

Votes and Proceedings

SECOND SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

March 27, 2023

The Assembly commenced sitting at 1:31 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-Wiilideh, Honourable Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Yellowknife North, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Absent: None.

Ministers' Statements

- 339-19(2) The Minister of Lands made a statement introducing the Department of Environment and Climate Change.
- 340-19(2) The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment made a statement regarding the Accelerated Digital Adoption Projects for Tomorrow Fund.

Members' Statements

- 1469-19(2) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding land leasing policies.
- 1470-19(2) The Member for Great Slave made a statement regarding youth leadership gatherings.

- 1471-19(2) The Member for Deh Cho made a statement regarding the Alberta-Northwest Territories Transboundary Waters Agreement.
- 1472-19(2) The Member for Monfwi made a statement regarding Housing Northwest Territories Mortgage Arrears.
- 1473-19(2) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding the review of the Fiscal Responsibility Policy.
- 1474-19(2) The Member for Thebacha made a statement regarding the Aurora College Board of Governors.
- 1475-19(2) The Member for Nunakput made a statement regarding Sport and Recreation Funding for Beaufort Delta Communities.
- 1476-19(2) The Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh made a statement regarding the Alberta-Northwest Territories Transboundary Waters Agreement and need for a National Water Strategy.
- 1477-19(2) The Member for Kam Lake made a statement about improving Government of the Northwest Territories procurement policies.
- 1478-19(2) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh delivered a eulogy for Jack Lee Mouse.

Returns to Oral Questions

- 1404-19(2) The Minister of Health and Social Services provided a return to Oral Question 1404-19(2) asked by the Member for Kam Lake regarding childcare funding support for teen parents.
- 1411-19(2) The Minister of Infrastructure provided a return to Oral Question 1411-19(2) asked by the Member for Great Slave regarding the Taltson Hydro Expansion Project.

Returns to Written Questions

- 60-19(2) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 60-19(2) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Hay River South regarding physician recruitment and retention.
- 61-19(2) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 61-19(2) from the Minister of Finance to the Member for Kam Lake regarding Government of the Northwest Territories sole source contracting under Procurement Criteria 1.8.2(a).

- 62-19(2) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 62-19(2) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Kam Lake regarding sole source contracting for the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority under Procurement Criteria 1.8.2(a).
- 63-19(2) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 63-19(2) from the Minister of Health and Social Services to the Member for Kam Lake regarding the use of Indigenous fonts on official documents.

Reports of Standing and Special Committees

- 49-19(2) Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2021-22 Review of the *Official Languages Act*

The Member for Yellowknife North, seconded by the Member for Thebacha, moved that Committee Report 49-19(2), Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of the 2021-22 Review of the *Official Languages Act*, be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

The motion was CARRIED.

- 50-19(2) Standing Committee on Social Development Report - Strengthening Community Supports, Lifting Youth Voices: Recommendations on Suicide Prevention

The Member for Kam Lake, seconded by the Member for Great Slave, moved that Committee Report 50-19(2), Standing Committee on Social Development Report on Strengthening Community Supports, Lifting Youth Voices: Recommendations on Suicide Prevention, be received by the Assembly and moved into Committee of the Whole for further consideration.

The motion was CARRIED.

Tabling of Documents

- 892-19(2) Additional Information for Return to Written Question 61-19(2): Government of the Northwest Territories Sole Source Contracting under Procurement Criteria 1.8.2(a). Tabled by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.

- 893-19(2) Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation Corporate Plan 2023-2024. Tabled by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.
- 894-19(2) Northwest Territories Innovation Action Plan. Tabled by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.
- 895-19(2) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 1423-19(2): Nunakput Court Travel. Tabled by the Minister of Justice.
- 896-19(2) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 1367-19(2): Improving Healthcare in Small Communities. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.
- 897-19(2) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 1435-19(2): Dental Hygienist Regulations. Tabled by the Minister of Health and Social Services.

Notices of Motion for First Reading of Bills

- Bill 80 *Dental Hygienists Profession Statute Amendment Act*
Notice given by the Member for Kam Lake.
- Bill 81 *An Act to Amend the Education Act, No. 2*
Notice given by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.
- Bill 82 *Legal Profession Act*
Notice given by the Minister of Justice.
- Bill 83 *Liquor Act*
Notice given by the Minister of Finance.
- Bill 84 *An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation Act*
Notice given by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.
- Bill 85 *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation Act*
Notice given by the Premier.

Second Reading of Bills

Bill 76 *An Act to Amend the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*

The Member for Thebacha seconded by the Honourable Member for Nahendeh, moved that Bill 76, *An Act to Amend the Electoral Boundaries Commission Act*, be read for the second time.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Thebacha sought unanimous consent to waive Rule 8.2(7) and have Bill 76, *An Act to Amend the Electoral Boundaries Act*, referred directly to Committee of the Whole for consideration later that day.

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 40-19(2): Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on the Review of Bill 61: *An Act to Amend the Ombud Act*; Committee Report 43-19(2): Standing Committee on Government Operations Report on Bill 63: *An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act*; Committee Report 44-19(2): Special Committee on Reconciliation and Indigenous Affairs Final Report: A Northwest Territories Approach to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Negotiating Agreements; Bill 61: *An Act to Amend the Ombud Act*; Bill 63: *An Act to Amend the Official Languages Act*; Tabled Document 881-19(2): Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2022-2023; Tabled Document 882-19(2): Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2022-2023; and Tabled Document 883-19(2): Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2023-2024, and reported progress with 14 motions carried, that Committee Report 40-19(2), Committee Report 43-19(2), and Committee Report 44-19(2) are concluded, that Bills 61 and 63 are ready for third reading, and that consideration of Tabled Document 881-19(2), 882-19(2), and 883-19(2) is concluded, that the House concurs in those estimates and that appropriation bills be based thereon and be introduced without delay.

Committee Motion 380-19(2)

The Member for Thebacha moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories, in consultation with the Board of Management, lead a holistic review to examine and clarify the jurisdiction of each statutory officer of the Assembly to investigate:

- (a) Other statutory officers of the Assembly;

- (b) Public bodies that exercise statutory authority on behalf of the Executive; and
- (c) Public bodies that provide statutory advisory services to the Executive;

AND FURTHER, the review should identify areas of over- and under-lapping jurisdiction and make recommendations to address discrepancies based on best practices.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 381-19(2)

The Member for Thebacha 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 382-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories commit to a second phase of legislative changes to protect, promote, and revitalize official and Indigenous languages in the 20th Assembly;

AND FURTHER, this new legislation should be based on past recommendations, suggestions arising during the review of Bill 63, and the advice in the Committee's upcoming report on its statutory review of the *Official Languages Act*;

AND FURTHERMORE, the new legislation should also seek to implement articles 13 and 14 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

AND FURTHERMORE, Indigenous governments should be invited to co-develop the legislation.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 383-19(2)

The Member for Yellowknife North moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Department of Education, Culture and Employment ensure independence and transparency at the merged Languages Board;

AND FURTHER, the Department should provide a proper framework and resources for the Board to fulfill its mandate, including timely appointments when vacancies arise;

AND FURTHERMORE, the Board should disclose meeting agendas, minutes, and other documents of public interest;

AND FURTHERMORE, the Board should also release an annual report that summarizes recommendations to the Minister, the Minister's response, progress on implementation, and the findings of program and initiative evaluations.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 384-19(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 385-19(2)

The Member for Frame Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that consideration of Tabled Document 881-19(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2022-2023, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 881-19(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 386-19(2)

The Member for Frame Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that consideration of Tabled Document 882-19(2), Supplementary Estimates (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2022-2023, be now concluded and

that Tabled Document 882-19(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 387-19(2)

The Member for Frame Lake moved the following motion:

I MOVE that consideration of Tabled Document 883-19(2), Supplementary Estimates (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2023-2024, be now concluded and that Tabled Document 883-19(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 388-19(2)

The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that:

- (a) The Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly includes in all transition and orientation material for all MLAs post-election, and
- (b) The Office of the Secretary to Cabinet of the Government of the Northwest Territories includes in post-election materials specific to Cabinet

An introduction to the history and role of each of the following:

- a. NWT Council of Leaders (NWTCOL);
- b. Modern Treaty and Self-government Partners Forum (MTSG);
- c. Intergovernmental Council and Intergovernmental Council Secretariat;
- d. The jurisdictions of public government, exclusive and inclusive indigenous governments; and
- e. NWT Council of Leaders UNDRIP Memorandum of Understanding (NWT UNDRIP MOU).

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 389-19(2)

The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the 20th Legislative Assembly establish a Special Committee on UNDRIP implementation.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 390-19(2)

The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the work plan proposals to be suggested by the Government of the Northwest Territories under the NWT Council of Leaders UNDRIP Memorandum of Understanding should include:

1. Description of who or what entity will monitor progress;
2. Identification of who or what entity will be accountable for progress;
3. A dispute resolution mechanism other than the Government of the Northwest Territories for disputes between Indigenous governments over the implementation of UNDRIP, land access, land exclusivity and other inter-jurisdictional disputes; and
4. An established process or determined place to ensure the implementation of existing self-government agreements or land claim agreements is consistent with the principles and objectives of UNDRIP.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 391-19(2)

The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories systematically review GNWT policies against the principles of UNDRIP and in consideration of purposes and objectives established by the NWT Council of Leaders UNDRIP Memorandum of Understanding,

- a. Beginning with the review of policy 11.51 "aboriginal land claims";
- b. Continuing with the review of the policies listed under the authority of the executive council and ministerial policies; and
- c. While at the same time, establishing an understood process to ensure a "check in" with Indigenous governments and Members of the Legislative Assembly before final versions are concluded.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 392-19(2)

The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes moved the following motion:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories work toward establishing a shared framework with the Government of Canada and Indigenous governments and organizations for the resolution of outstanding land and self-government agreements;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories make the option of an independent facilitator available to all negotiation tables.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 393-19(2)

The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes moved the following motion:

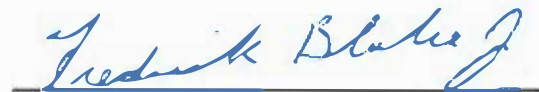
I MOVE that this committee recommends the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a response to this report within 120 days.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, seconded by the Member for Frame Lake, moved concurrence of the report of the Committee of the Whole.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Speaker adjourned the House at 8:18 pm.



Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly


Tim Mercer
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly