

## Votes and Proceedings

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

**February 26, 2026**

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 Monfwi, 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:** Member for Mackenzie Delta, Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh,

### Ministers' Statements

- 186-20(1) The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment provided a Tourism 2030 update.
- 187-20(1) The Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories provided an Auditor General of Canada progress update.
- 188-20(1) The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs made a statement recognizing Outstanding Volunteer Awards Recipients for 2025.

### Members' Statements

- 930-20(1) The Member for Range Lake made a statement regarding information technology in Northwest Territories healthcare.
- 931-20(1) The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake made a statement regarding the Rock the Rings Curling Festival.

- 932-20(1) The Member for Great Slave made a statement regarding Transboundary Water and Water Security.
- The Member for Great Slave sought and received unanimous consent to conclude her statement.
- 933-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding primary healthcare access.
- 934-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding Primary and Community Healthcare Reform.
- 935-20(1) The Member for Dehcho made a statement regarding three-phase power for Enterprise.
- 936-20(1) The Member for Monfwi made a statement regarding medical travel.
- 937-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife Centre made a statement regarding the future of the mining industry in the Northwest Territories.
- 938-20(1) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh made a statement regarding 2025 Northwest Territories Youth Volunteer of the Year Award recipient Ava Erasmus.

#### Notices of Motion

- 68-20(1) Appointment of Member to the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission

Notice given by the Member for Yellowknife Centre.

#### Motions

- 68-20(1) Appointment of Member to the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission

The Member for Yellowknife Centre sought and received unanimous consent to deal with Motion 68-20(1).

Moved by the Member for Yellowknife Centre.

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kam Lake, that Ms. Jennie Vandermeer of Norman Wells be recommended to the Commissioner of the Northwest Territories for appointment to the Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission, effective immediately for a term of four years.

The motion was CARRIED.

67-20(1) Establishment of an Office of the Child and Youth Advocate

Moved by the Member for Range Lake.

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Monfwi, that this Legislative Assembly calls upon the Government of the Northwest Territories to take immediate steps to establish an independent Office of the Child and Youth Advocate as an Officer of the Legislative Assembly;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories introduce enabling legislation defining the Advocate's mandate, powers, and responsibilities, including but not limited to the authority to investigate complaints, initiate systemic reviews, make recommendations, and report directly to the Legislative Assembly;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories make comprehensive amendments to the *Child and Family Services Act* to strengthen transparency and accountability and to require cooperation with, and responsiveness to, the oversight exercised by the Child and Youth Advocate in relation to the administration of the *Act*.

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

Members for: Dehcho, Sahtu, Yellowknife Centre, Range Lake, Inuvik Boot Lake, Monfwi, Frame Lake, Great Slave, Yellowknife North (9)

Members against: None. (0)

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

The motion was CARRIED.

#### Follow-up for Oral Questions

918-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up for Oral Question 918-20(1) from the Minister of Infrastructure to the Member for Inuvik Boot Lake about chipsealing of the Inuvik Bypass Road.

1014-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up for Oral Question 1014-20(1) from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to the Member for Frame Lake regarding municipal land transfers.

1017-20(1) The Clerk provided a follow-up for Oral Question 1017-20(1) from the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to the Member for Yellowknife North regarding biomass energy and forest management.

#### Returns to Written Questions

27-20(1) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 27-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Yellowknife North regarding physician recruitment and retention.

29-20(1) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 29-20(1) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Yellowknife North regarding paramedic contracts.

#### Tabling of Documents

480-20(1) Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee Report 29-20(1): Report on Committee Project: Housing as a Human Right. Tabled by the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories.

481-20(1) Photographs of Holdover Fires on Highway 3 Approximately 15 km from Fort Providence, Taken December 11, 2025. Tabled by the Member for Dehcho.

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

The Deputy Chair, the Member for Dehcho, reported that the Committee of the Whole considered Tabled Document 448-20(1): 2026-2027 Main Estimates, and reported progress.

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

The Speaker adjourned the House at 7:55 p.m.

  
Hon. Shane Thompson  
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly

  
Harjot Sidhu  
Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly