

Votes and Proceedings

SECOND SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

October 18, 2022

The Assembly commenced sitting at 1:30 pm, with the Honourable Frederick Blake Jr., Speaker, presiding.

Members' Attendance

Present: Member for Deh Cho, Member for Frame Lake, Member for Great Slave, Honourable Member for Hay River North, Member for Hay River South, Honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Member for Monfwi, Honourable Member for Nahendeh, Member for Nunakput, Honourable Member for Range Lake, Honourable Member for Sahtu, Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh, Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Yellowknife North, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Absent: Member for Kam Lake, Member for Thebacha.

Ministers' Statements

- 268-19(2) The Minister of Finance made a statement regarding the 2023-2024 Capital Estimates.
- 269-19(2) The Minister of Health and Social Services provided a Child and Family Services update.

Members' Statements

- 1182-19(2) The Member for Hay River South made a statement regarding the response to Hay River flooding.
- 1183-19(2) The Member for Nunakput made a statement about bargaining services to Nunakput communities.

- 1184-19(2) The Member for Great Slave made a statement regarding income assistance and public housing.
- 1185-19(2) The Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh made a statement regarding the human right to adequate housing.
- 1186-19(2) The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes made a statement regarding maintenance of the Dempster Highway.
- 1187-19(2) The Member for Monfwi made a statement regarding income support policies.
- 1188-19(2) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding changes to the *Liquor Act*.
- 1189-19(2) The Member for Deh Cho made a statement regarding education in small communities.
- 1190-19(2) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding a regional study under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.
- 1191-19(2) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh delivered a eulogy for Therese Bertrand.
- 1192-19(2) The Honourable Member for Range Lake delivered a eulogy for Tom Williams.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

- 33-19(2) Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment Report on Bill 52, *Elevators and Lifts Act*.
- 34-19(2) Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on Report on the Review of the 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Ombud.

Tabling of Documents

- 723-19(2) 2023-2024 Capital Estimates. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 724-19(2) Inuvialuit Water Board 2021-2022 Annual Report and Financial Statements. Tabled by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.

- 725-19(2) The Natural Resources Conversation Trust Fund Financial Statements for the Year Ended March 31, 2022. Tabled by the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources.
- 726-19(2) Director of Child and Family Services Annual Report 2021-2022. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 727-19(2) Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission 2023 Corporate Plan. Tabled by the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.
- 728-19(2) Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission 2021 Annual Report. Tabled by the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.
- 729-19(2) Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission Paths Towards Safety Strategic Plan 2023-2027. Tabled by the Minister responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission.
- 730-19(2) Documents Related to Sewage Issues in Homes in Łutsel K'e. Tabled by the Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh.

Notices of Motion

- 62-19(2) Reappointment and Appointment of Human Rights Commission Members
Notice given by the Member for Hay River South.
- 63-19(2) Reappointment of Human Rights Adjudication Panel Members
Notice given by the Member for Hay River South.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

The Chair, the Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, reported that the Committee of the Whole considered Tabled Document 528-19(2), 2021 Review of Members' Compensation and Benefits - Northwest Territories and Tabled Document, 654-19(2), 2021-2022 Northwest Territories Electoral Boundaries Commission Final Report, and reported progress with 27 motions carried, and that Tabled Documents 528-19(2) and 654-19(2) are concluded.

Committee Motion 262-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that the initial Member orientation be revised so it can be given over a 30-day period.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 263-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that a review of the orientation content be completed, to ensure information is comprehensive and adequate for the Members to fulfill their jobs as MLAs.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 264-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that the Members' Handbook be updated prior to the next Assembly and be kept up to date, so that everyone is working from the most current version.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 265-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends the establishment of a fund of \$30,000.00 annually (\$120,000.00 for the Assembly) that MLAs can apply to for ongoing professional development.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 266-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that the Board of Management, if the Members agree, may use some of this fund to provide training for all Members in a specific area of interest.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 267-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that all MLAs, excluding the Speaker, Premier, or Ministers, are expected to participate on a minimum of two standing committees (not including the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight) and at least one special committee (if there are special committees).

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 268-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that the basic indemnity payable to every Member, with the exception of the Speaker, Premier, and Ministers, be reduced by \$4,000;

AND FURTHER, that Members, with the exception of the Speaker, Premier, and Ministers, receive a stipend of \$2,000 for each standing committee they are a member of, to a maximum of \$4,000;

AND FURTHERMORE, if a Member sits on more than two committees, there will be no additional stipend paid.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 269-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that if a Member is removed from a committee, the \$2,000.00 stipend would be removed and prorated to the date of removal;

AND FURTHER, if they become a member of another committee, the stipend would be reinstated once they become a member of that committee.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 270-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that the Board of Management review the workload of all standing committees every two years and, if necessary, reassign Members to rebalance the Members' workload.

The motion was DEFEATED.

Committee Motion 271-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that the Deputy Chair for all the committees, with the exclusion of the Deputy Chair of the Committee of the Whole, receive a stipend of \$3,000.00.

The motion was DEFEATED.

Committee Motion 272-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that the basic allowance for maintaining a second home in Yellowknife, if required, should be increased from \$31,000.00 per year to \$32,000.00.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 273-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that the basic allowance for maintaining a second home in Yellowknife should be reviewed annually by the Board of Management, to ensure it remains in line with the current rental market.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 274-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that an amount of \$2,000.00 per year be paid to all MLAs with dependent children, regardless of the number of dependent children they have.

The motion was DEFEATED.

Committee Motion 275-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that a reciprocal agreement with other registered pension plans, including Public Service Superannuation and Northern Employee Benefits Services (NEBS) be negotiated so pension amounts can be transferred.

The motion was DEFEATED.

Committee Motion 276-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that the MLAs be advised as to when they are approaching 60 days within being sworn in, so they have time to decide about whether to access the supplementary plan, to ensure they do not inadvertently miss the deadline.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 277-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that Members receive a top-up for every year they were in a position as Speaker, Premier or Minister regardless of when they served in that position;

AND FURTHER, that this top-up not exceed the annual basic indemnity at that time;

AND FURTHERMORE, the Member will receive one month of the Speaker, Premier, or Minister allowance for every year served in any of those positions with the top-up calculated based on the current indemnity allowance paid to a Member holding one of those offices;

AND FURTHERMORE, the time served in any of those positions is to be rounded up to the next full year.

The motion was DEFEATED.

Committee Motion 278-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that the word 'Premier' be added to any clause in section 79 where reference is made to the Speaker or Minister.

The motion was DEFEATED.

Committee Motion 279-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that the following clause in section 79 (page 48) of the Members' Handbook be removed:

"for a Member who is a former Speaker or Minister, the transition allowance is equal and limited to their annual indemnity at the time of eligibility."

The motion was DEFEATED.

Committee Motion 280-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that Members be advised that they can access financial planning support from an independent advisor when they leave office.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 281-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that while each MLA continues to negotiate the salary level for their constituency assistant, the minimum hourly rate should not be less than \$25.00 per hour.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 282-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that the budget amounts available to MLAs for constituency assistant salaries be increased by the Canadian consumer price index annually.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 283-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that a shared office space for Yellowknife Members of the Legislative Assembly be established;

AND FURTHER, that it is located in a central part of the city;

AND FURTHERMORE, that it is accessible to all Yellowknife constituents and others who are seeking information or support.

The Member for Frame Lake moved the following amendment to Committee Motion 282-19(2):

I MOVE that Committee Motion 283-19(2) be amended to read as follows:

“that this Assembly recommends that Yellowknife Members of the Legislative Assembly be permitted to apply to the Board of Management to establish an office in Yellowknife outside the Legislative Assembly building as is the case with all non-Yellowknife members. ”

The motion to amend Committee Motion 283-19(2) was CARRIED.

The motion was CARRIED AS AMENDED.

Committee Motion 284-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this assembly recommends the reference document “So You Want to be a Member of the Legislative assembly” be updated and revised to ensure the information is current, visually appealing, and easy to read.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 285-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this assembly recommends that the document referenced in Motion 23 is more easily found on the Legislative Assembly website.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 286-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends an awareness and information video, "A Day in the Life of an MLA" be created, by following and interviewing Members and Ministers about their work in the Legislative Assembly. It is important to show the difference between the role of a Minister and a Member. This would assist with awareness not only for potential candidates, but the public in general.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 287-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that clearly articulated and publicly available information about the purpose of the Legislative Assembly and the work and roles of an MLA in the NWT be created, so individuals can become more informed and engaged in the political process. This could include such things as educational and information resources, fact sheets, classroom activities, workshops or webinars.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 288-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that a campaign to advertise and promote the purpose of the Legislative Assembly and the work and roles of an MLA, along with messaging about how important it is for the public to be informed about how government is created.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 289-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that the information about pay and benefits be moved to a stand-alone tab in the side bar under the Members tab on the Legislative assembly Website.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 290-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly recommends that an electronic package of any relevant materials relating to the work of future Independent Commissions to Review Members' Compensation and Benefits be delivered to the members of future Independent Commissions as soon as they are appointed, to allow them time to read, review, and prepare for the work they will conduct and complete.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 291-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that the existing electoral districts be maintained, subject to necessary adjustments to boundaries between electoral districts within Yellowknife and Inuvik, as recommended by the 2021 Electoral Boundaries Commission.

The Honourable Member for Hay River North requested a recorded vote. The results of the recorded vote were:

Members for: Member for Hay River South, Member for Great Slave, Honourable Member for Nahendeh, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, Honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Honourable Member for Hay River North. (6)

Members against: Member for Deh Cho, Member for Yellowknife North, Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh, Member for Monfwi, Honourable Member for Sahtu, Honourable Member for Range Lake, Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre. (7)

Members abstaining: Member for Frame Lake. (1)

The motion was DEFEATED.

Committee Motion 292-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that the Legislative Assembly consider striking an advisory committee with appropriate composition to review all existing names of electoral districts, taking into consideration culturally and historically appropriate factors, and to make recommendations, if any, for change.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 293-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly consider amending section 9(c) of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* and/or sections 54-55 of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* to clarify any inconsistencies.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 294-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly consider deleting from section 9 of the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act* any reference to the federal *Northwest Territories Act*.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 295-19(2)

The Member for Hay River South moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Assembly consider correcting the spelling of the Deh Cho electoral district in Schedule A of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

The motion was CARRIED.

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

The Speaker adjourned the House at 7:17 pm.



Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly