

Votes and Proceedings

SECOND SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

March 8, 2023

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

Members' Attendance

Present: Member for Frame Lake, Member for Great Slave, 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, Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Yellowknife North, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Absent: Member for Deh Cho, Honourable Member for Hay River North, Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh.

Ministers' Statements

333-19(2) The Minister responsible for the Status of Women made a statement regarding International Women's Day.

334-19(2) The Minister of Housing Northwest Territories made a statement regarding housing partnerships.

Members' Statements

1446-19(2) The Member for Nunakput made a statement regarding Income Assistance and Canada Emergency Response Benefit payments.

1447-19(2) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding the Northern Resident Travel Deduction.

- 1448-19(2) The Member for Hay River South made a statement regarding the Affirmative Action Policy.
- 1449-19(2) The Member for Thebacha made a statement regarding the new Territorial Fire Centre location.
- 1450-19(2) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding a rabies outbreak.
- 1451-19(2) The Member for Monfwi made a statement regarding Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls.
- 1452-19(2) The Member for Great Slave made a statement regarding International Women's Day.
- 1453-19(2) The Member for Kam Lake made a statement regarding International Women's Day.
- 1454-19(2) The Honourable Member for Range Lake made a statement regarding International Women's Day.
- 1455-19(2) The Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre made a statement regarding International Women's Day.
- 1456-19(2) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh made a statement regarding Christmas in January in Nahendeh and Deh Cho.

Written Questions

- 64-19(2) The Member for Kam Lake asked a question of the Minister responsible for Housing Northwest Territories regarding the Housing Northwest Territories funding formula for Local Housing Organizations.

Tabling of Documents

- 881-19(2) Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2022-2023. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 882-19(2) Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2022-2023. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 883-19(2) Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2023-2024. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.

884-19(2) Letter dated March 3, 2023, from Lisa Smith to MLA Hay River South regarding a Case Study on Carbon Tax Impact to One Family in Hay River. Tabled by the Member for Hay River South.

885-19(2) Process Convention on Bills Drafted Pursuant to the Intergovernmental Council Legislative Development Protocol. Tabled by the Member for Thebacha.

Motions

74-19(2) Reconciliatory Review of Housing Northwest Territories' Collection Approach

Moved by the Member for Monfwi.

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Great Slave, that this Legislative Assembly calls upon the Government of the Northwest Territories to pause the garnishment of Elders and Indian Residential School survivors' pensions to pay for Housing NWT arrears immediately;

AND FURTHER, Housing NWT identify all Elders, age 60 and over, and consenting Indian Residential School survivors in public housing who currently owe arrears or who are having their pensions garnished;

AND FURTHERMORE, Housing NWT implement the principles of the Collections Policy and develop a strategy by the 2023-2024 fiscal year to determine the feasibility and reasonableness of collecting arrears from Elders and Indian Residential School survivors;

AND FURTHERMORE, in an act of reconciliation, Housing NWT forgive arrears that cannot be collected despite demonstrated effort for Elders and Indian Residential School survivors;

AND FURTHERMORE, the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a response to this motion within 120 days.

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

Members for: Member for Frame Lake, Member for Great Slave, Member for Hay River South, Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Member for Kam Lake, Member for Monfwi, Member for Nunakput, Member for Thebacha, , Member for Yellowknife North. (9)

Members against: (0)

Members abstaining: Honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Honourable Member for Nahendeh, Honourable Member for Range Lake, Honourable Member for Sahtu, Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South. (6)

The motion was CARRIED.

First Reading of Bills

Bill 74: *Forest Act*

The Minister of Environment and Natural Resources presented Bill 74, *Forest Act*.

In accordance with Rule 8.2(3), the Speaker deemed Bill 74 read for the first time and ready for second reading.

Bill 75: *Council of Women and Gender Diversity Act*

The Minister responsible for the Status of Women presented Bill 75, *Council of Women and Gender Diversity Act*.

In accordance with Rule 8.2(3), the Speaker deemed Bill 75 read for the first time and ready for second reading.

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 Committee Report 45-19(2): Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on Bill 60: *An Act to Amend the Petroleum Products and Carbon Tax Act*, and Tabled Document 813-19(2), 2023- 2024 Main Estimates, and reported progress with six motions carried, and that consideration of Committee Report 45-19(2) is concluded.

Committee Motion 373-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that this Assembly call on the Federal Government to better recognize the specific needs and circumstances of the Northwest Territories in its climate change approach;

AND FURTHER, these specific needs include significantly more funding to make renewable energy options accessible and affordable for all northerners;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Premier of the Northwest Territories convey this motion without delay to the Prime Minister of Canada with a letter requesting a reply.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 374-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

I MOVE THAT this committee recommends that the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC) increase the cap on intermittent renewable energy generation that residents and communities can install to offset their power use, and develop a plan to support projects above the current cap;

AND FURTHER, that NTPC and the Department of Infrastructure provide their response to the May 2021 Net Metering and Community Self-generation Policy Review;

AND FURTHERMORE, for each recommendation, NTPC and the Department should indicate whether it agreed, its workplan for implementation, and its progress towards implementation.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 375-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide funding to community governments to compensate for their increased carbon tax payments;

AND FURTHER, that this committee specifically recommends providing an additional \$2.2 million in the 2023-24 fiscal year, with subsequent funding increasing proportionally to any future increases in carbon tax rates.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 376-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories create a law that requires all carbon tax revenues to be rebated to

households, businesses, community governments, Indigenous governments, and non-governmental organizations;

AND FURTHER, in creating this law, the Government should consider how rebates to each group will work and whether the carbon tax system should be revenue neutral;

AND FURTHERMORE, this law should also require separate accounting and annual reporting.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 376-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

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

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 377-19(2)

The Member for Frame Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee defer further consideration of the Estimates for the Department of Infrastructure at this time.

The motion was CARRIED.

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

The Speaker adjourned the House at 7:57 pm.



Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly