

Votes and Proceedings

SECOND SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

June 4, 2021

The Assembly commenced sitting at 9:59 am, with the Honourable Frederick Blake Jr., Speaker, presiding.

The Member for Monfwi stood in the Legislative Assembly and declared his decision to resign his seat. Pursuant to s. 10(a) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*, the Member's seat was declared vacant immediately.

Ministers' Statements

- 173-19(2) The Minister of Infrastructure provided an update on the Community Access Program.
- 174-19(2) The Minister responsible for Seniors made a statement regarding Senior Citizens Month and World Elder Abuse Awareness Day June 15.
- 175-19(2) The Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation made a statement regarding the Community Housing Support Program.
- 176-19(2) The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment made a statement regarding Mining Week 2021 and initiatives.
- 177-19(2) The Premier made a statement regarding the Dene National Memorial March.

Members' Statements

- 767-19(2) The Member for Nunakput made a statement reflecting on current events and the end of the sitting.
- 768-19(2) The Member for Hay River South made a statement regarding graduation in Hay River.

- 769-19(2) The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes made a statement regarding the 2021 graduating class.
- 770-19(2) The Member for Great Slave made a statement regarding intimate partner violence.
- 771-19(2) The Member for Thebacha made a statement offering reflections on graduation and Session.
- 772-19(2) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding the staffing appeals process.
- 773-19(2) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding the future of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.
- 774-19(2) The Member for Kam Lake made a statement regarding the Northwest Territories arts sector.
- 775-19(2) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh delivered a eulogy for Stephen Squirrel.

Tabling of Documents

- 429-19(2) Inter-activity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 for the period April 1 to March 31, 2021. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 430-19(2) Project Charter for Government of the Northwest Territories – NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines COVID Recovery Working Group. Tabled by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.
- 431-19(2) Funding Support for Airlines. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 432-19(2) Plain Language Summary for Bill 33: *National Indigenous Peoples Day Act*. Tabled by the Premier.
- 433-19(2) 2019-2020 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Equal Pay Commissioner. Tabled by the Speaker.
- 434-19(2) Addressing the Gender Wage Gap: Proactive Pay Equity Legislation – Pay Equity Division, Canadian Human Rights Commission, July 2020. Tabled by the Speaker.
- 435-19(2) Electoral Boundaries Commission 2021 Terms of Reference. Tabled by the Speaker.

436-19(2) Summary of Members' Absences for the period February 3, 2021 to May 26, 2021. Tabled by the Speaker.

Motions

37-19(2) Creation of a Northwest Territories Food Security Strategy.

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake.

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Thebacha, that the Government of the Northwest Territories develop a food security strategy by engaging Northwest Territories residents, harvesters and agricultural producers to develop a coordinated and comprehensive approach to programs and services with specific targets, actions and timelines;

AND FURTHER, that the Premier appoint a Minister responsible for food security to lead this work;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the food security strategy include the following;

- The Government of the Northwest Territories prioritize the development of a food security strategy, based on the lessons learned from community-based food security initiatives, and to complete this strategy in 12-18 months;
- The Government of the Northwest Territories begin interdepartmentally advancing food security by identifying principles for NWT food security over the next four months;
- The Government of the Northwest Territories coordinate the income assistance review with the development of a Northwest Territories food security strategy to ensure the most vulnerable residents have access to affordable and nutritious food;
- The Government of the Northwest Territories review the effectiveness of all Government of the Northwest Territories food security funding programs as based on the principles for achieving Northwest Territories food security and to revise program funding where necessary over 6-12 months;
- The Government of the Northwest Territories implement community-based food security coordinators in the most food insecure communities in the Northwest Territories;
- The Government of the Northwest Territories remove all of its legislative and regulatory barriers over the next 12 months to facilitate regional sharing of harvested meat or other food products;
- The Government of the Northwest Territories pilot an initiative immediately that improves the effectiveness of community-based freezers, kitchens and food preparation and storage programs in the

highest risk communities, and use this experience to inform the development of the food security strategy;

- The Government of the Northwest Territories develop and implement tracking of local food production and set specific targets to improve food security; and
- The Government of the Northwest Territories develop and implement a northwest territories food security website with email and phone contacts immediately so there is a clear point of contact in the government of the northwest territories to track community concerns and advance initiatives

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

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

Members for: Kam Lake, Frame Lake, Yellowknife North, Hay River South, Thebacha. (5)

Members against: (0)

Members abstaining: Nahendeh, Sahtu, Hay River North, Range Lake, Yellowknife Centre. (5)

The motion was CARRIED.

38-19(2) Extended Adjournment of the House to October 14, 2021.

Moved by the Member for Yellowknife North.

I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River North, that, notwithstanding Rule 4, when this House adjourns on Friday, June 4, 2021, it shall be adjourned until Thursday, October 14, 2021;

AND FURTHER, that any time prior to October 14, 2021, if the Speaker is satisfied, after consultation with the Executive Council and Members of the Legislative Assembly, that the public interest requires that the House should meet at an earlier time during the adjournment, or at a time later than the scheduled resumption of the House, the Speaker may give notice and thereupon the House shall meet at the time stated in such notice and shall transact its business as if it had been duly adjourned to that time.

The motion was CARRIED.

First Reading of Bills

Bill 35: *Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2021-2022*

Introduced by Minister of Finance.

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, seconded by the Honourable Member for Sahtu, moved that Bill 35, *Supplementary Appropriation Act, (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2021-2022*, be read for the first time.

The motion was CARRIED.

Second Reading of Bills

Bill 33: *National Indigenous Peoples Day Act*

The Honourable Member for Hay River North, seconded by the Honourable Member for Sahtu, moved that Bill 33, *National Indigenous Peoples Day Act*, be read for the second time.

The motion was CARRIED.

Bill 33 was referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

Bill 35: *Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No.1, 2021-2022*

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, seconded by the Honourable Member for Sahtu, moved that Bill 35, *Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No.1, 2021-2022*, 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 Hay River South, reported that the Committee of the Whole considered Committee Report 15-19(2): Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the Auditor General's 2020 Audit of Early Childhood to Grade 12 Education in the Northwest Territories; Committee Report 16-19(2): Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Housing Phase One: Needs for NWT Homeowners and Private Landlords; Minister's Statement 161-19(2): Emerging Stronger: COVID-19 Social and Economic Recovery Plan; and Tabled

Document 413-19(2): Emerging Stronger: Planning the NWT's Social and Economic Recovery Together, and reported progress with 19 motions carried, and that Committee Report 15-19(2), Committee Report 16-19(2), Minister's Statement 161-19(2) and Tabled Document 413-19(2) are concluded.

Committee Motion 134-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Thebacha:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment develop performance measures for each area highlighted in the compliance audit and the corresponding Department of Education, Culture and Employment action plan to achieve specific outcomes, and to report annually on these measures.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 135-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Thebacha:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment report annually on each action related to revitalizing official languages, including on the oral proficiency assessment tools, the Indigenous Language Revitalization Certification program and the Mentor-Apprentice program.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 136-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Thebacha:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment include Indigenous language proficiency when hiring positions in the Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 137-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Thebacha:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment conduct greater oversight on

inclusive schooling practices, including through spot checks on individualized learning plans, and report annually on the outcome-oriented performance measures.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 138-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Thebacha:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment bring forward a plan to better support schools in small communities, to ensure students across the territory have an equitable learning experience;

AND FURTHER, that the department work with district education authorities to minimize the impacts of differing school calendars on northern distance learning.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 139-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Thebacha:

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

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 140-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Kam Lake:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories increase access to titled land to help homeowners and landlords meet financing and insurance obligations in NWT communities.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 141-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Kam Lake:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories develop a policy and program barrier document and support Indigenous groups to overcome barriers to qualify for federal financing programs, like ministerial loan guarantees.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 142-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Kam Lake:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories partner with the northern private sector, non-profit, and Indigenous Governments to develop Government lease agreements to support access to financing for the development of housing stock and programs.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 143-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Kam Lake:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories increase government funding and rental housing stock to provide supportive rental housing programs, for vulnerable populations to have housing and on-site support to remain housed.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 144-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Kam Lake:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories work with community partners to create an indeterminate community-based preventative maintenance program for homeowners.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 145-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Kam Lake:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories expand and increase funding to the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Repair Program and decrease program eligibility requirements to reduce the future number of homes requiring major repairs and support solutions for existing homeowners.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 146-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Kam Lake:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories implement homeownership programs with person-centered case management to navigate the complex northern housing environment, including mortgage financing, land tenure, and affordable home insurance.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 147-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Kam Lake:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories remove interdepartmental policy requirements creating barriers for applicants to receive the rental accommodation allowance including requirements to be on the public housing waiting list and the payment of utility arrears.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 148-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Kam Lake:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories allow rental allowance to be portable so people can choose where they want to live and housing that meet their needs.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 149-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Kam Lake:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories remove interdepartmental policy barriers for homeowners including requirements to be on the public housing waiting list and the payment of utility arrears. This also includes removing the policy requiring applicants to sell their homes.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 150-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Kam Lake:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories develop a program to help homeowners access insurance and work with homeowners to keep costs low.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 151-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Kam Lake:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories expand and develop the current home insurance benefit allowance to support future and existing homeowners.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 152-19(2)

Moved by the Member for Kam Lake:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a response to the recommendations contained in this report within 120 days.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Hay River South, seconded by the Member for Kam Lake, moved concurrence of the report of the Committee of the Whole.

The motion was CARRIED.

Third Reading of Bills

Bill 25: *An Act to Amend the Education Act*

The Honourable Member for Hay River North, seconded by the Honourable Member for Sahtu, moved that Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Education Act*, be read for the third time.

The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment requested a recorded vote. The results of the recorded vote were:

Members for: Kam Lake, Frame Lake, Yellowknife North, Nahendeh, Sahtu, Hay River North, Hay River South, Thebacha, Yellowknife South, (10)

Members against: (0)

Members abstaining: (0)

The motion was CARRIED.

Bill 35: *Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2021-2022*

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, seconded by the Honourable Member for Sahtu, moved that Bill 35, *Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2021-2022*, be read for the third time.

The Minister of Finance requested a recorded vote. The results of the recorded vote were:

Members for: Kam Lake, Frame Lake, Yellowknife North, Nahendeh, Sahtu, Hay River North, Hay River South, Thebacha, Yellowknife South, Yellowknife Centre. (10)

Members against: (0)


Members abstaining: (0)

The motion was CARRIED.

The Speaker adjourned the House at 2:13 pm.



Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Glen Rutland
Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly