

Votes and Proceedings

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

March 5, 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

- 197-20(1) The Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories made a statement regarding repairs to social housing units.
- 198-20(1) The Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation made a statement regarding the Northwest Territories Power Corporation's new hybrid board and future opportunities.

Members' Statements

- 973-20(1) The Member for Range Lake made a statement regarding Collège Nordique.
- The Member for Range Lake sought and received unanimous consent to conclude his statement.

- 974-20(1) The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake made a statement wishing a happy birthday to Hayley Rodgers.
- 975-20(1) The Member for Sahtu made a statement regarding the Colville Lake School.
- 976-20(1) The Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh made a statement regarding an Indigenous-led mining economy.
- The Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh sought and received unanimous consent to conclude his statement.
- 977-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding a healthcare workforce plan.
- The Member for Yellowknife North sought and received unanimous consent to conclude her statement.
- 978-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding the development of legislation.
- 979-20(1) The Member for Dehcho made a statement regarding the Northwest Territories Alcohol Strategy.
- 980-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife Centre made a statement regarding no-fault insurance.
- 981-20(1) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh made a statement regarding the Northwest Territories Association of Communities Annual General Meeting Awards.
- 982-20(1) The Member for Monfwi delivered a statement celebrating the life of Kevin Nitsiza Jr.

Tabling of Documents

- 488-20(1) Plain Language Summary for Bill 45: *Civil Forfeiture Act*. Tabled by the Minister of Justice.
- 489-20(1) Statement of Consistency for Bill 45: *Civil Forfeiture Act*. Tabled by the Minister of Justice.
- 490-20(1) Trespass Legislation What We Heard Report. Tabled by the Minister of Justice.

- 491-20(1) Annual Report for the Education Bodies of the Northwest Territories for the 2024-2025 School Year. Tabled by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment
- 492-20(1) Inter-Activity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 (April 1 to December 31, 2025). Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 493-20(1) CBC News Article Titled “Yellowknife Family Calls for Changes to Medical Travel Policy After Troubling Experience”. Tabled by the Member for Range Lake.

Motions

- 72-20(1) Protection of Transboundary Waters and the Rights of Northerners

Moved by the Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Dehcho, that this Legislative Assembly calls on the Government of the Northwest Territories to formally oppose Alberta’s Bill 7, *Water Amendment Act, 2025* and any upstream policies that could enable inter-basin transfers or basin mergers without robust science-based safeguards and full consideration of downstream impacts on the Northwest Territories;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories urge the Government of Canada to ensure that “one project, one review” agreements preserve strong, enforceable protections for water quality, aquatic ecosystems, and cumulative-effects oversight, including in shared watersheds that affect the Northwest Territories;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories ensure its transboundary water agreements allow for transparent, timely, and proactive notification and information-sharing from Alberta and federal regulators regarding any incidents or releases with potential transboundary effects, consistent with best practices learned from the Kearl tailings seepage events;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories ensure that its transboundary water agreements allow for transparent, timely, and proactive notification and information-sharing from Alberta and federal regulators regarding any proposed or actual treatment, discharge, or release of oil sands tailings with potential transboundary impacts;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories reaffirms that First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Peoples must be meaningfully consulted and involved, consistent with their rights, on decisions affecting shared waters and watershed governance;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories strengthen and publicly communicate its ongoing hydrologic monitoring and drought reporting for the Northwest Territories, including clear summaries of conditions, drivers, and implications for communities and ecosystems;

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

The Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh requested a recorded vote. The results of the recorded vote were:

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

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.

70-20(1) Referral of Tabled Document 483-20(1): 2025-26 Electoral Boundaries Commission Final Report

Moved by the Member for Yellowknife Centre:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Tabled Document 483-20(1): 2025-26 Electoral Boundaries Commission Final Report be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration.

The motion was CARRIED.

71-20(1) Referral of Tabled Document 445-20(1): 2025 Review of Members of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly Compensation and Benefits Report

Moved by the Member for Yellowknife Centre:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, that Tabled Document 445-20(1): 2025 Review of Members of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly Compensation and Benefits Report, be referred to Committee of the Whole for consideration.

The motion was CARRIED.

75-20(1) Waiving of Rent for Elders in Public Housing

Moved by the Member for Monfwi:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Dehcho, that this Legislative Assembly calls upon the Government of the Northwest Territories to implement a policy to waive rent for all elders aged 65 and over residing in public housing units as soon as administratively feasible;

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

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

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

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.

73-20(1) Strengthening the Government of the Northwest Territories' Medical Travel Policy

Moved by the Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Monfwi, that the Legislative Assembly calls upon the Government of the Northwest Territories to strengthen the Medical Travel Policy by establishing a rapid-response emergency support mechanism, including a contingency fund, to provide interim approval and funding for medical travel escorts in extraordinary circumstances while awaiting federal NIHB decisions, where delays risk undermining patient safety, continuity of care, or the exercise of Indigenous Peoples' rights to access health services beyond territorial borders as per recognized Treaty obligations;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories build greater flexibility into Medical Travel determinations of whether in-territory care is "reasonably available," explicitly considering significant diagnostic, surgical, and treatment wait times;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories implement a Compassionate Medical Evacuation Policy with all reasonable speed so that medevac supports complement and integrate with the Medical Travel Policy, including guarantees for patient escorts where needed;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories ensure that all amendments to the Medical Travel Policy are made in accordance with the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation Act*, consistent with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, and in a manner that respects and upholds Indigenous and Treaty rights recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

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

The Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh requested a recorded vote. The results of the recorded vote were:

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

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.

74-20(1) Transfer of Housing Northwest Territories Market Rental Units to Tenants

Moved by the Member for Monfwi:

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Mackenzie Delta, that this Legislative Assembly calls upon the Government of the Northwest Territories to conduct a detailed assessment of its market rental inventory to determine which units are suitable for transfer, taking into account building condition, community needs, and long-term housing strategy impacts;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories develop and implement a program allowing for the transfer or sale of selected market rental units to the current tenants occupying them, subject to clear eligibility criteria including, but not limited to, tenancy duration, payment history, and demonstrated capacity for property ownership;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories be encouraged to support this initiative by reviewing any legislative, regulatory, or policy adjustments necessary to facilitate the orderly transfer of market rental units to current tenants.

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

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

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

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.

First Reading of Bills

Bill 46: *Prevention of Proceedings that Hamper Expression on Matters of Public Interest Act*

Introduced by the Member for Mackenzie Delta.

In accordance with Rule 8.2(3), the Speaker deemed Bill 46, *Prevention of Proceedings that Hamper Expression on Matters of Public Interest Act*, read for the first time and ready for second reading.

The motion was CARRIED.

Bill 47: *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) 2026-2027*

Introduced by the Minister of Finance.

In accordance with Rule 8.2(3), the Speaker deemed Bill 47, read for the first time and ready for second reading.

The motion was CARRIED.

Second Reading of Bills

Bill 45: *Civil Forfeiture Act*

Introduced by the Minister of Justice.

The Honourable Member for Thebacha, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River North, moved that Bill 45, *Civil Forfeiture Act*, be read for the second time.

The motion was CARRIED.

Bill 45 was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development.

Bill 47: *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) 2026-2027*

Introduced by the Minister of Finance.

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, seconded by the Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, moved that Bill 47, *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) 2026-2027*, be read for the second time.

The motion was CARRIED.

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 Bill 34, *Trespass to Property Act*, and Committee Report 37-20(1): Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Bill 34, *Trespass to Property Act*, and reported progress with six motions carried, that Committee Report 37-20(1) is concluded and that Bill 34 is ready for third reading.

Committee Motion 159-20(1)

The Member for Monfwi moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories issue clear guidance and instructions to schools across the Northwest Territories on how to use and apply the *Trespass to Property Act* to their settings, including providing additional funds for producing prohibition of entry signage as needed.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 160-20(1)

The Member for Monfwi moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories create regulations under the *Summary Convictions Procedures Act* to include ticketable offences for trespassing prior to Bill 34: *Trespass to Property Act*, coming into force.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 161-20(1)

The Member for Monfwi moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories ensures that statistics on prosecution for trespassing are routinely included as part of general reporting on offences and convictions in the Northwest Territories once the *Trespass to Property Act* has come into force, to provide insight on the effectiveness of the legislation.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 162-20(1)

The Member for Monfwi moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories urgently create legislation that will regulate private security companies in the Northwest Territories, and include a requirement for Northern and Indigenous cultural awareness training.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 163-20(1)

The Member for Monfwi moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories create and publicize clear policy guidance for the general public, private security companies and Indigenous Governments in the Northwest Territories on how the *Trespass to Property Act* can be used.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 164-20(1)

The Member for Monfwi moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a response to this report within 120 days.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Dehcho, seconded by the Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, moved concurrence of the report of the Committee of the Whole. The motion was CARRIED.

Third Reading of Bills

Bill 47: *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) 2026-2027*

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, seconded by the Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, moved that Bill 47, *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) 2026-2027*, be read for the third time and requested a recorded vote.

The results of the recorded vote were:

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

Members against: Tu Nedhé-Willideh, Yellowknife Centre, Range Lake. (3)

Members abstaining: None. (0)

The motion was CARRIED.

The Speaker adjourned the House at 8:45 p.m.



Hon. Shane Thompson
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Harjot Sidhu
Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly