

DRAFT CLIMATE EMERGENCY MOTION

WHEREAS, climate change is a real and urgent crisis, driven by human activity, that impacts the environment, biodiversity, human health, and the economy;

AND WHEREAS, NWT residents are feeling the impacts of climate change today, from coastal erosion, wildfires, melting permafrost, heat waves and other extreme weather events which are projected to intensify in the future;

AND WHEREAS, climate change impacts communities across Canada, with coastal, northern and Indigenous communities particularly vulnerable to its effects;

AND WHEREAS the impacts of climate change are being felt most profoundly in the northern regions;

AND WHEREAS, THE 19TH Legislative Assembly has committed to strengthen the government's leadership and authority on climate change and to Ensure climate change impacts are specifically considered when making government decisions; and

AND WHEREAS at least 473 Canadian jurisdictions including the national, provincial, territorial, municipal and Indigenous governments have declared a climate emergency, and over 25 countries around the world have done the same;

AND WHEREAS Canada made ambitious commitments for renewed action on climate change at the December 2015 international climate change conference in Paris;

AND WHEREAS federal, provincial and territorial leaders met in March 2016 to plan common actions to meet Canada's international commitments for reducing greenhouse gas production;

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for _____ that the Members of this House declare that the Northwest Territories is in a climate emergency which requires, as a response, that we meet the international emissions target under the Paris Agreement and to making deeper reductions to hold global warming below two degrees Celsius and pursuing efforts to keep global warming below 1.5 degrees Celsius.

AND FURTHER that the Premier and the Executive Council work collaboratively with regular MLAs, Standing Committees, Indigenous and community governments, and other territorial, provincial and federal governments to develop an Climate Emergency Response Plan that is to be tabled in this House as soon as possible after January 1, 2021;

AND FURTHER that the NWT Climate Emergency Response Plan include actions to:

- establish the necessary leadership within GNWT on climate change;
- formally establish partnerships with interested stakeholders across the NWT;
- achieve the necessary greenhouse gas reductions to reduce NWT emissions below the Pan-Canadian Framework targets and to ensure global warming is kept below 1.5 degrees Celsius;
- implement and refine the carbon pricing scheme to focus on emission reductions while building a green economy;
- establish clear and transparent rules for industry to fit within the NWT's carbon budget;
- establish the necessary infrastructure and incentives to transition away from fossil fuel based transportation in the NWT;
- increase investments in renewable energy with the aim of getting all of our communities off diesel by 2030 by fuel switching to renewables for community electricity;
- climate change adaptation plan for all of our community governments and secure funding to fully implement such plans;
- ensure that climate change is part of all significant decisions made by GNWT;
- provide integrated public reporting on the issues of climate change, energy transitions and carbon pricing; and
- any other matters as appropriate.