

Votes and Proceedings

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

March 4, 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 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

- 194-20(1) The Minister of Environment and Climate Change made a statement regarding preparedness for the 2026 wildfire season.
- 195-20(1) The Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories made a statement regarding the Territorial Housing Needs Assessment.
- 196-20(1) The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs made a statement regarding the Planning in Flood Hazard Areas Guide.

Members' Statements

- 961-20(1) The Member for Range Lake made a statement regarding the Arctic Winter Games application process.

- 962-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding the Territorial Housing Needs Assessment.
- 963-20(1) The Member for Great Slave made a statement about pathfinding supports for residents with disabilities.
- 964-20(1) The Member for Sahtu made a statement regarding the 2026 Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada (PDAC) Conference.
- 965-20(1) The Member for Mackenzie Delta made a statement regarding Local Housing Authorities Roles and Responsibilities.
- 966-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding the Territorial Housing Needs Assessment.
- 967-20(1) The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake made a statement about advancing liquefied natural gas production in the Beaufort Delta.
- 968-20(1) The Member for Monfwi made a statement regarding land-leasing policy.
- The Member for Monfwi sought and received unanimous consent to conclude her statement.
- 969-20(1) The Member for Dehcho made a statement regarding reinstatement of the Solutions to Educate People (STEP) program.
- 970-20(1) The Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh made a statement regarding communities' access to Building Canada Homes program funding.
- 971-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife Centre made a statement regarding public trust in Government of the Northwest Territories direct appointments.
- 972-20(1) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh made a statement regarding improved access to care in the Dehcho Region.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

- 39-20(1) Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges Report on the Review of the Rules of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, No. 3

The Member for Great Slave, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River South, moved that Committee Report 39-20(1),

Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges Report on the Review of the Rules of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, No. 3, be deemed read and printed in Hansard in its entirety.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Great Slave, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River South, moved that Committee Report 39-20(1), Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges Report on the Review of the Rules of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, No. 3, be received by the Assembly and referred to the Committee of the Whole.

The motion was CARRIED.

40-20(1)

Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges Report on Electoral Participation in the Northwest Territories

The Member for Great Slave, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River South, moved that Committee Report 40-20(1), Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges Report on Electoral Participation in the Northwest Territories, be deemed read and printed in Hansard in its entirety.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Great Slave, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River South, moved that Committee Report 40-20(1), Standing Committee on Procedure and Privileges Report on Electoral Participation in the Northwest Territories, be received and adopted by the Assembly.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Great Slave, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River South, moved that pursuant to Rule 9.4(5)(a), the Government of the Northwest Territories table a response to the recommendations in this report directed to it within 120 days or at the earliest opportunity subsequent to the passage of 120 days.

The motion was CARRIED.

Tabling of Documents

- 484-20(1) NWT Department of Health and Social Services Ten-Year Report on the Northwest Territories *Health Information Act*. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 485-20(1) Photo of Holdover Fires taken March 1, 2026 at kilometer 40 on Highway 3. Tabled by the Member for Dehcho.
- 486-20(1) BC Gov News Article titled "Expanding Cancer Coverage to Firefighters". Tabled by the Member for Range Lake.
- 487-20(1) Letters from Nahanni Butte Dene Band and Ttsets'ehk'ehdeli First Nation to the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding Visits and Announcements in Nahanni Butte and Jean Marie River. Tabled by the Honourable Member for Nahendeh.

Notices of Motion

- 76-20(1) Improving Transparency for Late-Term Direct Appointments
Notice given by the Member for Yellowknife Centre.
- 77-20(1) Establishment of a Comprehensive Territorial Crime Reduction Strategy
Notice given by the Member for Yellowknife Centre.
- 78-20(1) Extended Adjournment of the House to May 27, 2026
Notice given by the Member for Yellowknife North.

Motions

- 69-20(1) Taking Action on Energy Affordability and Security in the Northwest Territories

Moved by the Member for Range Lake:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife Centre, that this Legislative Assembly calls upon the Government of the Northwest Territories to establish a Contingency Support Fund to assist Northwest Territories businesses experiencing financial losses due to power outages, including compensation for verifiable outage-related losses and support for preventative measures such as surge protection and continuity planning;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories expand and revise existing electricity rate subsidies to mitigate the escalating cost of power for both residents and businesses, recognizing the disproportionately high cost of electricity in northern and remote communities;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories direct the responsible Minister to work with utilities, Indigenous governments, and federal partners to create a Territorial Grid Reliability and Modernization Investment Plan to address upgrades to aging transmission and distribution infrastructure, and invest in renewable and alternative energy sources to reduce diesel use and long-term costs;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories invest in emerging and proven technologies that reduce power costs, increase system efficiency, and improve grid reliability, including but not limited to community-scale battery energy storage systems and advanced artificial intelligence-based energy management solutions, to ensure sustainable, affordable, and resilient energy delivery for all residents;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories take immediate action with new dedicated resources to ensure critical energy infrastructure is operational in all Northwest Territories communities, such as three-phase power in the Hamlet of Enterprise;

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, Dehcho, Yellowknife Centre, Range Lake, Inuvik Boot Lake, Monfwi, Frame Lake, Mackenzie Delta. (8)

Members against: Sahtu, Great Slave, Yellowknife North. (3)

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

The motion was CARRIED.

First Reading of Bills

Bill 45: *Civil Forfeiture Act*

Introduced by the Minister of Justice.

In accordance with Rule 8.2(3), the Speaker deemed Bill 45, *Civil Forfeiture Act*, read for the first time and ready for second reading.

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 with one motion carried, that consideration of Tabled Document 448-20(1) is concluded, that the House concur on those estimates, and that an appropriation bill to be based thereon be introduced without delay.

Committee Motion 158-20(1)

The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that consideration of Tabled Document 448-20(1), 2026-2027 Main Estimates, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 448-20(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 Dehcho, seconded by the Honourable Member for Kam Lake, moved concurrence of the report of the Committee of the Whole. The motion was CARRIED.

The Speaker adjourned the House at 5:51 p.m.



Hon. Shane Thompson
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Harjot Sidhu
Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly