

FIRST SESSION OF THE TWENTIETH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

February 28, 2024

The Assembly commenced sitting at 1:30 p.m. with the Honourable Shane Thompson, Speaker, presiding.

Members' Attendance

Present: Member for Dehcho, Member for Frame Lake, Member for Great Slave, Honourable Member for Hay River North, Honourable Member for Hay River South, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Member for Mackenzie Delta, Member for Monfwi, Honourable Member for Nunakput, Member for Range Lake, Member for Sahtu, Honourable Member for Thebacha, Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Yellowknife North, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South.

Absent: None.

Ministers' Statements

- 27-20(1) The Minister of Infrastructure made a statement regarding Marine Transportation Services.
- 28-20(1) The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment made a statement about celebrating Francophonie in the Northwest Territories.
- 29-20(1) The Minister of Environment and Climate Change made a statement regarding Environment and Climate Change's approach to wildfire management.

Members' Statements

- 130-20(1) The Member for Great Slave made a statement regarding Pink Shirt Day.

- 131-20(1) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding amendments to water regulations.
- 132-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding on-the-land education.
- 133-20(1) The Member for Range Lake made a statement regarding Government of the Northwest Territories cultural safety policies.
- 134-20(1) The Member for Sahtu made a statement regarding the Northwest Territories' economic future.
- 135-20(1) The Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh made a statement regarding Akaitcho Dene First Nation agreement-in-principle negotiations.
- 136-20(1) The Member for Mackenzie Delta made a statement regarding addictions and healing in small communities.
- 137-20(1) The Member for Inuvik Boot Lake made a statement regarding Indigenous representation in the public service.
- 138-20(1) The Member for Monfwi made a statement regarding Pink Shirt Day.
- 139-20(1) The Member for Dehcho made a statement regarding the K'atlo'deeche First Nation 42nd Annual K'amba Carnival.
- 140-20(1) The Member for Yellowknife Centre made a statement regarding reduction in NWT capital investments and labour force statistics.
- 141-20(1) The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South made a statement regarding Pink Shirt Day.
- 142-20(1) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh delivered a eulogy for Vincent James Bertrand.

Written Questions

- 3-20(1) The Member for Range Lake asked a question of the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding extended health benefits policy.
- 4-20(1) The Member for Range Lake asked a question of the Minister of Health and Social Services regarding private agency nurses.

- 5-20(1) The Member for Range Lake asked a question of the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs regarding the municipal funding gap.

Returns to Written Questions

- 1-20(1) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 1-20(1) from the Minister of Finance to the Member for Range Lake regarding carbon tax revenue and rebates.

Tabling of Documents

- 50-20(1) Inter-Activity Transfers Exceeding \$250,000 (April 1 to September 30, 2023). Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 51-20(1) Northwest Territories Power Corporation Amended Capital Budget. Tabled by the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation.
- 52-20(1) Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly under the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* 2023. Tabled by the Minister of Infrastructure.
- 53-20(1) Package of information regarding policies on 2SLGBTQIPA+ youth in the Northwest Territories. Tabled by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.
- 54-20(1) Letter from Tłı̨ch̨o Government to Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley on waters regulations interpretation. Tabled by the Member for Frame Lake.
- 55-20(1) Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly Annual Report 2022-2023. Tabled by the Speaker.
- 56-20(1) Statement of Consistency for Bill 3. Tabled by the Member for Range Lake.

Motions

- 20-20(1) Affirming Housing as a Human Right

Moved by the Member for Dehcho:

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Range Lake, that the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly acknowledge and affirm housing as a fundamental human right;

AND FURTHER, that the implementation of housing as a fundamental human right within the laws of the Northwest Territories and policies of the Government of the Northwest Territories be referred to Standing Committee on Social Development for further study.

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

Members for: Member for Dehcho, Member for Frame Lake, Member for Great Slave, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Member for Mackenzie Delta, Member for Monfwi, Member for Range Lake, Member for Sahtu, Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh, Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Yellowknife North. (11)

Members against: (0)

Members abstaining: Honourable Member for Hay River North, Honourable Member for Hay River South, Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Honourable Member for Nunakput, Honourable Member for Thebacha, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South. (7)

The motion was CARRIED.

21-20(1) Taking Action to Address Housing as a Human Right

Moved by the Member for Dehcho:

NOW THEREFORE, I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Range Lake, that the Government of the Northwest Territories acknowledge housing as a human right, by amending the *Housing Northwest Territories Act* to enshrine the right to housing in legislation;

AND FURTHER, that the Government of the Northwest Territories establish the Northwest Territories Housing Forum in legislation to provide recommendations and advice to the Minister;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories leverage the Northwest Territories Housing Forum to improve access to federal funding and implement culturally appropriate housing solutions in collaboration with Indigenous Governments;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories collaborate with the Northwest Territories Housing Forum to bring homes out of core need within the earliest timeframe;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government establish a Territorial Housing Advocate in legislation to review and evaluate the outcomes of the *Housing Northwest Territories Act*;

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

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

Members for: Member for Dehcho, Member for Frame Lake, Member for Great Slave, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Member for Mackenzie Delta, Member for Monfwi, Member for Range Lake, Member for Sahtu, Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh, Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Yellowknife North. (11)

Members against: (0)

Members abstaining: Honourable Member for Hay River North, Honourable Member for Hay River South, Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Honourable Member for Nunakput, Honourable Member for Thebacha, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South. (7)

The motion was CARRIED.

First Reading of Bills

Bill 6: *Supplementary Appropriation Act, (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024*

Introduced by the Minister of Finance.

In accordance with Rule 8.2(3), the Speaker deemed Bill 6, *Supplementary Appropriation Act, (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024*, read for the first time and ready for second reading.

The motion was CARRIED.

Second Reading of Bills

Bill 3: *Carbon Tax Repeal Act*

Introduced by the Member for Range Lake.

The Member for Range Lake, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife Centre, moved that Bill 3, *Carbon Tax Repeal Act*, be read for the second time.

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

Members for: Member for Dehcho, Member for Frame Lake, Member for Great Slave, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Member for Mackenzie Delta, Member for Monfwi, Member for Range Lake, Member for Sahtu, Member for Tu Nedhé-Willideh, Member for Yellowknife Centre. (10)

Members against: Member for Yellowknife North. (1)

Members abstaining: Honourable Member for Hay River North, Honourable Member for Hay River South, Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Honourable Member for Nunakput, Honourable Member for Thebacha, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South. (7)

The motion was CARRIED.

Bill 3 was referred to the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

Bill 6: *Supplementary Appropriation Act, (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024*

Introduced by the Minister of Finance.

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, seconded by the Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, moved that Bill 6, *Supplementary Appropriation Act, (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024*, be read for the second time.

The motion was CARRIED.

Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters

The Deputy Chair, the Member for Sahtu, reported that the Committee of the Whole considered Minister's Statement 4-20(1): 2023 Wildfire Season Review and Planning for the 2024 Season; Minister's Statement 5-20(1): Emergency Management Preparation; Minister's Statement 17-20(1): Reaching Average \$10 a Day Child Care in the NWT;

Minister's Statement 24-20(1): Health Human Resources Recruitment and Retention, and reported progress.

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

The motion was CARRIED.

Third Reading of Bills

Bill 6: *Supplementary Appropriation Act, (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024*

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, seconded by the Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, moved that Bill 6, *Supplementary Appropriation Act, (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2023-2024*, be read for the third time.

The Minister of Finance requested a recorded vote. The results of the recorded vote were:

Members for: Member for Dehcho, Member for Frame Lake, Member for Great Slave, Honourable Member for Hay River North, Honourable Member for Hay River South, Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, Honourable Member for Inuvik Twin Lakes, Honourable Member for Kam Lake, Member for Mackenzie Delta, Member for Monfwi, Honourable Member for Nunakput, Member for Range Lake, Member for Sahtu, Honourable Member for Thebacha, Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, Member for Yellowknife Centre, Member for Yellowknife North, Honourable Member for Yellowknife South. (18)

Members against: (0)

Members abstaining: (0)

The motion was CARRIED.

The Speaker adjourned the House at 5:51 p.m.



Hon. Shane Thompson
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Glen Rutland
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly