

25-20(1)

The Honourable R.J. Simpson  
Premier

**Senior Envoy**

Mr. Speaker, I have a Return to Written Question asked by the Member for Yellowknife Centre on October 31, 2025, regarding the Senior Envoy.

The position of Senior Envoy to the Government of Canada was established in the Premier's Office to create a dedicated, proactive, and strategic political link between the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), the federal government, and interested Indigenous governments. The role is ultimately intended to ensure that territorial priorities are represented early and effectively in federal discussions, and that the GNWT maintains consistent and senior-level engagement in Ottawa. This is in addition to providing strategic and senior level support to the Premier and Ministers within the GNWT.

Mr. Speaker, the Senior Envoy is an important role that provides year-round advocacy to keep our government's priorities moving forward between ministerial visits and major meetings. The position has represented the GNWT at key political and intergovernmental meetings and events in Ottawa, in bilateral meetings between the GNWT and Indigenous governments, and during high-profile visits in Northwest Territories, such as the Prime Minister's visit to Fort Smith.

Throughout all these engagements the GNWT's priorities remain front and center. Discussions have spanned a wide range of topics, including opportunities for public policy to be informed by Northern or Indigenous knowledge, reinforcing priorities for housing and strategic infrastructure investment in the NWT, and promoting opportunities to strengthen Arctic sovereignty and security.

Since creating the position, the role has delivered sustained and focused federal engagement on the GNWT's priorities, including supporting key files like the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the Arctic Economic and Security Corridor, and the Taltson Expansion Project, while also advancing Budget 2025 advocacy and targeted outreach to federal ministerial offices.

Mr. Speaker, when priorities align, the Senior Envoy has also helped amplify Indigenous governments' voices in Ottawa and continues to support ongoing coordinated advocacy with federal partners on shared northern goals.

As of October 31, 2025, the Senior Envoy had held discussions with representatives from seventeen regional and community-level NWT Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. While priorities have varied, common themes have included sharing respective priorities, offering support to strengthen connections with the federal government in Ottawa, and advancing housing and strategic infrastructure projects.

Mr. Speaker, success is measured by progress on federal priorities and tangible outcomes for Northerners, not by activity alone. Not all engagements of the Senior Envoy are formal meetings; many occur through informal conversations that nonetheless support relationship-building and strategic information sharing. Collectively, these engagements demonstrate the value of maintaining a consistent NWT presence in Ottawa and ensuring the territory's interests remain visible to

federal decision-makers.

Decisions that affect the North are made every day in Ottawa, and the Senior Envoy ensures that the NWT has a consistent and senior presence. This role is ultimately focused on delivering tangible results, turning access in Ottawa into funding, investments and decisions that directly benefit the Northwest Territories.

Mr. Speaker, later today at the appropriate time, I will table a document that provides greater detail on some of the meetings and advocacy work that the Senior Envoy has been engaged with during the position's tenure.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker.