

Votes and Proceedings

SECOND SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

November 1, 2022

The Assembly commenced sitting at 1:30 pm, with Mrs. Lesa Semmler, Deputy 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 Kam Lake, Member for Monfwi, Honourable Member for Nahendeh, Member for Nunakput, Honourable Member for Range Lake, Honourable Member for Sahtu, Member for Thebacha, Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Yellowknife North, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Absent: Honourable Member for Mackenzie Delta, Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh.

Ministers' Statements

- 285-19(2) The Minister of Health and Social Services made a statement regarding the review of supplementary health benefits.
- 286-19(2) The Minister of Infrastructure made a statement regarding the 25th anniversary of the Arctic Energy Alliance.
- 287-19(2) The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources made a statement about supporting sustainable livelihoods.

Members' Statements

- 1260-19(2) The Member for Hay River South made a statement regarding Riverview Lodge.

- 1261-19(2) The Member for Monfwi made a statement regarding the education system.
- 1262-19(2) The Member for Great Slave made a statement regarding the new Aurora College campus on Tin Can Hill.
- 1263-19(2) The Member for Nunakput made a statement regarding carbon tax and inflation impacts on Nunakput residents.
- 1264-19(2) The Member for Kam Lake made a statement regarding alternative energy.
- 1265-19(2) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding winter camping.
- 1266-19(2) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding a new minimum wage approach.
- 1267-19(2) The Member for Thebacha made a statement about saving small business.
- 1268-19(2) The Member for Deh cho made a statement regarding the Diabetes Framework.
- 1269-19(2) The Member for Nahendeh made a statement regarding speed skating award recipient Val Gendron.
- 1270-19(2) The Honourable Member for Range Lake made a statement about remembering Canadians who fought for our freedoms.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

- 37-19(2) Standing Committee of Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2022 Audit of Addictions Prevention and Recovery Services.

The Member for Yellowknife North, seconded by the Member for Thebacha, moved that Committee Report 37-19(2), Standing Committee of Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2022 Audit of Addictions Prevention and Recovery Services, be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Yellowknife North sought unanimous consent to waive Rule 9.4(4) and refer Committee Report 37-19(2) directly to Committee of the Whole for consideration later in the day.

Consent was granted.

Written Questions

- 52-19(2) The Member for Deh Cho asked a question of the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories regarding the Settlement Maintainer Training Program.
- 53-19(2) The Member for Kam Lake asked a question of the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation regarding Northwest Territories Power Corporation facilitation of alternative energy.

Tabling of Documents

- 766-19(2) Plain Language Summary of Bill 60: *An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products and Carbon Tax Act*. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 767-19(2) NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation 2021-2022 Annual Report. Tabled by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.
- 768-19(2) Framework for Diabetes in Canada. Tabled by the Member for Deh Cho.
- 769-19(2) Bill C-237, *An Act to Establish a National Framework for Diabetes*. Tabled by the Member for Deh Cho.
- 770-19(2) Redacted Reports for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment from the Internal Audit Bureau Obtained under Access to Information. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife North.
- 771-19(2) Redacted Reports for the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs from the Internal Audit Bureau Obtained under Access to Information. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife North.
- 772-19(2) Redacted Reports for the Department of Environment and Natural Resources from the Internal Audit Bureau Obtained under Access to Information. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife North.

- 773-19(2) Redacted Reports for the Department of Finance from the Internal Audit Bureau Obtained under Access to Information. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife North.
- 774-19(2) Redacted Reports for the Department of Infrastructure from the Internal Audit Bureau Obtained under Access to Information. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife North.
- 775-19(2) Redacted Reports for the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment from the Internal Audit Bureau Obtained under Access to Information. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife North.
- 776-19(2) Redacted reports for the Department of Justice from the Internal Audit Bureau Obtained under Access to Information. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife North.
- 777-19(2) Redacted Reports for the Department of Lands from the Internal Audit Bureau Obtained under Access to Information. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife North.
- 778-19(2) Redacted Reports for the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs from the Internal Audit Bureau Obtained under Access to Information. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife North.

Notices of Motion

- 68-19(2) Establishment of Special Committee on Transition Matters
Notice given by the Member for Kam Lake.
- 69-19(2) Extend Adjournment of the House to February 7, 2023.
Notice given by the Member for Thebacha.
- 70-19(2) Amendments to the *Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*
Notice given by the Member for Thebacha.
- 71-19(2) Reappointment of Members to the Northwest Territories Honours and Advisory Council
Notice given by the Member for Sahtu.

First Reading of Bills

Bill 61: *An Act to Amend the Ombud Act*

The Member for Yellowknife North presented Bill 61, *An Act to Amend the Ombud Act*.

In accordance with Rule 8.2(3), the Deputy Speaker deemed Bill 61 read for the first time and ready for second reading.

Bill 62: *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2*

The Minister of Finance presented Bill 62, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2*.

In accordance with Rule 8.2(3), the Deputy Speaker deemed Bill 62 read for the first time and ready for second reading.

Bill 63: *An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act*

The Minister of Education Culture and Employment presented Bill 63, *An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act*.

In accordance with Rule 8.2(3), the Deputy Speaker deemed Bill 63 read for the first time and ready for second reading.

Bill 64: *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3*

The Member for Great Slave presented Bill 64, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 3*.

In accordance with Rule 8.2(3), the Deputy Speaker deemed Bill 64 read for the first time and ready for second reading.

Second Reading of Bills

Bill 60: *An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products and Carbon Tax Act*.

The Minister of Finance, seconded by the Honourable Member for Nahendeh, moved that Bill 60, *An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products and Carbon Tax Act*, be read for the second time.

The motion was CARRIED.

Bill 60 was referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

The Deputy Chair, the Member for Deh Cho, reported that the Committee of the Whole considered Committee Report 36-19(2): Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2020-2021 Public Accounts; Tabled Document 747-19(2): Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2022-2023; and Tabled Document 748-19(2): Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2022-2023, and reported progress with 11 motions carried.

Committee Motion 322-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services provide detailed reporting and analysis on each cost driver of the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority's (NTHSSA) persistent operating deficit;

AND FURTHER, the analysis should quantify how each driver contributes to NTHSSA's operating deficit;

AND FURTHERMORE, the analysis should also quantify, break-down, and explain, for each driver, the difference between:

- 1) budgeted expenses, positions, and programs; and
- 2) actual results.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 323-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Department of Health and Social Services disclose its response to the Office of the Auditor General's 2020-2021 audit observation that many areas of internal controls need improvement at Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority;

AND FURTHER, the Department should also disclose its action items, progress on those action items, and timelines to improve internal controls.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 324-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Department of Finance provide a plan with timelines to enhance reporting on the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) environmental liabilities dashboard by matching reporting practices in the Treasury board of Canada Secretariat's Federal contaminated sites inventory.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 325-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Department of Finance provide more detailed resource revenue data on gross amounts received and calculations of amounts retained;

AND FURTHER, this enhanced reporting should separate annual aggregate values from petroleum, mineral resources, and each other type of resource revenues.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 326-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Comptroller General add to the financial statement discussion and analysis section of the Public Accounts information on tangible capital assets with zero book value and provide a timeline for implementation.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 327-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Department of Finance amend the *Financial Administration Act*, section 35, to move the required release date of the Public Accounts by three months, from December 31 to September 30.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 328-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Department of Finance take steps to publish in-year fiscal reports on a quarterly basis, within a month, and provide a timeline for implementation.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 329-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this Committee recommends that the Department of Finance take steps to digitize the Public Accounts and provide a timeline for implementation and anticipated costs;

AND FURTHER, the digitized presentation of financial results should align with the administrative, economic, functional, and program classifications used in the budget and main estimates documents.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 330-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North 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.

Committee Motion 331-19(2)

The Member for Frame Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that consideration of Tabled Document 747-19(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2022-2023, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 747-19(2) be reported and recommended as ready for further consideration in formal session through the form of an appropriation bill.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 332-19(2)

The Member for Frame Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that consideration of Tabled Document 748-19(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2022-2023, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 748-19(2) 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 Deh Cho, seconded by the Honourable Member for Range Lake, moved concurrence of the report of the Committee of the Whole.

The motion was CARRIED.

Third Reading of Bills

Bill 58: *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2*

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River North, moved that Bill 58, *An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 2*, be read for the third time and requested a recorded vote.

The results of the recorded vote were:

Members for: Deh Cho, Hay River South, Thebacha, Kam Lake, Frame Lake, Nunakput, Yellowknife North, Monfwi, Great Slave, Nahendeh, Yellowknife South, Sahtu, Range Lake, Yellowknife Centre, Hay River North. (15)

Members against: (0)

Members abstaining: (0)

The motion was CARRIED.

Bill 59: *An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act*

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River North, moved that Bill 59, *An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act*, be read for the third time and requested a recorded vote.

The results of the recorded vote were:

Members for: Deh Cho, Hay River South, Thebacha, Kam Lake, Frame Lake, Nunakput, Monfwi, Great Slave, Nahendeh, Yellowknife South, Sahtu, Range Lake, Inuvik Boot Lake, Yellowknife Centre, Hay River North. (15)

Members against: Yellowknife North. (1)

Members abstaining: (0)

The motion was CARRIED.

The Deputy Speaker adjourned the House at 6:42 pm.



Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly