

Votes and Proceedings

SECOND SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

February 9, 2023

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 Kam Lake, Member for Monfwi, Honourable Member for Nahendeh, Member for Nunakput, Honourable Member for Range Lake, Honourable Member for Sahtu, Member for Thebacha, Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh, Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Yellowknife North, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Ministers' Statements

298-19(2) The Premier delivered a February 2023 sessional statement.

Members' Statements

- 1314-19(2) The Member for Hay River South made a statement regarding safer communities legislation.
- 1315-19(2) The Member for Thebacha made a statement regarding outfitters licenses.
- 1316-19(2) The Member for Nunakput made a statement regarding a lack of consultation with hunters and trappers.
- 1317-19(2) The Member for Monfwi made a statement regarding the Frank Channel Bridge expiration in 2024.

- 1318-19(2) The Member for Great Slave made a statement regarding opioid and illicit drug-related deaths.
- 1319-19(2) The Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh made a statement regarding the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.
- 1320-19(2) The Member for Kam Lake made a statement regarding interoperability of Government of the Northwest Territories systems.
- 1321-19(2) The Member for Deh Cho made a statement regarding emergency services in the communities.
- 1322-19(2) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding the Electric Bike Rebate Program.
- 1323-19(2) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding Francophone education.
- 1324-19(2) The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes made a statement regarding the 2023 Arctic Winter Games.
- 1325-19(2) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh delivered a eulogy for David Horesay.

Written Questions

- 56-19(2) The Member for Yellowknife North asked a question of the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs regarding the municipal infrastructure gap.
- 57-19(2) The Member for Yellowknife North asked a question of the Minister of Infrastructure regarding payments for leased space.

Tabling of Documents

- 821-19(2) Aurora College Annual Report 2021-2022. Tabled by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.
- 822-19(2) Bill 7-15(6): *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods Act*. Tabled 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 Bill 62: *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2*, and Committee Report 39-19(2): Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment

Report on Contaminated Sites, and reported progress with 16 motions adopted, that Committee Report 39-19(2) is concluded, and that Bill 62, *An Act to Amend the Income Tax Act, No. 2*, is ready for third reading.

Committee Motion 348-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the government of the northwest territories create a mandatory legislative requirement for companies to operate with approved closure and reclamation plans that are regularly reviewed and updated with appropriate adjustments of financial security.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 349-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories keep closure and reclamation tools up to date and publicly available to ensure the Government of the Northwest Territories is collecting enough security to reflect true costs of closure and reclamation.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 350-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories work inter-departmentally with communities and their existing community-based monitoring programs to align monitoring efforts with the surveillance programs required under regulatory permits and licences.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 351-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories ensure it has the internal expertise to inform regulatory decision-making and inspection capacity to prevent further public liabilities.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 352-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories expand the approach to contaminated sites guidance document to ensure policies and processes are in place to prevent future public environmental liabilities, most significantly projects that result in perpetual care situations;

AND FURTHER, that policy and guidance with respect to public disclosure are also required.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 353-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories establish the internal capacity for an effective early warning system to prevent further public liabilities;

AND FURTHER, this approach will also require clear measures to prevent perpetual care situations, including mandatory financial security that is regularly reviewed and adjusted.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 354-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories ensure legislation has clear and appropriate timelines for remediation and reclamation of inactive or suspended well sites.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 355-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories study the Government of Saskatchewan Institutional Control Program and develop a Northwest Territories model that better implements the polluter pays principle for the long-term and unforeseen remediation of mining sites while providing regulatory certainty with respect to industry relinquishment;

AND FURTHER, a Northwest Territories model should be developed by the end of the 19th Legislative Assembly.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 356-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories implement transparent and clear processes to ensure that securities are established, reviewed and coordinated among various departments.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 357-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories review and amend all legislative requirements regarding the form of financial security for environmental compliance and remediation to ensure financial security must be irrevocable, absolute and unconditional.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 358-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories undertake an immediate review of the oil and gas spills and debris liability regulations to ensure that the absolute liability caps are increased to fully implement the polluter pays principle, reflect best practices and protect the public from liabilities;

AND FURTHER, this review and increases to the caps should be implemented before the end of the 19th Assembly.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 359-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories make financial security information (including operator, land and water related securities, amounts, location of project, form of security, expiry dates) public through a website to help build public confidence in resource management.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 360-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput 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 Report on Prevention and Management of Contaminated Sites reporting practices in the Treasury Board of Canada Secretariat's Federal Contaminated Sites Inventory.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 361-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories develop a plan with a budget and schedule to better support communities in the management of landfills, that includes training, capacity building, best practices in waste management, diversion, backhaul and related matters;

AND FURTHER, this plan should be developed by the end of the 19th Assembly.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 362-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories explore partnerships with industry and industry associations to provide hands-on practical training for landfill managers across the territory.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 363-19(2)

The Member for Nunakput moved the following motion:

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


The motion was CARRIED.

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

The Speaker adjourned the House at 4:58 pm.



Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly


Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly