survival in the North.
- 662-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding the Northwest Territories 2023 Wildfire Season After Action Review.
- 663-20(1) The Member for Great Slave made a statement regarding the Northwest Territories Nominee Program.
- 664-20(1) The Member for Sahtu made a statement regarding Colville Lake School.
- 665-20(1) The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake made a statement regarding legislation to address drug-related crime.
- 666-20(1) The Member for Monfwi made a statement regarding Student Financial Assistance.
- 667-20(1) The Member for Range Lake made a statement regarding *Canada Health Act* compliance.
- 668-20(1) The Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh made a statement regarding Indigenous treaty rights and healthcare access.
- 669-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife Centre made a statement regarding the Senior Envoy to Canada.
- 670-20(1) The Member for Kam Lake made a statement regarding equitable access to sport.
- 671-20(1) The Member for Nahendeh made a statement regarding the Jonathan Antoine documentary "Hunting in the Dehcho".

Follow-Up to Oral Questions

- 598-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up for Oral Question 598-20(1) from the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment to the Member for Monfwi regarding the Senior Home Heating Subsidy program.

Tabling of Documents

- 348-20(1) 2023/2024 Report on the Departmental Indigenous Employment Plans Results. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.

349-20(1) Letter dated May 20, 2025 from Yellowknives Dene First Nation to Premier Simpson regarding Burials of Children Who Attended St. Joseph's Residential School. Tabled by the Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh.

Notices of Motion

59-20(1) Establishment of Electoral Boundaries Commission
Notice given by the Member for Yellowknife Centre.

60-20(1) Extended Adjournment of the House to October 16, 2025
Notice given by the Member for Yellowknife North.

Motions

59-20(1) Establishment of Electoral Boundaries Commission

The Member for Yellowknife North received unanimous consent to proceed with Motion 59-20(1) and moved the following:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Kam Lake, that the Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission, 2025, is hereby established;

AND FURTHER, that the Legislative Assembly recommends to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories that the Honourable Judge R. D. Gorin of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories be appointed chairperson, and Mr. Daryl Dolynny of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, Mr. Sam Dyck of Inuvik, Northwest Territories, Mr. Kevin O'Reilly of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories, and Ms. Georgina Rolt of Yellowknife, Northwest Territories be appointed members of the Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission, 2025.

The motion was CARRIED.

55-20(1) Staffing Solutions to Rebuild and Reform Healthcare Now

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 take immediate action to improve the recruitment and retention of all doctors, nurses and allied healthcare workers through higher wages, contract flexibility and enhanced benefits;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories work with the Public Service Alliance of Canada and Union of Northern Workers to develop an inclusive bargaining structure for all healthcare workers to give the frontline a real voice in negotiations;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories undertake the following actions:

- Establish a working group composed of members of the Executive Council and regular Members of the Legislative Assembly to oversee primary care reform and health system sustainability initiatives;
- Move to interest-based negotiations with the Northwest Territories Medical Association before the fall of 2025;
- Publicly release the details of the new locum contract for Emergency Department doctors;
- Improve flexibility in locum contracts to assist doctor and nurse retention and recruitment;
- Phase out agency nurses with a three-year plan that improves working conditions for frontline staff with improved professional development and compensation;
- Enhance financial incentives for shift work for doctors, nurses and allied healthcare workers;
- Implement minimum staff-to-patient ratios at all Northwest Territories hospitals;
- Implement practitioner-led innovation to ensure continuous improvement on the frontline;
- Negotiate physician licence-sharing between Nunavut and Alberta to eliminate red tape preventing entry of new physicians into the Northwest Territories healthcare system;
- Prioritize pan-national physician licencing in the Government of the Northwest Territories Federal Engagement Strategy;
- Fast-track development of new policies on emerging medical technologies, such as AI, e-consults and virtual care;
- Expand the role of nurse practitioners in all regions of the Northwest Territories to improve access to healthcare and decrease costs; and
- Modernize auxiliary care at hospitals and establish a licensing body for paramedics;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories release an action plan to implement the aforementioned actions that is time-bound and fully costed by the fall of 2025;

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

The Member for Great Slave requested a recorded vote. The results of the recorded vote were:

Members for: Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, 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 Yellowknife North. (9)

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.

56-20(1) Code of Conduct Referral to the Standing Committee on Procedures and Privileges

Moved by the Member for Great Slave:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife South, that this Legislative Assembly direct the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges to consider if the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly Member's Code of Conduct requires any amendments or updates regarding statements made online by Members of the Legislative Assembly outside of our proceedings;

AND FURTHER, that the Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges deliver a report to this House on the Matter by February 2026.

The Member for Great Slave requested a recorded vote. The results of the recorded vote were:

Members for: Member for Frame Lake, Member for Great Slave, 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 Inuvik Twin Lakes, Honourable Member for Nunakput. (9)

Members against: Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Range Lake, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake. (4)

Members abstaining: Honourable Member for Hay River South. (1)

The motion was CARRIED.

First Reading of Bills

Bill 27: *An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act*

Introduced by the Minister of Justice.

In accordance with Rule 8.2(3), the Speaker deemed Bill 27, *An Act to Amend the Protection Against Family Violence Act* read for the first time and ready for second reading.

The motion was CARRIED.

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 Tabled Document 340-20(1): Supplementary Estimates, Infrastructure Expenditures, No. 1, 2025-2026, and Tabled Document 341-20(1): Supplementary Estimates, Operations Expenditures and Borrowing Authorization, No. 1, 2025-2026, and reported progress with one motion carried.

Committee Motion 77-20(1)

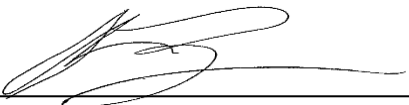
The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that consideration of Tabled Document 341-20(1), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures and Borrowing Authorization), No. 1, 2025-2026, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 341-20(1) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal Session through the form of an appropriation bill.

The motion was CARRIED.

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

The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House at 8:01 p.m.



Hon. Shane Thompson
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Glen Rutland
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

