



ANNUAL REPORT

2020-2021



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“[. . .] even through lockdowns, social distancing and Zoom calls, the north and its people have an important connection that can’t easily be severed.”

THE SPEAKER'S SUMMARY

As Speaker of the 19th Assembly, I am pleased to present the 2020-2021 Annual Report of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly. This report is used as an important accountability tool between the Legislative Assembly and the general public, as it is comprised of a summary of the Legislative Assembly's operations, activities, and financial records over the last fiscal year.

The reporting period for this annual report involves the Legislative Assembly's response and operations during the COVID-19 pandemic. This report will look a little different than usual, as many of the Assembly's outward facing activities were not able to operate during the year. However, the silver lining to that scenario is that Members of the Legislative Assembly and staff alike had more time and energy to focus on the work of the Assembly—particularly Standing Committees.

In the summer of 2020, Standing Committees took it upon themselves to select issues that they agreed as a collective to focus their efforts on for the remainder of their time in the 19th Assembly. The topics chosen by the Members range from housing in the Northwest Territories to maximizing northern business opportunities in the telecommunications field. I look forward to seeing the hard work of Committees come to fruition over the upcoming years.

The one exciting outreach activity we were able to conduct amidst the pandemic was the kindergarten Christmas tradition. Though we could not bring students into the building to decorate trees as we have

done since 1993, we still, in a different sense, brought their joy and spirit into the building. We asked kindergarten students from all communities of the Northwest Territories to send in homemade decorations, which staff used to decorate a 20-foot Christmas tree in the Great Hall. We included the handiwork of children from 23 schools across the Territory. It was a very special way to be reminded that even through lockdowns, social distancing and Zoom calls, the north and its people have an important connection that can't easily be severed.

As you read this report, I hope that feeling of northern resiliency and connection makes its way from the halls of this Legislature, the Place of the People, to you. I look forward to continuing the important work of this Assembly.



**Honourable Frederick Blake Jr., Speaker
Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly**

MESSAGE DU PRÉSIDENT

En tant que président de la 19^e Assemblée législative, je suis ravi de vous présenter le rapport annuel 2020-2021 de l'Assemblée législative des Territoires du Nord-Ouest. Ce rapport constitue un important outil de responsabilisation entre l'Assemblée législative et le grand public, car il comprend un résumé des opérations, des activités et des dossiers financiers de l'Assemblée législative au cours du dernier exercice financier.

La période visée par le présent rapport annuel comprend l'intervention et les opérations de l'Assemblée législative pendant la pandémie de COVID-19. Ce rapport sera un peu différent de ceux des années précédentes, car de nombreuses activités de l'Assemblée tournées vers l'extérieur n'ont pas pu être menées à bien au cours de l'année. Toutefois, si on regarde le bon côté des choses, les députés et le personnel ont eu plus de temps et d'énergie pour se concentrer sur le travail de l'Assemblée, en particulier les comités permanents.

Au cours de l'été 2020, les comités permanents ont sélectionné les enjeux sur lesquelles ils ont convenu, en tant que groupe, de concentrer leurs efforts pour le reste de leur mandat à la 19^e Assemblée. Les enjeux choisis par les députés vont du logement aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest à la maximisation des possibilités d'affaires dans le Nord dans le domaine des télécommunications. J'ai hâte de voir le travail acharné des comités porter ses fruits au cours des prochaines années.

La tradition de l'arbre de Noël des élèves de la maternelle est l'une des activités publiques les plus intéressantes que nous avons pu maintenir pendant la pandémie. Bien que nous n'ayons pas pu faire entrer les élèves dans l'immeuble pour décorer l'arbre comme nous le faisons depuis 1993, nous avons tout de même réussi à faire entrer leur joie et leur

esprit dans les lieux. Nous avons demandé aux élèves de maternelle de toutes les collectivités des Territoires du Nord-Ouest d'envoyer des décorations faites maison, que le personnel a utilisées pour décorer un arbre de Noël de 20 pieds dans le foyer. Les élèves de 23 écoles des TNO ont participé à cette activité. C'était une façon très spéciale de se souvenir que, malgré les fermetures, l'éloignement physique et les conférences Zoom, le Nord et ses habitants ont des liens solides qui ne peuvent être facilement rompus.

À la lecture de ce rapport, j'espère que ce sentiment de courage et d'attachement au Nord vous parviendra des couloirs de cette Assemblée législative, la Place du peuple. J'ai bien hâte de poursuivre l'important travail de cette Assemblée.

Frederick Blake Jr., président

Assemblée législative des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

ŁINATR'AADAL GWICHÌT DANUU

19th Legislative Assembly ginjih gidaaghoo gwichìt ihłii ts'at jii 2020-2021 guuzhik Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly gwizhìt dagweedi'n' geenjit nikhwah gwahaldak geenjit shòh ihłih. Nagwidadhat gwitoh gwichuudhat gwizhìt jii Legislative Assembly gwizhìt dagweedi'n' ts'at nits'òo tseedhoh t'agijahch'ù' geenjit uu'òk diiyah tr'igwaandak gwijiinchii goonlih.

COVID-19 diitat nahdaath'ak guuzhik nits'òo jii Legislative Assembly gwitr'it gugwiłtsaii, jii gwizhìt diiyah tr'igwaandak. Jii Legislative Assembly nits'òo shìk uu'òk gwitr'it gugwahaatsaa guuveenjit gwiji'è' kwaa k'iighè' jii gwandak gwiintsaf ejùk diinch'uh. Aii gòo' jii Legislative Assembly gwizhìt giinlii kat tth'aih hee gwiinzii gwitr'it gugwiłtsaii, Standing Committees gugahnuu gwiiyeendoo gwizhìt gwitr'it gugwiłtsaih.

Jii Standing Commitees gwizhit giinlii kat shin 2020 guuzhik nihàh jidii gwitr'it guuveenjit gwijiinchii giiniindhan geenjit gwitr'it gugwiłtsaih. Northwest Territories gwizhìt t'angiinch'uu zheh giheedya'aa ts'at jii north gwa'an nihts'at tr'igijkhii gwiiyeendoo diiyeenjit gwihee'aa geenjit gwitr'it gugwiłtsaih. Gwizhìt giinlii kat gwiniint'aih gwitr'it gugwiłtsaii k'iighè' yeendoo dagwiheech'aa hana'aa gwits'at hadhilchi'.

Ts'ik niint'aii diitat nahdaath'ak guuzhik ihtat geenjit gwitr'it dhaatsaii geenjit gwiiyeendoo nikhwachii goonlii, jii t'at Kindergarten gè'tr'oonahant gwizhìt giinlii Drin Tsal geenjit shìk dagidi'ii gugwiłtsaii. 1993 gwats'at gè'tr'oonahant gwizhìt giinlii kat nikhwigwiłtsaii zheh gwizhit Drin Tsal geenjit ts'iivii nagaht'ya gòo jùk akoo digweedi'n' kwaa aii gòo tth'aih hee shòh giinlii gwizhìt goo'aih. Northwest Territories gukaiik'it gwats'at Kindergarten gwizhìt giinlii tthak Drin Tsal geenjit niniltsi' gahahtsaa geenjit guudàakat ts'at nikhwigwiłtsaii zheh gwizhit ts'iivii choo goo'aih gwakak nigwiniinlii. Jii Territory gwizhìt gè'tr'oonahant zheh 23 goo'aih gwats'at tr'iinin kat nigwiniltsi' giftsaii t'ajaach'ù'. Uu'òk natr'ahdadal

kwaa, diiyeh'òk t'igwiheech'aa ts'at iitsii ganadhandaii k'iighè' łinatr'aadal gwizhìt goo'aih gaa' jii north gwa'an tthak nihàh t'igiinch'uu jii k'iighè' ganatr'aandaih.

Jii gwitr'it t'agwaa'in gwizhìt dagweedi'n' gwindinithit'oo gwino'ii k'iighè' tth'aih hee jii north gwa'an nihàh tr'iniint'aii nohthan gadiinjishizhit. Jii Assembly gwizhìt iisrits'at gwitr'it gwijiinchii nikhweenjit yeendoo gwizhit gwitr'it hałtsaa gadiinjishizhit.

Fredrick Blake Jr. Łinatr'aadal Gwichìt
Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly

MEET THE MEMBERS AS OF MARCH 31, 2021



RONALD BONNETROUGE
Deh Cho



KEVIN O'REILLY
Frame Lake



KATRINA NOKLEBY
Great Slave



R.J. SIMPSON
Hay River North



ROCKY SIMPSON
Hay River South



DIANE ARCHIE
Inuvik Boot Lake



LESA SEMMLER
Inuvik Twin Lakes



CAITLIN CLEVELAND
Kam Lake



FREDERICK BLAKE JR.
Mackenzie Delta



JACKSON LAFFERTY
Monfwi



SHANE THOMPSON
Nahendeh



JACKIE JACOBSON
Nunakput



CAROLINE COCHRANE
Range Lake



PAULIE CHINNA
Sahtu



FRIEDA MARTSELOS
Thebacha



STEVE NORN
Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh



JULIE GREEN
Yellowknife Centre



RYLUND JOHNSON
Yellowknife North



CAROLINE WAWZONEK
Yellowknife South

MEET THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

AS OF MARCH 31, 2021



HONOURABLE CAROLINE COCHRANE

Premier
Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs
Minister Responsible for the COVID-19 Coordinating Secretariat



HONOURABLE DIANE ARCHIE

Deputy Premier
Minister of Infrastructure
Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation



HONOURABLE SHANE THOMPSON

Minister of Environment and Natural Resources
Minister of Lands
Minister Responsible for the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission



HONOURABLE PAULIE CHINNA

Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs
Minister Responsible for the NWT Housing Corporation
Minister Responsible for Homelessness
Minister Responsible for Youth
Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board



HONOURABLE CAROLINE WAWZONEK

Minister of Finance
Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment, including responsibility for the Business Development and Investment Corporation
Minister Responsible for the Status of Women



HONOURABLE R.J. SIMPSON

Government House Leader
Minister of Education
Culture and Employment
Minister of Justice



HONOURABLE JULIE GREEN

Minister of Health and Social Services
Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities
Minister Responsible for Seniors





STATUTORY OFFICERS

EQUAL PAY COMMISSIONER

The right to equal pay for work of equal value is created by section 40 of the *Public Service Act* and applies to public service employees. It requires that there be no differences in the rate of pay between male and female employees who perform work of equal value in the same establishment. The Act designates the Government, the NWT Power Corporation, and teachers who are covered by the Act as separate establishments.

The Act charges the Equal Pay Commissioner with responsibility for receiving complaints from employees who believe that their right to equal pay for work of equal value has been violated. The Commissioner must investigate complaints and may assist the parties to resolve them informally. If the complaint is not resolved, the Equal Pay Commissioner must prepare an investigation report with recommendations to the parties about how to resolve the complaint. If the parties cannot agree on a resolution, an arbitrator will hear the dispute. The Equal Pay Commissioner also promotes awareness

and understanding of the right to equal pay for work of equal value

During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, Joy Noonan was the Equal Pay Commissioner.

NWT HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

The NWT Human Rights Commission is an independent agency that works to promote human rights and protect individuals and groups from discrimination under the *NWT Human Rights Act*. The Act creates a human rights system that is independent from the Territorial Government.

The Legislative Assembly passed Bill 30: *An Act to Amend the Human Rights Act*, in 2019. As of February, 2021, all amendments to the Act are in force. Changes to the Act included: grounds for refusing to accept a complaint; appeals of the Executive Director's refusal to accept a complaint now go to the Commission for decision; and the Commission will be making all decisions to refer or dismiss complaints filed after April 1st, 2020. Amended grounds for dismissing all or part of a complaint before referral to a hearing were also

The Legislative Assembly appointed multiple statutory officers in 2020-2021 to serve the Assembly.



included in the amendments.

Beginning April 1st, 2021 the Commission has carriage of all complaints. This means that the Commission has the responsibility of representing the public interest, upholding the principles of the Act, and presenting the facts of the complaint to the adjudicator at hearing.

In November of 2020 the Commission welcomed Ms. Nicole MacNeil who was appointed by the Legislative Assembly as Executive Director. The Commission is made up of three to five members and appointed by the Commissioner on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly. Commission members serving in 2020-2021: Charles Dent – Chair, Yacub Adam – Vice Chair, Marion Berls – Member and Gail Cyr – Member.

The Adjudication Panel hears complaints referred to them by the Executive Director and any appeals of the Executive Director's decision to dismiss complaints. Adjudication Panel Members are appointed by the Commissioner on recommendation of the Legislative Assembly. Adjudication Panel members serving in 2020-2021:

Sheldon Toner – Chair, Colin Baile – Adjudicator, Emerald Murphy – Adjudicator, Paul Parker – Adjudicator and Adrian Wright – Adjudicator.

INTEGRITY COMMISSIONER

The Integrity Commissioner (formerly called the Conflict of Interest Commissioner) is the independent officer of the Legislative Assembly who administers Part 3 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*. The Commissioner provides advice to Members and Ministers about avoiding conflicts between their public duties and their private interests, as well as meeting their obligations under the Code of Conduct that establishes standards for the conduct of Members. Members and Ministers must meet with the Commissioner at least once annually and provide private disclosure statements of assets and liabilities for themselves, their spouses and their dependent children. From these, the Commissioner prepares public disclosure statements, which were previously available for public inspection in the Legislative

Library and since 2020 can be found online.

The Commissioner may receive and investigate complaints about a current or former Member or Minister being in conflict of interest or breaching the Code of Conduct. The Commissioner has some discretion to approve certain arrangements in the public interest which otherwise would be prohibited. The current Commissioner is Mr. David Phillip Jones, Q.C.

OFFICIAL LANGUAGES COMMISSIONER

The Official Languages Commissioner, appointed for a four-year term by the Legislative Assembly, is responsible for ensuring that the rights, status and privileges of each of the 11 Official Languages in the Northwest Territories are protected within government institutions. The position's duties detailed in the *Official Languages Act* include ensuring recognition of the rights, status and privileges of each of the Official Languages and to investigate allegations of non-compliance of these rights and privileges. The Languages Commissioner acts in an ombudsman-like fashion, and maintains distance from the Legislative Assembly and the GNWT. This adds to the inherent independence of the Office of the Official Languages Commissioner.

On December 11th, 2020, Ms. Brenda Gauthier was appointed as the Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories by the 19th Legislative Assembly for a term of four years.

INFORMATION AND PRIVACY COMMISSIONER

The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (ATIPP Act)* applies to the departments, branches, and offices of the Government of the Northwest Territories, plus 22 agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and other public bodies designated in the regulations to the Act.

The *ATIPP Act* enshrines four key rights and obligations: the right of the public to have access to records in the custody or control of a public body, subject to limited and specific exceptions; the right of individuals to have access to their own personal information held by public bodies and to request corrections to their own personal information; the obligation of public bodies to protect the privacy of individuals by preventing the unauthorized collection, use or disclosure of personal information; and the right to request independent review of public bodies' decisions regarding access to government records or regarding the collection, use, disclosure or correction of personal information.

The *ATIPP Act* outlines the process for members of the public to obtain access to records and it establishes when and how public bodies can collect, use, or disclose personal information about individuals. Independent review of public bodies' decisions and actions is provided by the Commissioner.

The *Health Information Act* governs the collection, use and disclosure of personal health information, recognizing both the right of individuals to access and protect

their personal health information and the need of health information custodians to collect, use and disclose personal health information to support, manage and provide health care.

On November 23th, 2020, Mr. Andrew Fox was appointed as the Information and Privacy Commissioner of the Northwest Territories.

CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER

The Chief Electoral Officer is the head of Elections NWT, and is responsible for the administration of general elections, by-elections, and plebiscites in the Territory. During the 2020-2021 fiscal year, Ms. Nicole Latour was the Chief Electoral Officer.

OMBUD

The Office of the Ombud listens to and investigates complaints from people who feel they have been treated unfairly by territorial authorities. They also can investigate matters on their own initiative without receiving a specific complaint. They work to find fair solutions and to help improve government services. Their mandate includes public education on the role of the Ombud and the principles of administrative fairness.

The Ombud has jurisdiction over “matters of administration”. Administrative matters include most of the day to day dealings people have with employees of territorial government departments and agencies. Administrative matters do not include, for

example, political matters like Cabinet and MLA decisions, decisions by the courts, actions by lawyers who are representing the government, or clinical decisions by health professionals.

Ms. Colette Langlois was appointed as the Northwest Territories’ first Ombud on April 8th, 2019.



STANDING COMMITTEES

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT

March 2021 Committee membership:

MLA Steve Norn, Chair
 MLA Kevin O'Reilly, Deputy Chair
 MLA Ron Bonnetrouge
 MLA Caitlin Cleveland
 MLA Katrina Nokleby
 MLA Jackie Jacobson
 MLA Rylund Johnson
 MLA Frieda Martselos
 MLA Rocky Simpson
 MLA Lesa Semmler

The mandate of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight reviews issues which have government-wide implications. This Committee also coordinates sessional business planning and Committee strategic planning efforts.

Within 86 meetings during the fiscal period,

the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight targeted its efforts on getting answers for the people of the Northwest Territories about COVID-19. The Committee held multiple public meetings with the Chief Public Health Officer and/or the Premier and raised issues of public interest and importance.

The Committee also continued to use Theme Days in the Legislative Assembly, where Members' Statements and Oral Questions are centred around a topic agreed upon in advance by the Committee in order to bring attention to the issues chosen. These topics ranged from economic recovery to addictions and mental health.



A total of 44 public Committee meetings were held in the 2020-2021 fiscal year.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

March 2021 Committee membership:

MLA Jackie Jacobson, Chair

MLA Ron Bonnetrouge, Deputy Chair

MLA Rylund Johnson

MLA Katrina Nokleby

MLA Kevin O'Reilly

Alternates: MLA Caitlin Cleveland, MLA

Lesa Semmler, MLA Steve Norn

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment has oversight of the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources, Industry, Tourism and Investment, Infrastructure and Lands.

In this Assembly, the Committee is tasked with statutory reviews of the Species at Risk Act and the Wildlife Act.

At a planning meeting held in Tuktoyaktuk, the Committee agreed to focus its efforts for the remainder of the 19th Assembly on three priorities: increase responsiveness of government policies and services to stimulate and diversify northern, and in particular Indigenous, businesses; to maximize business opportunities from the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Link (MVFL), as well as other telecommunication opportunities for communities not connected to the MVFL; and ensure the NWT is well positioned to prevent environmental liabilities, effectively manage contaminated sites, and stimulate local economic opportunities through remediation.

On top of these priorities, the Committee looked at the Government of the Northwest Territories' response to COVID-19 using an 'Economic Development and Environment'

lens and, on June 9th, 2020, issued a report on the pandemic response. The Committee did this in alliance with the Standing Committees on Government Operations and the Committee on Social Development, who examined the issue with their respective focuses.

In pursuit of its priority of maximizing business opportunities regarding telecommunications, the Committee provided its views on the subject to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission in a submission. The submission included perspectives of several stakeholders that the Committee heard from during its public consultation process. Recommendations, in essence, advocated for more funding for NWT telecommunications funding and regulations, and encouraged changes to regulations that will increase competition in the field.

In total, this Committee met 46 times during the fiscal year.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

March 2021 Committee membership:

MLA Caitlin Cleveland, Chair

MLA Lesa Semmler, Deputy Chair

MLA Ron Bonnetrouge

MLA Katrina Nokleby

MLA Rocky Simpson

Alternates: MLA Jackie Jacobson, MLA

Rylund Johnson, MLA Frieda Martselos

This Committee monitors the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment, Health and Social Services, Justice and the

Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. In addition, this Committee considers issues related to homelessness.

In addition, the Committee is currently conducting a mandatory statutory review of the Child and Family Services Act, where it is examining specifically the prevention activities that exist for northern families. In pursuit of these goals the Committee met 48 times in 2020-2021.

The Committee also visited Hay River in August of 2020 where they decided as a Committee to choose Housing as its central focus. The Committee proceeded to hold multiple public and in-camera meetings with stakeholders to inform its review of this issue. On March 10th, 2021, Committee Chair Caitlin Cleveland moved a motion in the House that calls upon the GNWT

to prioritize the review of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation as part of the Government Renewal Initiative. It also directs the NWT HC to update its Mission Statement and policies to reflect the role it plays in social wellness. Finally, the NWT HC is directed to include referrals to appropriate government programs as part of its process prior to evicting residents. The motion was carried.

The Committee issued a total of three reports during the fiscal year: a report on post-pandemic recovery containing recommendations to the Government; a Report on the review of Bill 13: *An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act*, and a Report on the Review of Bill 20: *An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act*.



STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

March 2021 Committee membership:

MLA Frieda Martselos, Chair

MLA Ron Bonnetrouge, Deputy Chair

MLA Caitlin Cleveland

MLA Rylund Johnson

MLA Lesa Semmler

Alternates: MLA Jackie Jacobson, MLA

Kevin O'Reilly, MLA Steve Norn

The Standing Committee on Government Operations considers matters with respect to the Departments of Executive and Indigenous Affairs, Finance, and Municipal and Community Affairs. The Committee also oversees the Workers Safety and Compensation Commission and the Northwest Territories Power Corporation. Another responsibility of the Committee is to review as necessary the annual reports of Statutory Officers of the Legislative Assembly and examine the annual public accounts of the Government and the report of the Auditor General.

The *Official Languages Act* is up for its statutory review by the Committee, which the Committee started during the reporting period by sending letters to stakeholders seeking feedback on what changes in legislation could help Indigenous language revitalization.

The Committee reported its analysis of the Government's pandemic response to the House on June 9th, 2020, which highlighted the positive policy changes implemented by the Government to adapt for the pandemic.

In August 2020, the Committee met in the K'atl'odeeche First Nation to agree upon its priority of increasing the representation of Indigenous people at all levels of the public service. The Committee's work is ongoing

with this priority, and it plans to table a report in the Legislative Assembly with recommendations to the government after it finishes its work on the matter.

The Committee reviewed the Annual Reports of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Human Rights Commission and the Official Languages Commissioner during this fiscal year.

The Committee's work was accomplished within 30 meetings.

STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES AND PROCEDURES

March 2021 Committee membership:

MLA Kevin O'Reilly, Chair

MLA Rocky Simpson, Deputy Chair

MLA Jackie Jacobson

MLA Steve Norn

Hon. Shane Thompson

Alternates: MLA Rylund Johnson, Hon. R.J. Simpson

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures inquires into matters referred to it by the Legislative Assembly, the Honourable Speaker, or the Board of Management. It also reviews reports from the Chief Electoral Officer.

On May 28th, 2020, the Chief Electoral Officer's Report on the Administration of the 2019 Territorial General Election was tabled by the Speaker and referred to the Committee for consideration. The Committee held multiple public and in-camera meetings and reported to the Assembly with recommendations on February 23rd, 2021.

Concurrently, the Committee examined a matter regarding parliamentary privilege.



Standing committees travel to communities to hear the peoples' perspectives face to face.

A point of privilege was referred to the Committee by way of motion in the House on March 10th, 2020. The point of privilege was raised by the MLA for Monfwi when a Tlicho interpreter was unavailable during Session due to a last minute cancellation. The MLA said the lack of interpretation impeded or prevented him from performing his parliamentary functions as a Member.

The Committee held several in camera meetings on the topic in addition to a public hearing on November 17th, 2020, where the Committee heard from multiple stakeholder groups.

A report was tabled in the House on February 9th, 2021 where the Committee made several recommendations to the Legislative Assembly regarding the use of Official Languages in the Legislature. These recommendations ranged from changing the Rules of the Legislative Assembly to providing interpretation into regionally appropriate Official Languages when Committees hold public meetings in Communities outside the Capital.

The Office of the Clerk has since been working dutifully on ways to implement the recommendations of the Committee.

Finally, the Committee researched and submitted to the House a Report on Remote Sitings on November 3rd, 2020. The matter was on the Committee's radar due to the unique challenges COVID-19 posed for the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly—not only were there stay-at-home orders in effect, but many MLAs reside in small communities with problematic internet connections and concerns over travel to and from the capital.

The Committee met a total of 18 times.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RECONCILIATION AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

March 2021 Committee membership:
 MLA Lesa Semmler, Chair
 MLA Rylund Johnson, Deputy Chair
 MLA Frieda Martselos
 Hon. Caroline Wawzonek
 Hon. R.J. Simpson
 Ex-Officio: Hon. Caroline Cochrane

Special Committees, and their terms of reference, are created by the Legislative Assembly as and when needed. The 19th Assembly agreed that it was necessary to



strike up a Committee with the purpose of deciding how best to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People, which satisfies one of the 19th Assembly's priorities. The Committee will also produce recommendations on settling and implementing treaty, land, resources and self-government agreements, which corresponds with another one of the Assembly's priorities.

The Committee was established on November 2nd, 2020 in the Legislative Assembly. Its first meeting took place on December 4th, 2020, where it selected MLA Lesa Semmler as Chair. It held two more meetings after that.

Before the end of the fiscal year, the Committee distributed invitations to meet with various organizations, scholars and Indigenous governments.



BOARD OF MANAGEMENT

Chair: Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.

Members: Hon. Diane Archie
Hon. Paulie Chinna
MLA Caitlin Cleveland
MLA Jackie Jacobson

Alternates: Hon. R.J. Simpson
Hon. Shane Thompson
MLA Steve Norn
MLA Ron Bonnetrouge

Secretary: Tim Mercer

Assistant Secretary: Danielle Mager

The Board of Management (the Board) is a corporate body established under the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*. The existence of the Board reflects the right and privilege of the House to govern its internal affairs and confirms the independence of the Assembly from the executive branch of government. The Board is responsible for the overall management and administration of the Legislative Assembly, including the provision of services to Members and the establishment of policies regarding their conduct.

The responsibilities of the Board include: preparing budget estimates for the Assembly; providing services to Members; administering the indemnities, allowances, reimbursements, and benefits to which Members are entitled; establishing regulations and policies for all services provided to members; management and administration of the Members' pension plans in accordance with the *Legislative Assembly Retiring Allowances Act* and the *Supplementary Retiring Allowance Act*; ensuring that the cultures and traditions of the Northwest Territories are reflected in the Legislative Assembly; and providing for any other financial or administrative matter that the Board considers necessary to run the Legislative Assembly.

The composition of the Board includes the Speaker, two Members of the Executive Council, and two Regular Members.



HOUSE STATISTICS

53

Sitting Days

26

Motions Adopted

23

Legislation Assented

110

**Motions Moved in
Committee of the
Whole**

105

**Motions Adopted in
Committee of the
Whole**



KINDERGARTEN CHRISTMAS

Since 1993, kindergarten students have been invited to the Legislature every Christmas season from Yellowknife, Ndilo and Dettah to make ornaments and decorate Christmas Trees in the Great Hall. This usually culminated with an event for the public to come see the trees. However, due to restrictions regarding COVID-19, bringing children into the building was not an option this year.

Instead, an invitation was sent to all schools to ask them to craft ornaments and mail them to the Legislative Assembly. There was an overwhelming response with hundreds of students agreeing to participate. A total of 23 schools from across the Territory sent in ornaments that the Legislative staff used to decorate the 20-foot Christmas tree in the Great Hall.

To show appreciation, the Legislative Assembly sent engraved “thank you” ornaments back to every child who participated to keep as a memory of this project. The Speaker also released a video to kindergarten classes to personally thank them for helping the Legislature ensure the Kindergarten Christmas Tree Tradition lives on.



OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

The Legislative Assembly strives to provide services in all of the NWT's Official Languages. The privilege to work towards this important goal is a great source of pride for the Office of the Clerk. However, many initiatives and programs had to be reconfigured in 2020-2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic in order to minimize risk and keep interpreters safe.

The Legislative Assembly had to turn to remote interpreting—that is, finding a solution for interpreters to work from home instead of bringing them in to the building—in order to continue to provide Official Language services to the people of the Northwest Territories. Although capacity decreased, a remote interpretation system was established for two languages: French interpreters operated out of Edmonton, AB, and a remote interpretation room was set up in Inuvik where two Inuvialuktun interpreters worked during the February-March 2021 sitting.

This reporting period involved a matter related to Official Languages that required the involvement of not just Office of the Clerk staff, but also Members of the Legislative Assembly: a point of privilege was referred to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures on March 10th, 2020. The point of privilege was raised by the MLA for Monfwi at the time when a Tłı̨ch̨ interpreter was unavailable during Session due to a last-minute cancellation. The MLA said the lack of interpretation impeded or prevented him from performing his parliamentary functions as a Member.

The Committee held several in camera meetings on the topic in addition to a



public hearing on November 17, 2020, where the Committee heard from multiple stakeholder groups. That meeting was simultaneously interpreted into French and Tłı̨ch̨ to allow participants to speak to Committee in their language.

A report was tabled in the House on February 9th, 2021 where the Committee made several recommendations to the Legislative Assembly regarding the use of Official Languages in the Legislature. These recommendations ranged from changing the Rules of the Legislative Assembly to providing consistent simultaneous interpretation of Sessional and Committee proceedings.

Since the tabling of that report, the Office of the Clerk has since been working on an action plan to implement the recommendations of the Committee.



Although opportunities for interpretation and translation decreased with the Legislature building being closed to the public and Committees pausing their community travel, translation of documents has continued as normal. Additionally, modifications were made in interpreters booths to allow for interpreters for three to four Official Languages to be brought into the building to interpret proceedings while socially distanced.

In summary, the pandemic posed many challenges for the continued operations of Official Languages services for the Legislative Assembly, but it also provided a window of time for the matter to be examined in close detail, for pilot programs to be launched, and for innovation and adaptation.





ANNUAL CAUCUS PLANNING MEETING

The annual Caucus planning meeting was held in Fort Smith, NT from August 28th to September 1st, 2020. The meeting began with a blanket exercise that involved all Members of the Legislative Assembly and senior staff. The goal of the blanket exercise is to illustrate history through the lens of Indigenous Peoples.

Meetings were held at the Salt River First Nations building and Members met with community, municipal, and Indigenous governments. Members took part in community activities and an auction was held to raise funds for the Anglican Church in Fort Smith.

A fundraiser held
by Caucus raised
over \$10,000 for the
Anglican Church in
Fort Smith.



ACCOUNTABILITY

**INDEMNITIES UNDER SECTION 17(1) & 18(1), ALLOWANCES UNDER SECTIONS 19 & 20
REIMBURSED TO OR INCURRED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021
19TH ASSEMBLY**

Member	Constituency	MLA Indemnity (1)	Ministerial Indemnity (2)	Speaker Indemnity (3)	Extra Duties (4)	Allowance for Expenses (5)	Northern Allowance (6)
BONNETROUGE, Ronald	DEH CHO	109,991			2,056	15,852	8,132
O'REILLY, Kevin	FRAME LAKE	109,991			6,863	7,926	3,700
NOKLEBY, Katrina	GREAT SLAVE	109,991	24,000			7,926	3,700
SIMPSON, RJ	HAY RIVER NORTH	109,991	58,869			15,852	4,593
SIMPSON, Rocky	HAY RIVER SOUTH	109,991			4,649	15,852	4,593
ARCHIE, Diane	INUUVIK BOOT LAKE	109,991	58,869			15,852	15,279
SEMMLER, Lesa	INUUVIK TWIN LAKES	109,991			7,746	15,852	15,279
CLEVELAND, Caitlin	KAM LAKE	109,991			6,863	7,926	3,700
BLAKE JR., Frederick	MACKENZIE DELTA	109,991		47,875		15,852	21,844
LAFFERTY, Jackson	MONFWI	109,991				15,852	5,423
THOMPSON, Shane	NAHENDEH	109,991	58,869			15,852	12,723
JACOBSON, Jackie	NUNAKPUT	109,991			6,863	15,852	20,436
COCHRANE, Caroline	RANGE LAKE	109,991	83,656			7,926	3,700
CHINNA, Paulie	SAHTU	109,991	58,869			15,852	21,402
MARTSELOS, Frieda	THEBACHA	109,991			6,863	15,852	6,406
NORN, Steve	TU NEDHE-WILIDEH	109,991			10,113	7,926	3,700
GREEN, Julie	YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE	109,991	34,416		1,913	7,926	3,700
JOHNSON, Rylund	YELLOWKNIFE NORTH	109,991			3,432	7,926	3,700
WAWZONEK, Caroline	YELLOWKNIFE SOUTH	109,991	58,869			7,926	3,700

(1) MLA ANNUAL INDEMNITY: annual figure of \$109,991 for all Members.

(2) MINISTERIAL AND PREMIER INDEMNITY: annual figure of \$58,869 for Ministers and \$83,656 for Premier.

(3) SPEAKER: annual figure of \$47,875 for Speaker.

(4) SPECIAL ANNUAL INDEMNITIES FOR EXTRA DUTIES: Deputy Speaker: \$7,746; Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole: \$4,649; Chair of Standing Committee (Social Development, Economic Development & Environment, Government Operations, Rules & Procedures = \$6,863, Accountability & Oversight = \$10,113); Chair of Special Committee: \$3,432; Chair of Caucus: \$3,432.

(5) ALLOWANCE FOR EXPENSES: Basic Allowance: annual figure of \$7,926 for all Members. Additional Allowance: annual figure of \$7,926 for all Members who do not live within commuting distance of the capital.

(6) NORTHERN ALLOWANCE: Annual amount paid in respect of the community in which Members live. Same as provided under the Collective Agreement.

Tabled pursuant to Section 35(a) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

**INDEMNITIES, ALLOWANCES AND EXPENSES
REIMBURSED TO OR INCURRED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021
19TH ASSEMBLY**

Member	Constituency	Constituency Work Expense Budget (Section 29)	Constituency Work Expense Actuals (Section 29)	Capital Accommodation Expense Actuals (Section 24)
BONNETROUGE, Ronald	DEH CHO	98,494	82,175	31,000
O'REILLY, Kevin	FRAME LAKE	90,385	76,179	-
NOKLEBY, Katrina	GREAT SLAVE	90,385	86,949	-
SIMPSON, RJ	HAY RIVER NORTH	95,018	81,848	30,000
SIMPSON, Rocky	HAY RIVER SOUTH	95,018	92,546	31,000
ARCHIE, Diane	INUVIK BOOT LAKE	98,494	81,648	31,000
SEMMLER, Lesa	INUVIK TWIN LAKES	98,494	90,451	31,000
CLEVELAND, Caitlin	KAM LAKE	90,385	82,191	-
BLAKE JR., Frederick	MACKENZIE DELTA	103,129	84,068	28,888
LAFFERTY, Jackson	MONFWI	98,494	67,574	22,500
THOMPSON, Shane	NAHENDEH	101,968	88,745	31,000
JACOBSON, Jackie	NUNAKPUT	106,602	106,044	31,000
COCHRANE, Caroline	RANGE LAKE	90,385	81,763	-
CHINNA, Paulie	SAHTU	105,444	91,548	31,000
MARTSELOS, Frieda	THEBACHA	96,178	96,178	29,753
NORN, Steve	TU NEDHE-WILIDEH	98,494	97,289	-
GREEN, Julie	YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE	90,385	66,450	-
JOHNSON, Rylund	YELLOWKNIFE NORTH	90,385	85,376	-
WAWZONEK, Caroline	YELLOWKNIFE SOUTH	90,385	79,289	-

Tabled pursuant to Section 35(b) and (c) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

**EXPENSES RELATED TO CONSTITUENCY WORK, UNDER SECTION 29
REIMBURSED TO OR INCURRED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021
19TH ASSEMBLY**

Member	Constituency	Travel & Transportation	Materials & Supplies	Purchased Services	Contract Services	Fees & Payments	Computer Hardware/Software	Constituency Assistant	Total Expenditure	Total Budget
BONNETROUGE, Ronald	DEH CHO	2,072	3,159	6,536	-	-	2,039	68,369	82,175	98,494
O'REILLY, Kevin	FRAME LAKE	-	8,112	23,252	-	-	525	44,290	76,179	90,385
NOKLEBY, Katrina	GREAT SLAVE	-	17,845	14,770	-	-	912	53,422	86,949	90,385
SIMPSON, RJ	HAY RIVER NORTH	1,541	3,568	3,187	-	-	1,096	72,456	81,848	95,018
SIMPSON, Rocky	HAY RIVER SOUTH	1,035	13,454	4,444	-	-	2,039	71,574	92,546	95,018
ARCHIE, Diane	INUVIK BOOT LAKE	956	13,348	6,072	-	-	1,799	59,473	81,648	98,494
SEMMLER, Lesa	INUVIK TWIN LAKES	2,058	13,683	9,936	-	-	1,799	62,975	90,451	98,494
CLEVELAND, Caitlin	KAM LAKE	-	10,423	11,346	-	-	2,308	58,114	82,191	90,385
BLAKE JR., Frederick	MACKENZIE DELTA	-	1,333	14,036	-	-	1,319	67,380	84,068	103,129
LAFFERTY, Jackson	MONFWI	741	-	5,995	-	-	1,319	59,519	67,574	98,494
THOMPSON, Shane	NAHENDEH	752	15,611	4,437	-	-	-	67,945	88,745	101,968
JACOBSON, Jackie	NUNAKPUT	6,003	5,419	16,763	-	-	1,625	76,234	106,044	106,602
COCHRANE, Caroline	RANGE LAKE	-	9,439	5,071	-	-	-	67,253	81,763	90,385
CHINNA, Paulie	SAHTU	9,655	13,849	3,151	-	150	1,783	62,960	91,548	105,444
MARTSELOS, Frieda	THEBACHA	9,063	8,096	3,927	-	-	2,999	72,093	96,178	96,178
NORN, Steve	TU NEDHE-WIILIDEH	4,677	2,838	8,489	-	-	2,441	78,844	97,289	98,494
GREEN, Julie	YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE	-	3,291	15,878	-	-	2,900	44,381	66,450	90,385
JOHNSON, Rylund	YELLOWKNIFE NORTH	-	4,789	4,641	-	-	160	75,786	85,376	90,385
WAWZONEK, Caroline	YELLOWKNIFE SOUTH	-	2,219	8,142	-	-	-	68,928	79,289	90,385

EXPENSES: represent funds reimbursed to Members or paid on their behalf for constituency expenses incurred upon submission of original invoices.

Tabled pursuant to Section 35(c) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

**CONSTITUENCY TRAVEL EXPENSES UNDER SECTION 29
REIMBURSED TO OR INCURRED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021
19TH ASSEMBLY**

Member	Constituency		# of Trips	Airfare	Air Charter	Ground Transportation	Accommodation	Meals & Incidentals	Total
BONNETROUGE, Ronald	DEH CHO	Within NWT Outside NWT	1				1,088	984	2,072 0
SIMPSON, RJ	HAY RIVER NORTH	Within NWT Outside NWT	4	1,541					1,541 0
SIMPSON, Rocky	HAY RIVER SOUTH	Within NWT Outside NWT	2	806		229			1,035 0
ARCHIE, Diane	INUVIK BOOT LAKE	Within NWT Outside NWT	1			35	250	671	956 0
SEMMLER, Lesa	INUVIK TWIN LAKES	Within NWT Outside NWT	1				1,113	945	2,058 0
LAFFERTY, Jackson	MONFMI	Within NWT Outside NWT	6			741			741 0
THOMPSON, Shane	NAHENDEH	Within NWT Outside NWT	2				475	277	752 0
JACOBSON, Jackie	NUNAKPUT	Within NWT Outside NWT	2	1,223	3,380	375	572	453	6,003 0
CHINNA, Paulie	SAHTU	Within NWT Outside NWT	3	3,050		1,166	3,347	2,092	9,655 0
MARTSELOS, Frieda	THEBACHA	Within NWT Outside NWT	8	5,266		904	950	1,943	9,063 0
NORN, Steve	TU NEDHE-WIILIDEH	Within NWT Outside NWT	2	676		1,079	1,724	1,198	4,677 0

Tabled pursuant to Section 35(c) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

**MATERIALS & SUPPLIES DETAIL UNDER SECTION 29
REIMBURSED TO OR INCURRED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021
19TH ASSEMBLY**

Member	Constituency	Promotional Items	Special Occasion Items	Presentation Items	Other Materials & Supplies	Total Materials & Supplies
BONNETROUGE, Ronald	DEH CHO	-	234	-	2,925	3,159
O'REILLY, Kevin	FRAME LAKE	-	-	-	8,112	8,112
NOKLEBY, Katrina	GREAT SLAVE	13,558	-	-	4,287	17,845
SIMPSON, RJ	HAY RIVER NORTH	-	935	110	2,523	3,568
SIMPSON, Rocky	HAY RIVER SOUTH	4,178	1,227	110	7,939	13,454
ARCHIE, Diane	INUVIK BOOT LAKE	11,109	-	-	2,239	13,348
SEMMLER, Lesa	INUVIK TWIN LAKES	12,963	-	-	720	13,683
CLEVELAND, Caitlin	KAM LAKE	4,033	-	-	6,390	10,423
BLAKE JR., Frederick	MACKENZIE DELTA	1,333	-	-	-	1,333
LAFFERTY, Jackson	MONFWI	-	-	-	-	-
THOMPSON, Shane	NAHENDEH	6,124	559	-	8,928	15,611
JACOBSON, Jackie	NUNAKPUT	2,370	-	-	3,049	5,419
COCHRANE, Caroline	RANGE LAKE	5,609	-	-	3,830	9,439
CHINNA, Paulie	SAHTU	6,590	250	-	7,009	13,849
MARTSELOS, Frieda	THEBACHA	-	-	-	8,096	8,096
NORN, Steve	TU NEDHE-WILIDEH	-	268	-	2,570	2,838
GREEN, Julie	YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE	-	-	-	3,291	3,291
JOHNSON, Rylund	YELLOWKNIFE NORTH	1,759	-	-	3,030	4,789
WAWZONEK, Caroline	YELLOWKNIFE SOUTH	-	-	-	2,219	2,219

Tabled pursuant to Section 35(c) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

**PURCHASED SERVICES DETAIL UNDER SECTION 29
REIMBURSED TO OR INCURRED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021
19TH ASSEMBLY**

Member	Constituency	Contributions to Community Feasts	Other Purchased Services	Total Purchased Services
BONNETROUGE, Ronald	DEH CHO	1,000	5,536	6,536
O'REILLY, Kevin	FRAME LAKE	500	22,752	23,252
NOKLEBY, Katrina	GREAT SLAVE	1,500	13,270	14,770
SIMPSON, RJ	HAY RIVER NORTH	500	2,687	3,187
SIMPSON, Rocky	HAY RIVER SOUTH	1,000	3,444	4,444
ARCHIE, Diane	INUVIK BOOT LAKE	847	5,225	6,072
SEMMLER, Lesa	INUVIK TWIN LAKES	1,498	8,438	9,936
CLEVELAND, Caitlin	KAM LAKE	1,000	10,346	11,346
BLAKE JR., Frederick	MACKENZIE DELTA	4,345	9,691	14,036
LAFFERTY, Jackson	MONFWI	-	5,995	5,995
THOMPSON, Shane	NAHENDEH	-	4,437	4,437
JACOBSON, Jackie	NUNAKPUT	1,260	15,503	16,763
COCHRANE, Caroline	RANGE LAKE	500	4,571	5,071
CHINNA, Paulie	SAHTU	1,308	1,843	3,151
MARTSELOS, Frieda	THEBACHA	493	3,434	3,927
NORN, Steve	TU NEDHE-WIILIDEH	3,512	4,977	8,489
GREEN, Julie	YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE	1,500	14,378	15,878
JOHNSON, Rylund	YELLOWKNIFE NORTH	2,000	2,641	4,641
WAWZONEK, Caroline	YELLOWKNIFE SOUTH	-	8,142	8,142

Tabled pursuant to Section 35(c) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

**REIMBURSED TO OR INCURRED BY MEMBERS OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2021
19TH ASSEMBLY**

Member	Constituency	Rent	Cable/ Internet	Telephone	Utilities	Furniture	Insurance	Total
BONNETROUGE, Ronald	DEH CHO	24,120			512	6,368		31,000
SIMPSON, RJ	HAY RIVER NORTH	30,000						30,000
SIMPSON, Rocky	HAY RIVER SOUTH	30,000				1,000		31,000
ARCHIE, Diane	INUVIK BOOT LAKE	26,400	816			3,784		31,000
SEMMLER, Lesa	INUVIK TWIN LAKES	24,120	2,224		1,074	3,582		31,000
BLAKE JR., Frederick	MACKENZIE DELTA	26,700	2,188					28,888
LAFFERTY, Jackson	MONFWI	22,500						22,500
THOMPSON, Shane	NAHENDEH	26,080	1,109		3,744	67		31,000
JACOBSON, Jackie	NUNAKPUT	24,120				6,880		31,000
CHINNA, Paulie	SAHTU	31,000						31,000
MARTSELOS, Frieda	THEBACHA	28,800	953					29,753

Tabled pursuant to Section 35(b) of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*.

2020-2021 Financial Summary of Operations

(thousands of dollars)			
By Activity	2020-2021 Actuals	2020-2021 Revised Estimates	2020-2021 Main Estimates
OFFICE OF THE CLERK			
Compensation and Benefits	4,729	4,880	4,880
Grants and Contributions	0	50	50
Amortization	503	722	722
Other Expenses	<u>3,551</u>	<u>2,998</u>	<u>2,998</u>
	8,783	8,650	8,650
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER			
Compensation and Benefits	180	155	155
Other Expenses	<u>135</u>	<u>352</u>	<u>352</u>
	315	507	507
EXPENDITURES ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS			
Compensation and Benefits	7,719	7,949	7,949
Other Expenses	<u>1,181</u>	<u>1,581</u>	<u>1,581</u>
	8,900	9,530	9,530
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER			
Compensation and Benefits	217	344	344
Other Expenses	<u>21</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>95</u>
	238	439	439
STATUTORY OFFICERS			
Compensation and Benefits	2196	2,235	2,235
Grants and Contributions	180	180	180
Other Expenses	<u>864</u>	<u>1,179</u>	<u>1,179</u>
	3,240	3,594	3,594
TOTAL	21,476	22,720	22,720

**Speaker & Executive Council Benefits and Expenses
For the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2021
19th Assembly**

Blind Trust - Section 12.4 of the *Indemnities, Allowances and Expense Regulations* provides that:

“...where the Conflict of Interest Commissioner advises the Speaker or a Minister to establish a trust during his or her term in office, as referred to in section 82 of the Act, the Speaker or Minister, as the case may be, shall be reimbursed for the expenses set out in subsection (2).”

There were no payments made under this Regulation to the Speaker or Executive Council of the 19th Assembly, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021.

Dental, Health, Medical travel and Life Insurance Benefits - Section 12.5 of the *Indemnities, Allowances and Expense Regulations* provides that the Speaker and Ministers:

“...are each entitled to receive the same dental, health, medical travel and life insurance benefits provided to senior managers in the public service.”

- (a) Medical Travel - during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021, the following medical travel benefits were provided to the Speaker and Executive Council of the 19th Assembly:

There were no payments made under this Regulation to the Speaker or Executive Council of the 19th Assembly, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021.

- (b) Employer’s share of Public Service Health Care Plan, Long-Term Disability and Public Service Management Insurance Plan – during the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021, the following benefits were provided to the Speaker and Executive Council of the 19th Assembly:

Member	Total of Premiums Paid by the GNWT
Hon. Diane Archie	\$4,916.52
Hon. Paulie Chinna	\$2,839.20
Hon. Caroline Cochrane	\$5,407.92
Hon. Julie Green	\$2,555.77
Hon. Katrina Nokleby	\$2,048.55
Hon. RJ Simpson	\$4,870.97
Hon. Shane Thompson	\$4,916.52
Hon. Caroline Wawzonek	\$4,916.52
Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.	\$4,698.48

Speaker & Executive Council Benefits and Expenses
For the Fiscal Year Ending March 31, 2021
19th Assembly

Entertainment Allowance – Section 12.6 of the *Indemnities, Allowances and Expense Regulations* provides that the Speaker and Ministers:

“...may each receive, to a yearly maximum of \$1,500, an entertainment allowance for duty related entertainment expenses.”

The following benefits were provided under this Regulation to the Speaker and Executive Council of the 19th Assembly, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2021:

Member	Total Benefits Paid
Hon. Diane Archie	\$1,500.00
Hon. Paulie Chinna	\$1,500.00
Hon. Caroline Cochrane	\$1,500.00
Hon. Julie Green	\$875.00
Hon. Katrina Nokleby	\$604.84
Hon. RJ Simpson	\$1,500.00
Hon. Shane Thompson	\$1,500.00
Hon. Caroline Wawzonek	\$1,500.00
Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.	\$1,500.00

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

The Clerk of the Legislative Assembly has the power, duties and functions of a Deputy Minister managing and administering the Legislative Assembly as described in the *Public Service Act* and the *Financial Administration Act*.

The Office of the Clerk is responsible for the following:

- Providing advice, research and support to the Speaker and Members on procedural matters such as rules, privileges, proceedings and usages of the Legislative Assembly
- Preparing documents of the Assembly and ensuring proper preservation of the Assembly's documents and records
- Providing all administrative and support services to the Assembly during its sittings, including essential services such as interpretation, are provided to the Assembly Chamber
- Announcing the Assembly's Orders of the Day and conducting its recorded votes during session

The Office of the Clerk includes four branches: Members' and Precinct Services; Public Affairs and Communications; House Procedures and Committees; and Senior Advisory.

MEMBERS' AND PRECINCT SERVICES

This branch ensures that all administrative, financial, and facility services are available for the effective operations of the Legislative Assembly. This includes the operation of the Legislative Library, financial management (ranging from expenses and allowances to budget preparation) and security. The Sergeant-at-Arms is responsible to the Speaker for security of the Members of the Legislative Assembly and the precinct; administration of the Page program; safekeeping of the Mace and the Chamber; and leading the Speaker's Procession each sitting day.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Public Affairs and Communications is responsible for the management, development, implementation and maintenance of all internal and external communications as well as public affairs policies and initiatives. This includes providing communications support to Members and Senior Managers; coordinating outreach programs such as the Legislature Public Tour program, the Speaker's Mace Tour, Youth Parliament, and special events; managing Legislative Assembly broadcasting; coordinating translation and interpreting services in all 11 Official Languages; and managing media relations.

HOUSE PROCEDURES AND COMMITTEES

The House Procedures and Committees branch of the Office of the Clerk maintains official records of the Assembly and provides procedural advice to the Speaker, Clerk, Committees and Members based on legislation and parliamentary practice. This branch also includes research services, which provides nonpartisan information services to Members, including information and reference services.



SENIOR ADVISORY

The Senior Advisory team provides a wide range of administrative services, including logistics, coordination and writing services to the Board of Management, Caucus, and the Clerk. They process all documents for the Chamber. They also oversee the bookings of public spaces in the Legislature.





MESSAGE FROM THE CLERK

The 2020-2021 year commenced at the height of the COVID-19 Pandemic and proved to be a year like no other. The winter 2020 sitting of the legislature was suspended on March 13th, 2020 with the hasty adoption of an interim budget and a wholesale move to working from home. As with much of the world, Members and staff gradually familiarized themselves with virtual meeting platforms and new and strange ways of doing business. After consultation with the Executive Council and Regular Members, the Speaker made the difficult decision to reconvene the legislature in person in late spring and early summer to conclude consideration and adoption of the budget notwithstanding that significant restrictions on large gatherings remained in place. The Legislative Assembly was closed to the public with the exception of accredited media and the Chamber was reconfigured for the first time since the building opened to provide for two rows of Members' desks on each side of the Chamber to allow appropriate physical distancing. The page program was suspended as was the physical tabling and circulation of documents in the Chamber. The number of interpreters present at the Assembly was scaled back considerably for safety reasons and due to the inability to safely fit two interpreters in each of the rather small booths set aside for their important work. For the first time, remote interpreters from Inuvik and Edmonton were used, successfully, during the proceedings of the House. The rules were amended to allow Members to bring coffee and tea into the



Chamber and the number of Clerks present at the Table was reduced from three to two. These protocols remained in place for all subsequent sittings of the House that year and I am pleased to report that 2020-2021 saw no transmission of COVID-19 as a result of in-person sittings of the House, committees or caucus.

Much of the work of Committees was conducted remotely during 2020-2021 and both Chairs, committee staff and our in-house technical experts overcame significant obstacles to ensure the work of committees could continue. The ability to conduct and participate in committees by remote means may be one of the lasting benefits of the entire Covid experience. A special sitting of the legislature was called in August of 2020 to replace a member of the Executive Council and conduct the second sitting of the Territorial Leadership Council. This resulted in the appointment of the Member for Yellowknife Centre, Ms. Julie Green, to cabinet. Ms. Green assumed responsibility for the Health and Social Services portfolio in the midst of the pandemic crisis.

The Member for Thebacha, Mrs. Martselos hosted a productive and enjoyable Caucus Retreat in Fort Smith in September that included a number of community engagement sessions and a visit to Wood Buffalo National Park facilitated by the excellent staff of Parks Canada. Amongst other business items, a new consensus government protocol on the co-drafting of legislation with Indigenous partners was considered and adopted.

The House appointed a new Languages Commissioner, Information and Privacy Commissioner and new members to the NWT Human Rights Commission and enacted legislation to standardize the

remuneration and terms of appointment for these independent officers. The House also approved terms of reference and established a Special Committee on Reconciliation and Indigenous Affairs to assist in advancing one of the key priorities of the 19th Assembly.

Notwithstanding the unprecedented challenges of 2020-2021, Members and staff have much to be proud of. Foremost in my mind is the resilience, creativity and continued dedication to public service demonstrated in the face of once in a generation adversity. To the staff and contractors of the Legislative Assembly, please accept my congratulations on a job well done. At the time of writing this message, it is clear that the COVID-19 pandemic will span more than one fiscal year. Please take good care of yourselves, your families and each other and we will emerge stronger and with an impressive new set of tools at our disposal when the world, and our little corner of it, returns to normal.



Tim Mercer, Clerk

Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly

MESSAGE DU GREFFIER

L'exercice 2020-2021 a commencé au plus fort de la pandémie de COVID-19 et s'est singulièrement distingué des autres exercices à ce jour. La session de l'Assemblée législative de l'hiver 2020 a été suspendue le 13 mars 2020, avec l'adoption précipitée d'un budget provisoire et une transition de masse vers le télétravail. Comme presque partout dans le monde, les députés et le personnel se sont progressivement familiarisés avec les plates-formes de réunion virtuelles et se sont ajustés aux étranges nouvelles façons d'effectuer leurs tâches. Après consultation du Conseil exécutif et des simples députés, le président a pris la difficile décision de convoquer de nouveau l'Assemblée législative en personne à la fin du printemps et au début de l'été pour conclure l'examen et l'adoption du budget, bien que les importantes restrictions imposées aux grands rassemblements soient toujours en place. L'Assemblée législative a été fermée au public, sauf les membres des médias accrédités, et la Chambre a été remaniée pour la première fois depuis l'ouverture de l'édifice de manière à ce que les bureaux des députés forment deux rangées de chaque côté de la Chambre, permettant ainsi un éloignement physique approprié. Le programme des pages a été suspendu, tout comme le dépôt et la circulation physiques des documents à la Chambre. Le nombre d'interprètes présents à l'Assemblée a été considérablement réduit pour des raisons de sécurité : en effet, installer deux interprètes dans chacune des petites cabines prévues pour leurs importantes tâches s'est avéré peu sécuritaire. Ainsi, pour la première fois, lors des séances de la Chambre, on a fait appel à des interprètes à distance d'Inuvik et d'Edmonton. Les règles ont été modifiées pour que les

députés puissent apporter du café et du thé à la Chambre, et le nombre de greffiers présents à la table a été réduit de trois à deux. Ces protocoles sont restés en place pour toutes les séances ultérieures de la Chambre cette année-là, et je suis heureux de rapporter qu'aucun cas de transmission de COVID-19 n'a été signalé à la suite des séances en personne de la Chambre, des comités ou du caucus.

En 2020-2021, une grande partie du travail des comités a été effectué à distance, et les présidents, les membres des comités et nos experts techniques internes ont surmonté des obstacles de taille pour assurer la continuité du travail des comités. La capacité de mener des réunions de comités et d'y participer à distance pourrait s'avérer l'un des apports durables de la pandémie. Une séance spéciale de l'Assemblée législative a été convoquée en août 2020 pour remplacer un membre du Conseil exécutif et diriger la deuxième séance du Comité territorial chargé des postes de leadership. Cela a donné lieu à la nomination de la députée de Yellowknife Centre, Mme Julie Green, au Conseil exécutif. Mme Green a repris le portefeuille de la Santé et des Services sociaux au milieu de la crise pandémique.

En septembre, la députée de Thebacha, Mme Martselos, a organisé une agréable et productive retraite du caucus à Fort Smith comprenant plusieurs séances d'échanges avec le public et une visite au parc national Wood Buffalo encadrée par l'excellent personnel de Parcs Canada. Parmi les différents points traités, mentionnons l'examen et l'adoption d'un nouveau protocole du gouvernement de consensus sur la corédaction de la législation avec les partenaires autochtones.

La Chambre a nommé une nouvelle commissaire aux langues, un nouveau commissaire à l'information et à la protection de la vie privée et de nouveaux membres à la Commission des droits de la personne des TNO et a adopté une loi visant à uniformiser la rémunération et le mandat de ces représentants indépendants. Par ailleurs, pour contribuer à faire avancer l'une des priorités de la 19e Assemblée, la Chambre a mis sur pied un Comité spécial de réconciliation et des affaires autochtones et approuvé le mandat de ce dernier.

Malgré les défis sans précédent que l'année 2020-2021 a apportés, les députés et le personnel peuvent être très fiers de leur travail. Selon moi, ce sont avant tout la résilience, la créativité et le dévouement continu à la fonction publique dont ils ont fait preuve dans cette adversité hors du commun qu'il convient de souligner. Membres du personnel et entrepreneurs de l'Assemblée législative, je vous prie d'accepter toutes mes félicitations pour votre travail exceptionnel. Au moment de rédiger ce message, il est clair que la pandémie de COVID-19 s'étendra sur plus d'un exercice. Je vous invite à prendre bien soin de vous, de vos familles et les uns des autres : ainsi, nous émergerons plus forts de cette épreuve, avec qui plus est un nouvel ensemble impressionnant d'outils à notre disposition quand le monde, et notre petit coin de monde, reviendront à la normale.

Tim Mercer, greffier

*Assemblée législative des
Territoires du Nord-Ouest*



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