

Annual Report 2016-2017

Legislative Assembly of the
Northwest Territories



Speaker's Message

On behalf of the Legislative Assembly, I am pleased to bring you the 2016-2017 Annual Report of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories. This report is intended to provide information about the Legislative Assembly's operations and activities, and a consolidation of several accountability reports.

As the "Place of the People", the Legislative Assembly continues its many efforts to host events to bring northerners to the Assembly and to showcase our consensus style of parliamentary democracy.

The Legislative Assembly was pleased to host "Daughters of the Vote" in 2016. This is an initiative of Equal Voice Canada, an organization dedicated to electing more women to all levels of politics. There are many promising young people across the Northwest Territories and events such as this promote the involvement of young women in territorial politics.

This year the Speaker's Mace Tour saw the Mace travel to the communities of Fort Providence and Kakisa. The Mace Tour is an educational outreach program designed to connect the Legislative Assembly and its elected officials to communities that do not have direct access to the Legislative Assembly building in Yellowknife. The tour provides an opportunity to personalize the Legislative Assembly and its officials while educating NWT youth and residents about

consensus government, the Legislative Assembly, Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs), and staff of the Office of the Clerk.

During this first full year of the 18th Assembly, the results of the process which Members had initiated to strengthen their Conduct Guidelines were tabled in the Legislative Assembly. The report, "You are Standing for your People: Report on the Review of the Members Conduct Guidelines", contains recommendations regarding changes to the Oath of Office and amendments to the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* and the development of a new Code of Conduct. This work will continue on for the balance of the 18th Assembly.

Over the past several years, the Legislative Assembly has taken steps to make improvements to the Assembly building, and will continue to do so in order to be accessible to all residents of the Northwest Territories.

It is my sincere hope that you will read this report and, in doing so, learn more about your Legislative Assembly. As Speaker, I welcome your feedback.



Honourable Jackson Lafferty, Speaker
Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories



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Executive Summary

The Legislative Assembly is pleased to present its annual report for 2016-17, reflecting our strong commitment to transparency and public accountability. The report highlights the year's activities, including the work of Committees, the operation of the Office of the Clerk, and financial information.

This report contains a formal message from the Speaker, who presides over the Legislative Assembly and its administration, and another from the Clerk, who is the Assembly's senior advisor and responsible for its operations.

This was the first full year of work by Members of the 18th Legislative Assembly, which included 58 sitting days in the Chamber. In that time, Ministers made 146 formal statements, and Regular Members posed 622 questions.

In addition to regular Assembly business, Members focused their efforts on transparency and accountability. Much of this work was led by the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures, which had an exceptionally active year as a result. However, all Standing Committees dedicated themselves to the task of getting the 18th Assembly off to a productive start. Summaries of the Committees' work, and that of the Board of Management, are included in this report.

2016 also marked the inauguration of the Order of the Northwest Territories, which recognizes individuals who have excelled in their contributions to our lives and society.

The Legislative Assembly was honoured to host a workshop for participants in Daughters of the Vote, an initiative to increase the number of women elected at all levels of government. The Assembly was also host to a number of foreign dignitary visits.

Thousands of other people visit the Legislative Assembly building every year. It is an important gathering place enjoyed by NWT residents, visitors and tourists, 362 days of the year. Tours of the building have been reviewed very positively, and are generally featured by commercial tour operators.

A section of this report details Members' constituency expenses, Ministers' benefits, home travel expenses, and other allowances. There is also a financial summary of the Legislative Assembly's cost-of-operation.

More information is available and regularly updated on the Legislative Assembly's website: www.assembly.gov.nt.ca.



Résumé



L'Assemblée législative est heureuse de présenter son rapport annuel pour 2016-2017, conformément à notre engagement ferme envers le public à agir de façon transparente et responsable. Le présent rapport contient les faits saillants des activités de l'exercice, notamment une description des travaux des comités dont font partie les députés, les activités du Bureau du greffier, ainsi que de l'information de nature financière.

Le présent rapport renferme aussi un message officiel du président de l'Assemblée, qui préside l'Assemblée et voit à sa gestion, ainsi qu'un message du greffier, conseiller principal de l'Assemblée et responsable de son fonctionnement.

Les députés de la 18^e Assemblée législative ont terminé leur première année complète de travail, composée de 58 jours de travaux en Chambre. Au cours de cette année, les ministres ont fait 146 déclarations officielles, et les simples députés ont posé 622 questions. En plus de régler les affaires courantes de l'Assemblée, les députés ont axé leurs efforts sur la transparence et la responsabilisation. Ce travail a été exécuté en grande partie par le Comité permanent des règles et des procédures, qui a ainsi connu une année exceptionnellement remplie. Les autres comités permanents ne sont pas en reste : ils se sont tous consacrés à faire en sorte que la 18^e Assemblée démarre de manière productive. Des résumés des travaux des comités et du Bureau de régie sont intégrés au présent rapport.

L'année 2016 marque également la création de l'Ordre des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, qui reconnaît les personnes qui ont excellé dans leur contribution à la vie de notre société.

L'Assemblée législative a eu l'honneur d'accueillir de nombreux dignitaires étrangers ainsi qu'un atelier des Héritières du suffrage, une initiative consacrée à faire élire plus de femmes à tous les ordres de gouvernement. Des milliers d'autres personnes visitent le bâtiment de l'Assemblée législative chaque année. C'est un lieu de rassemblement important tenu en estime par les résidents des TNO et les visiteurs du monde entier, 362 jours par année. Les visites du bâtiment reçoivent des commentaires très positifs et sont généralement mises en évidence par les voyageurs commerciaux.

Une section du présent rapport détaille les dépenses de circonscription des députés, les avantages des ministres, les frais de représentation et de déplacement et d'autres allocations. Cette rubrique contient aussi un résumé de l'information concernant les frais de fonctionnement de l'Assemblée législative.

De plus amples renseignements sont disponibles et régulièrement mis à jour dans le site Web de l'Assemblée législative à l'adresse www.assembly.gov.nt.ca.

What is consensus government?

1. The people of our 19 constituencies elect their Member of the Legislative Assembly, as an independent (meaning: no political parties.)

2. Upon election, Members come together as the Territorial Leadership Committee at the Legislative Assembly building.



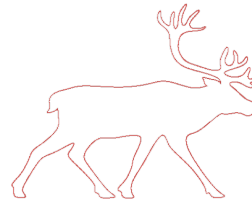
“The caribou below are all a part of the same herd (Members of the Legislative Assembly, or MLAs). They must work together, but some have different roles.”



4. Candidates for Premier are nominated, candidates present their platforms and take questions from Members, and a secret ballot vote takes place.

5. The same process is used to select six Cabinet Ministers.

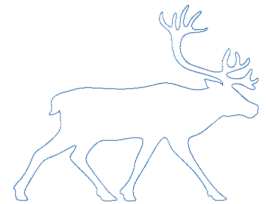
3. There, the Speaker is elected by secret ballot vote; this comes first to reflect the importance of the Speaker to the proper functioning of consensus government.



Regular Member



Lawmakers; budget approvers; spending monitors; windows into government for the people they represent; community leaders



Executive Council



Comprised of a Premier and 6 Ministers; the roles of the Regular Members, plus department heads and legislation introducers; government administrators

You can see there are more Regular Members (11) in the herd than Executive Council Members (7).

In our system of government, consensus does not mean unanimous agreement.

Decisions are made, motions are passed and legislation is enacted by simple majority vote.

In this way, you can see why the MLA herd must work together.

Meet the Members

Back row (left to right): R.J. Simpson, MLA Hay River North; Kieron Testart, MLA Kam Lake; Bob McLeod, MLA Yellowknife South; Shane Thompson, MLA Nahendeh; Julie Green, MLA Yellowknife Centre; Glen Abernethy, MLA Great Slave; Robert C. McLeod, MLA Inuvik Twin Lakes; Alfred Moses, MLA Inuvik Boot Lake; Tom Beaulieu, MLA Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh; Cory Vanthuynne, MLA Yellowknife North; Wally Schumann, MLA Hay River South; Louis Sebert, MLA Thebacha

Front row (left to right): Herb Nakimayak, MLA Nunakput; Frederick Blake Jr., MLA Mackenzie Delta; Kevin O'Reilly, MLA Frame Lake; Jackson Lafferty, MLA Monfwi; Michael M. Nadli, MLA Deh Cho; Daniel M. McNeely, MLA Sahtu; Caroline Cochrane, MLA Range Lake



Meet the Executive Council

Alfred Moses: Minister of Education, Culture and Employment; Minister Responsible for Youth

Louis Sebert: Minister of Justice; Minister of Lands; Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation; Minister Responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency

Glen Abernethy: Minister of Health and Social Services; Minister Responsible for Seniors; Minister Responsible for Persons With Disabilities; Minister Responsible for Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission; Minister Responsible for the Public Utilities Board

Bob McLeod: Premier; Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs

Robert C. McLeod: Deputy Premier; Minister of Finance; Minister of Environment and Natural Resources

Caroline Cochrane: Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs; Minister Responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation; Minister Responsible for Women; Minister Responsible for Addressing Homelessness

Wally Schumann: Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment; Minister of Infrastructure



Speaker [spee-ker] n.

1. Presides over the Legislative Assembly and represents the legislature as a whole
2. The Assembly's spokesperson to authorities outside the legislature, officially welcomes visitors
3. Presides over the sittings of the Assembly; enforces the rules, order and conduct of business; impartially controls debate
4. Responsible for the daily administration of the Legislative Assembly, with assistance from the Clerk's Office (see page 40)
5. Carries on his/her duties as an MLA
6. Speaker of the 18th Legislative Assembly:
The Honourable Jackson Lafferty

Photo: GNWT ITI/Briony Wright

Statutory Officers

Auditor General of Canada

The Auditor-General is the official auditor of the Government of the Northwest Territories and its major agencies, as prescribed in Canada's *Northwest Territories Act* and NWT's *Financial Administration Act*. The findings of the Auditor-General are made public and subject to public hearings by the Standing Committee on Government Operations. The Committee then reports publicly to the agency's

response, typically with additional recommendations.

Michael Ferguson was appointed Auditor-General of Canada in November 2011.

NWT Human Rights Offices

The Northwest Territories *Human Rights Act* establishes three independent entities: The NWT Human Rights Commission works to prevent discrimination; The Office of the Director of Human Rights processes complaints that allege discrimination; and The NWT Human Rights Adjudication Panel holds hearings into complaints that allege discrimination.

Deborah McLeod is the current director of the Human Rights Commission.

Members of The NWT Human Rights Adjudication Panel: Sheldon Toner (Chair); Adrian Wright; Colin Baile; Emerald Murphy.

Members of The Human Rights Commission: Charles Dent (Chair); Yacub Adam; Marion Berls; Gerri Sharpe.

NWT Languages Commissioner

The Languages Commissioner serves a four-year term upon appointment by the Legislative Assembly and acts to ensure the protection of the rights, status and privileges of our 11 Official Languages within government institutions in the NWT. The Commissioner investigates complaints and can

recommend improvements to language services.

Shannon Gullberg is the current Languages Commissioner.

Information and Privacy Commissioner

The Information and Privacy Commissioner is an independent Officer of the Legislative Assembly who fulfills a number of roles as defined by the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*. The Commissioner reviews government decisions on access to information and records, and provides comment on how proposed laws and government programs might affect the privacy of citizens.

Elaine Keenan-Bengt is the current Information and Privacy Commissioner.

NWT Equal Pay Commissioner

The Equal Pay Commissioner is appointed by the Legislative Assembly and is responsible for responding to complaints under the *Public Service Act*. The Equal Pay Commissioner receives and investigates pay equity complaints and helps resolve disputes, and promotes awareness and understanding of the right to equal pay for work of equal value.

Nitya Iyer was the Equal Pay Commissioner for the 2016-2017 fiscal year.

Conflict of Interest Commissioner

The Conflict of Interest Commissioner advises Members of the Legislative Assembly on the rules designed to ensure that they act in the public interest, not their own or that of their families, as per the rules for both Members and Ministers in *The Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act*. The Conflict of Interest Commissioner investigates alle-

gations of conflict of interest against any MLA, and concludes investigation by reporting their findings to the Speaker, with a report then tabled in the Assembly.

David Phillip Jones is the current Conflict of Interest Commissioner.

Elections NWT

The Chief Electoral Officer is responsible for administering territorial elections, by-elections, and plebiscites in accordance with the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*.

Nicole Latour is the current Chief Electoral Officer.

Standing Committees



In our consensus system of government, Standing Committees carry out much of the Legislative Assembly's work. The committee structure of small groups of MLAs allows for detailed exploration of issues, and for the Committees to travel across the NWT to engage with all residents.

Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning



Chair: Tom Beaulieu

Deputy Chair: Kieron Testart

Members: Frederick Blake Jr., Julie Green, Daniel M. McNeely, Michael M. Nadli, Herb Nakimayak, Kevin O'Reilly, R.J. Simpson, Shane Thompson, Cory Vanthuyne

Clerk: Doug Schauerte

Researcher: Lee Sellek

The Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning's mandate is to consider issues with government-wide implications. This includes the overview of the government's fiscal framework and budget, plus the review of the year's capital spending plans.

The Committee consists of the 11 Regular Members, and meets daily during session. Members discuss current issues, correspondence, and upcoming business in the Assembly chamber. The Committee held 94 meetings during the 2016-17 reporting period. Members supported and passed four public motions in the Assembly, on junior kindergarten, core housing needs, "A New Day" men's healing program, and the Mid-Term Review process.

The Committee concentrated on the government's first two operations budgets of the 18th Assembly (the first being an interim appropriation). The 2016-17 budget proposed significantly reduced government spending and the combination of several departments. The Committee devoted much of its energy to minimizing impacts on public services, jobs, and the economy, ultimately reaching a productive compromise with Cabinet that preserved several key programs and expanded others.

In addition, the Committee's work stressed the need to increase employment in small communities, improve education at all levels, properly fund junior kindergarten, broaden home care, and build more housing. The Committee also provided scrutiny and advice on large projects, such as the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway, the Mackenzie Valley Fibre-optic Link, and the acquisition of marine assets from the former Northern Transportation Company Ltd., among others. Work on these issues was substantial, during session and throughout the year.

Members kept a watchful eye on the performance of Cabinet Ministers and departments, and offered suggestions for continuous improvement.

Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment

Chair: Herb Nakimayak (April-June 2016); Cory Vanthuyne (June 2016-March 2017)
Deputy Chair: Daniel M. McNeely
Members: Herb Nakimayak, Kevin O'Reilly, Kieron Te-start, R.J. Simpson
Clerk: Michael Ball
Researcher: Alicia Tumchewics



The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment has a broad mandate with oversight and responsibility for the performance of the following government departments and agencies:

- Environment and Natural Resources;
- Industry, Tourism and Investment;
- Lands;
- Public Works and Services;
- Transportation;
- Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation;
- Northwest Territories Power Corporation;
- Northwest Territories Public Utility Board; and
- Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

During the 2016-2017 fiscal year, the Committee held 47 meetings on a wide variety of topics including departmental budgets and business plans, Northwest Territories Agriculture and Commercial Fishing Strategies, the Northwest Territories Energy Strategy and Climate Change Strategic Framework, and management of NWT lands, among others. The Committee received numerous briefings from government departments and agencies, as well as Ecology North and the Northwest Territories/Nunavut Chamber of Mines, Northwest Territories Chamber of Commerce, Northwest Territories Professional Media Association, Almod Diamonds Limited and TerraX Minerals Incorporated.

The Committee held a strategic planning retreat in Hay River, NWT, to consider shared priorities of Committee Members and establish committee priorities. Economic diversification through strategic development of renewable and non-renewable resources, and infrastructure and climate change were identified as top committee priorities for the 18th Assembly. Members also attended the 2016 Opportunities North Conference, one of the largest business conferences in northern Canada, held in Yellowknife in September, 2016.

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment considered one piece of legislation, Bill 7: *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act*, which established a revolving fund at the Yellowknife Airport. This legislation enabled changes in the operations of the Yellowknife Airport and provided that all revenues generated at the airport would be used to cover the cost of operations, maintenance and capital upgrades, independent of subsidy from the Government of the Northwest Territories. The Committee received substantial public feedback on the proposed changes. A well-attended public hearing was conducted in Yellowknife on December 7th, 2016.

Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures



Chair: Kevin O'Reilly
Deputy Chair: Julie Green
Members: Tom Beaulieu, Hon. Louis Sebert, Shane Thompson
Clerk: Doug Schauerte
Researcher: Lee Sellek

The Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures examines matters referred by the Legislative Assembly, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, or the Board of Management. This Committee also reviews the reports of the Chief Electoral Officer and the Conflict of Interest Commissioner, and reviews and makes recommendations on the impacts that self-government agreements may have on the operations of the Legislative Assembly.

The 18th Legislative Assembly began its work with several large significant assignments to the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures, related to public accountability, transparency, and the guidelines for Members' conduct. The Committee met 20 times on these and other matters during the 2016-17 fiscal year, producing four substantial reports on reviews mandated by motions of the Assembly:

- Report on the Review of the Establishment of a Mid-Term Review Process;
- Interim Report on the Review of Members' Conduct Guidelines;
- Interim Report on the Review of Standing Committee Public Engagement and Transparency; and,
- You Are Standing For Your People: Report on the Review of the Members' Conduct Guidelines.

These reports resulted in motions passed by the Assembly to improve its standards and processes in these areas, and to establish a process for a Mid-Term Review of Cabinet, collectively and individually, supported by documentation of performance.

The Committee also began its review of the Chief Electoral Officer's Report on the Administration of the 2015 Territorial General Election, which included 43 recommendations. Research on these recommendations included Chairman O'Reilly's observation, with the CEO, of Prince Edward Island's electoral renewal plebiscite in November, 2016. The Chair subsequently provided an informative written report for the Committee's consideration.

The Committee's intense activity in 2016-17 reflects the 18th Assembly's focus on "keeping its house in order" and expanding information available to the public.

Standing Committee on Government Operations



Chair: Kieron Testart
Deputy Chair: R.J. Simpson
Members: Daniel M. McNeely, Michael M. Nadli, Herb Nakimayak
Clerk: Cayley Thomas, Michael Ball
Researcher: April Taylor

The Standing Committee on Government Operations considers the following matters with respect to the Departments of the Executive and Indigenous Affairs; Finance; and Municipal and Community Affairs:

- Review multi-year business plans and budgets, bills, boards and agencies;
- Review departmental performance and official language issues, including that of boards and agencies;
- Review, as necessary or appropriate, the annual and other reports of the Statutory Officers of the Legislative Assembly, including the Languages Commissioner, the Information and Privacy Commissioner, the Equal Pay Commissioner, and the Human Rights Commission;
- Examine the reports of the annual financial statements and public accounts of the Government of the Northwest Territories and the report of the Auditor General;
- In the event that the Assembly is not in Session, the Speaker may provide the Auditor General's Report and the Minister of Finance may provide the Public Accounts to the Committee for review, which may include public hearings, in advance of tabling; and
- Consider any other matter referred by the House.

The Standing Committee on Government Operations met 28 times between April 1st, 2016 and March 31st, 2017.

The Committee Conducted Public Hearings on the Following:

- Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Public Accounts 2014-2015
- Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 NWT Human Rights Commission Annual Report
- Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 and 2015-2016 Annual Reports of the Information & Privacy Commissioner; and
- Report on the Review of the 2016 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Support to Communities for Municipal Services in the NWT – MACA

The Committee also held a public briefing with the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs on Ground Ambulance and Highway Rescue Services Program Funding, and 911 Services in the NWT.

Standing Committee on Social Development



Chair: Shane Thompson
Deputy Chair: Julie Green
Members: Tom Beaulieu, Frederick Blake Jr., Michael M. Nadli
Clerk: Doug Schauerte
Researcher: Megan Welsh

The Standing Committee on Social Development monitors and reports on the activities of the GNWT social envelope departments and agencies including:

- Health and Social Services;
- Education, Culture and Employment;
- Justice; and
- the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.

The Committee also examines issues that pertain to the Status of Women Council, seniors, youth, and persons with disabilities.

During the 2016-17 reporting period, the Committee reviewed four bills, all of which received assent. As Committee chair Mr. Shane Thompson said in the House, Bill 5: *An Act to Amend the Vital Statistics Act*, highlighted the human face of legislation and policy-making. Members were pleased to support the bill, which made real and meaningful impacts on the lives of Northerners and their ability to use their true names, honour their traditional cultures, and exercise self-determination in their identity. Later, Bill 6: the *Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2016*, enabled the government to tidy existing legislation, while long-awaited changes to the *Children's Law Act* through Bill 8 made possible in-house recalculation services for families in the Maintenance Enforcement Program. Finally, Bill 13: the *Marriage Act*, brought territorial marriage law in line with current federal standards and national best practices. With the legal foundations laid by these bills, the Committee eagerly anticipates governmental policy and program development to bring these changes into practice, particularly the use of Aboriginal language fonts in government documentation.

The Committee also participated in the annual territorial Anti-Poverty Roundtable, held outside Yellowknife for the first time, and advised the government on its interim guidelines for medical assistance in dying and its action plans for culture and heritage, education and employment through the Skills 4 Success initiative, early childhood development, and mental health and addictions.

Focusing on the goals Members identified at the start of the 18th Assembly, the Committee also initiated its own substantive review of territorial long-term care planning and the administration of child and family services, particularly the government's auditing process. Members will continue to monitor these matters closely. In all its work, the Committee emphasized the need for the government's education, employment, and social planning to prepare and empower Northerners to build their own opportunities.



2016-2017 Board of Management

Chair: Hon. Jackson Lafferty
Members: Frederick Blake Jr., Hon. Robert
C. McLeod, Hon. Wally Schumann, Cory
Vanthuyne
Secretary: Tim Mercer
Assistant Secretary: Haylee Carlson

Board of Management

The Board of Management 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 of Management 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 Allowances 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.

Page Program

The Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories runs one of the most unique page programs in Canada, using cooperation by students, parents, schools, chaperones and Assembly staff to ensure all 19 constituencies are well represented when the Assembly is in Session. Grades 8 and 9 students are eligible to serve as pages. Staff of the Assembly coordinate all aspects of the program including travel, meals, accommodations, chaperone services, and required training for the students. Pages from constituencies outside of Yellowknife travel for one week periods while Session occurs.



Pages from Norman Wells and Colville Lake: Sahtu
Member: Daniel M. McNeely



Pages from Fort Smith: Thebacha
Member: Louis Sebert



Pages from Inuvik: Inuvik Boot Lake
Member: Alfred Moses



Pages from Inuvik: Inuvik Twin Lakes
Member: Robert C. McLeod



Pages from Kakisa and Fort Providence: Deh Cho
Member: Michael M. Nadli



Pages from Aklavik and Fort McPherson: Mackenzie Delta
Member: Frederick Blake Jr.



Pages from Hay River: Hay River South
Member: Wally Schumann



Pages from Yellowknife, Dettah and N'Dilo: Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh
Member: Tom Beaulieu



Pages from Trout Lake and Fort Liard: Nahendeh
Member: Shane Thompson



Pages from Hay River: Hay River North
Member: R.J. Simpson



Pages from Tuktoyaktuk and Sachs Harbour: Nunakput
Member: Herb Nakimayak



Pages from Gamètì and Wekweètì: Monfwi
Member: Jackson Lafferty



Pages from Yellowknife: Great Slave
Member: Glen Abernethy



Pages from Yellowknife: Yellowknife Centre
Member: Julie Green



Pages from Yellowknife: Yellowknife North
Member: Cory Vanthuyne



Pages from Yellowknife: Yellowknife South
Member: Bob McLeod



Pages from Yellowknife: Kam Lake
Member: Kieron Testart



Pages from Yellowknife: Range Lake
Member: Caroline Cochrane



Pages from Yellowknife: Frame Lake
Member: Kevin O'Reilly

Kindergarten Christmas Trees

From November 16th to November 30th, 2016, a total of 300 kindergarten students from Yellowknife, Dettah and N'Dilo came to the legislature to decorate Christmas trees. This has been an annual tradition since the Legislative Assembly building opened in 1993.

The decorated building was a sight to see for Christmas Lights Across Canada, which took place on December 1st, 2016. This national event sees all capital cities across Canada light up their legislatures on the same day.

Students from Kaw Tay Whee School decorate their tree



Mace Tour 2016

On May 17th, 2016, Speaker Jackson Lafferty visited Deh Gah School in Fort Providence and Kakisa Lake School in Kakisa on the 2016 Mace Tour. Speaker Lafferty was accompanied by the Deh Cho MLA, Michael M. Nadli; Clerk of the Assembly, Tim Mercer; and Sergeant-at-Arms, Brian Thagard.

The Mace Tour is an educational outreach program of the Speaker's Office that brings the Territorial Mace to communities across the Territory. Presentations on the Mace connect the Legislative Assembly and its elected officials to NWT communities that do not have direct access to the Legislative Assembly building in Yellowknife.

Fort Providence residents learn about the Mace's symbolism



Order of the Northwest Territories



The Order of the Northwest Territories recognizes individuals who have served with the greatest distinction and excelled in any field benefiting the people of the Territory, or elsewhere.

The investiture ceremony for the Order of the Northwest Territories was held on June 29th, 2016.

The 2016 inductees pictured are:

Front Row: Mrs. Jan Stirling, nominated for her work in public service.

Back Row (left to right): Dr. Marie Wilson, nominated for her work in Communications and Aboriginal/Human Rights; Ms. Nellie Cournoyea, nominated for her work in Community Leadership; and Mr. Anthony W.J. Whitford, nominated for his work in public service.

Daughters of the Vote

The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly, Honourable Jackson Lafferty, hosted a Daughters of the Vote workshop from February 12th to February 14th, 2017. Daughters of the Vote is an initiative of Equal Voice, a national, multi-partisan organization dedicated to electing more women to all levels of government.

Participants at the Welcome Reception



Fifteen young women from across the NWT were chosen through an application process to travel to Yellowknife to attend the workshop. Participants attended two panel discussions: one focused on “What Works: Getting Elected in the NWT” and the second panel was on the realities of becoming an elected official. Both discussions included conversations from current and former female Members of the Legislative Assembly. Participants also received presentations from the Chief Electoral Officer and from representatives from the Status of Women Council.



Visiting Dignitaries

April 20th, 2016: Mr. Kie-Cheon Lee, Consul General of the Republic of Korea

June 14th, 2016: Mr. Tom Palaia, Consul General of the USA

September 15th, 2016: H.E. Petronila P. Garcia, Philippine Ambassador to Canada, Philippine Embassy, Ottawa

October 12th, 2016: H.E. Daeshik Jo, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Canada

December 1st, 2016: Mr. Tom Chih-Chiang Lee, Director General Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, Vancouver

February 21st, 2017: Mr. Pascal Bornozy, Consul General of Switzerland

Deputy Speaker, R.J. Simpson, with H.E. Petronila P. Garcia, Philippine Ambassador to Canada, Philippine Embassy, Ottawa



Visitor Statistics

April 2016-March 2017

Month	10:30 Tour	1:30 Tour	3:30 Tour	Special Tours	Walk-ins	iPod Audio Tours	Third Party Tours	Total
Apr-16	58	N/A	N/A	24	143	15	89	314
May-16	43	N/A	N/A	36	155	12	0	242
Jun-16	149	126	89	179	274	6	58	877
Jul-16	175	215	92	53	299	17	29	872
Aug-16	186	236	125	77	581	28	600	1795
Sep-16	182	N/A	N/A	114	887	50	1284	2553
Oct-16	107	N/A	N/A	56	279	14	293	747
Nov-16	51	N/A	N/A	159	188	27	206	604
Dec-16	33	N/A	N/A	15	285	15	701	1028
Jan-17	65	N/A	N/A	16	232	7	766	1069
Feb-17	61	N/A	N/A	93	330	39	1010	1439
Mar-17	262	N/A	N/A	170	381	20	832	1591

5,867 visitors attended tours with third party companies over the fiscal year. Many of those visitors came from overseas.

In summer 2016, we delivered 1,393 guided tours.

Our building gets the most visitors in September every year.

House Activity

58

Sitting Days

2649

Hansard Pages

191

Sessional Hours

306

Tabled Documents

146

Ministers' Statements

622

Oral Questions


551

Members' Statements



And:

- 7 Petitions
- 9 Committee Reports
- 17 Written Questions
- 26 Recorded Votes
- 19 Bills Introduced
- 15 Bills Receiving Royal Assent
- 19 Government Bills
- 0 Private Bills
- 10 Appropriation Bills



**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 31st, 2017
18th Assembly**

Member	Constituency	MLA Indemnity (1)	Ministerial Indemnity (2)	Speaker Indemnity (3)	Extra Duties (4)	Allowance for Expenses (5)	Northern Allowance (6)
NADLI, Michael	DEH CHO	103,851				14,968	7,696
O'REILLY, Kevin	FRAME LAKE	103,851			3,527	7,484	3,450
ABERNETHY, Glen	GREAT SLAVE	103,851	55,583			7,484	3,450
SIMPSON, RJ	HAY RIVER NORTH	103,851			7,397	14,968	6,713
SCHUMANN, Wally	HAY RIVER SOUTH	103,851	55,583			14,968	6,713
MOSES, Alfred	INUVIK BOOT LAKE	103,851	55,583			14,968	16,180
MCLEOD, Robert C.	INUVIK TWIN LAKES	103,851	55,583			14,968	14,131
TESTART, Kieron	KAM LAKE	103,851			6,430	7,484	3,450
BLAKE JR., Frederick	MACKENZIE DELTA	103,851			4,439	14,968	20,809
LAFFERTY, Jackson	MONFWI	103,851		45,203		7,484	3,450
THOMPSON, Shane	NAHENDEH	103,851			6,480	14,968	12,699
NAKIMAYAK, Herbert	NUNAKPUT	103,851			1,271	9,355	18,500
COCHRANE, Caroline	RANGE LAKE	103,851	55,583			7,484	3,450
MCNEELY, Daniel	SAHTU	103,851			4,439	14,968	25,572
SEBERT, Louis	THEBACHA	103,851	55,583			14,968	7,454
BEAULIEU, Tom	TU NEDHE-WIILIDEH	103,851			9,549	7,484	3,450
GREEN, Julie	YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE	103,851			3,240	7,484	3,450
VANTHUYNE, Cory	YELLOWKNIFE NORTH	103,851			5,184	7,484	3,450
MCLEOD, Bob	YELLOWKNIFE SOUTH	103,851	78,986			7,484	3,450

(1) **MLA ANNUAL INDEMNITY:** annual figure of \$103,851 for all Members.

(2) **MINISTERIAL AND PREMIER INDEMNITY:** annual figure of \$55,583 for Ministers and \$78,986 for Premier.

(3) **SPEAKER:** annual figure of \$45,203 for Speaker.

(4) **SPECIAL ANNUAL INDEMNITIES FOR EXTRA DUTIES:** Deputy Speaker: \$7,313; Deputy Chair, Committee of the Whole: \$4,389; Chair of Standing Committee (Social Programs, EDI, Government Operations = \$6,480, Priorities & Planning = \$9,549, Rules & Procedures = \$3,240); Chair of Special Committee: \$3,240; Chair of Caucus: \$3,240.

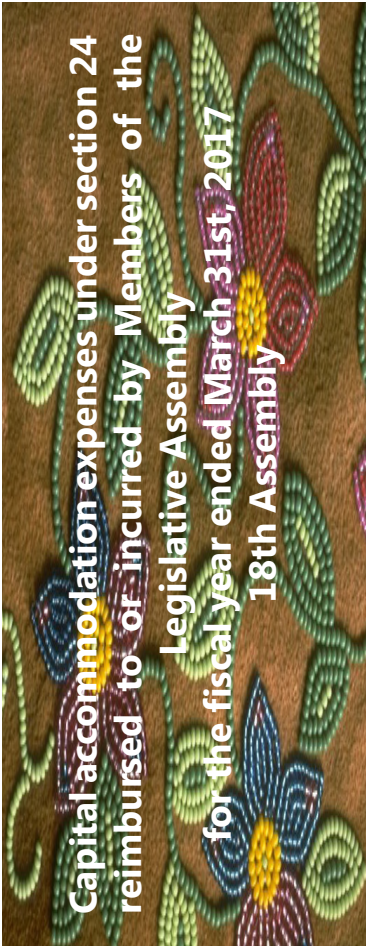
(5) **ALLOWANCE FOR EXPENSES:** Basic Allowance: annual figure of \$7,484 for all Members. Additional for all Members who do not live within commuting distance of the capital.

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

Member	Constituency	Travel & Transportation	Materials & Supplies	Purchased Services	Contract Services	Fees & Payments	Computer Hardware/Software	Constituency Assistant	Total Expenditure	Total Budget
NADLI, Michael	DEH CHO	12,003	4,331	12,552	-	-	2,039	57,106	88,031	89,692
O'REILLY, Kevin	FRAME LAKE	-	15,180	12,907	-	-	3,550	46,239	77,876	82,035
ABERNETHY, Glen	GREAT SLAVE	-	11,980	15,133	-	90	2,150	45,604	74,957	82,035
SIMPSON, RJ	HAY RIVER NORTH	2,300	6,750	4,543	-	75	412	67,531	81,611	86,410
SCHUMANN, Wally	HAY RIVER SOUTH	1,209	7,611	4,746	-	75	7,392	59,251	80,284	86,410
MOSES, Alfred	INUVIK BOOT LAKE	-	7,502	9,177	-	-	2,039	55,705	74,423	89,692
MCLEOD, Robert C.	INUVIK TWIN LAKES	-	6,906	5,052	-	-	2,039	59,956	73,953	89,692
TESTART, Kieron	KAM LAKE	-	5,787	5,565	-	-	7,389	63,294	82,035	82,035
BLAKE JR., Frederick	MACKENZIE DELTA	12,232	6,986	18,085	-	-	1,319	53,038	91,660	94,068
LAFFERTY, Jackson	MONFWI	9,542	913	10,893	-	-	1,319	61,196	83,863	89,692
THOMPSON, Shane	NAHENDEH	57	7,634	6,696	-	-	-	74,467	88,854	92,972
NAKIMAYAK, Herbert	NUNAKPUT	6,756	14,196	5,322	-	-	105	55,457	81,836	97,347
COCHRANE, Caroline	RANGE LAKE	-	15,311	7,097	-	250	-	52,389	75,047	82,035
MCNEELY, Daniel	SAHTU	14,079	6,606	5,685	-	-	-	65,829	92,199	96,254
SEBERT, Louis	THEBACHA	1,572	2,107	2,624	-	-	205	34,902	41,410	87,505
BEAULIEU, Tom	TU NEDHE-WILIDEH	522	1,162	17,287	-	-	130	69,449	88,550	89,692
GREEN, Julie	YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE	-	11,894	19,264	-	202	900	46,239	78,499	82,035
VANTHUYNE, Cory	YELLOWKNIFE NORTH	-	6,422	11,867	-	-	2,069	41,645	62,003	82,035
MCLEOD, Bob	YELLOWKNIFE SOUTH	-	6,080	11,489	-	-	600	50,400	68,569	82,035

Expenses related to constituency work, under section 29 reimbursed to or incurred by Members of the Legislative Assembly for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 2017
18th Assembly

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



Member	Constituency	Rent	Cable/ Internet	Telephone	Utilities	Furniture	Insurance	Total
NADLI, Michael	DEH CHO	28,750						28,750
SIMPSON, RJ	HAY RIVER NORTH	27,600				3,400		31,000
SCHUMANN, Wally	HAY RIVER SOUTH	24,000				7,000		31,000
MOSES, Alfred	INUVIK BOOT LAKE	22,620						22,620
MCLEOD, Robert C.	INUVIK TWIN LAKES	24,625	2,239	932				27,796
BLAKE JR., Frederick	MACKENZIE DELTA	26,700						26,700
THOMPSON, Shane	NAHENDEH	24,000	1,286		500	5,214		31,000
NAKIMAYAK, Herbert	NUNAKPUT	28,000	731		3,175	5,594		37,500
MCNEELY, Daniel	SAHTU	26,400				4,600		31,000
SEBERT, Louis	THEBACHA	29,400				1,600		31,000

Member	Constituency		# of Trips	Airfare	Carbon Offset	Change/ Cancellation Fee	Air Charter	Ground Transportation	Accommodation	Meals & Incidentals	Total
NADLI, Michael	DEH CHO	Within NWT	25					5,645	2,567	3,791	12,003
		Outside NWT									
SIMPSON, RJ	HAY RIVER NORTH	Within NWT	4	840				95	645	720	2,300
		Outside NWT									
SCHUMANN, Wally	HAY RIVER SOUTH	Within NWT	3	840					204	165	1,209
		Outside NWT									
BLAKE JR., Frederick	MACKENZIE DELTA	Within NWT	32	1,832				4,527	2,058	3,815	12,232
		Outside NWT									
LAFFERTY, Jackson	MONFWI	Within NWT	53					8,653	145	100	8,653
		Outside NWT									
NAKIMAYAK, Herbert	NUNAKPUT	Within NWT	5	2,914				1,914	799	1,129	6,756
		Outside NWT									
THOMPSON, Shane	NAHENDEH	Within NWT	1							57	57
		Outside NWT									
MCNEELY, Daniel	SAHTU	Within NWT	9	6,746			250	1,866	1,842	3,375	14,079
		Outside NWT									
SEBERT, Louis	THEBACHA	Within NWT	2	1,572							1,572
		Outside NWT									
BEAULIEU, Tom	TU NEDHE-WILIDEH	Within NWT	3						497	25	522
		Outside NWT									



**Materials and supplies detail under section 29
reimbursed to or incurred by Members of the Legislative Assembly
for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 2017
18th Assembly**

Member	Constituency	Promotional Items	Special Occasion Items	Presentation Items	Other Materials & Supplies	Total Materials & Supplies
NADLI, Michael	DEH CHO	-	909	-	3,422	4,331
O'REILLY, Kevin	FRAME LAKE	7,095	-	-	8,085	15,180
ABERNETHY, Glen	GREAT SLAVE	5,112	-	-	6,868	11,980
SIMPSON, R.J	HAY RIVER NORTH	618	442	-	5,690	6,750
SCHUMANN, Wally	HAY RIVER SOUTH	85	292	-	7,234	7,611
MOSES, Alfred	INUVIK BOOT LAKE	5,191	576	-	1,735	7,502
MCLEOD, Robert C.	INUVIK TWIN LAKES	5,215	-	-	1,691	6,906
TESTART, Kieron	KAM LAKE	3,396	-	-	2,391	5,787
BLAKE JR., Frederick	MACKENZIE DELTA	1,125	-	-	5,861	6,986
LAFFERTY, Jackson	MONFWI	-	-	-	913	913
THOMPSON, Shane	NAHENDEH	3,776	968	-	2,890	7,634
NAKIMAYAK, Herbert	NUNAKPUT	8,755	3,999	-	1,442	14,196
COCHRANE, Caroline	RANGE LAKE	12,302	-	-	3,009	15,311
MCNEELY, Daniel	SAHTU	743	1,136	75	4,652	6,606
SEBERT, Louis	THEBACHA	-	-	65	2,042	2,107
BEAULIEU, Tom	TU NEDHE-WILIDEH	-	97	-	1,065	1,162
GREEN, Julie	YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE	3,815	-	-	8,079	11,894
VANTHUYNE, Cory	YELLOWKNIFE NORTH	-	-	-	6,422	6,422
MCLEOD, Bob	YELLOWKNIFE SOUTH	2,844	-	-	3,236	6,080

**Purchased services detail under section 29
reimbursed to or incurred by Members of the Legislative Assembly
for the fiscal year ended March 31st, 2017
18th Assembly**

Member	Constituency	Contributions to Community Feasts	Other Purchased Services	Total Purchased Services
NADLI, Michael	DEH CHO	4,012	8,540	12,552
O'REILLY, Kevin	FRAME LAKE	750	12,157	12,907
ABERNETHY, Glen	GREAT SLAVE	250	14,883	15,133
SIMPSON, RJ	HAY RIVER NORTH	-	4,543	4,543
SCHUMANN, Wally	HAY RIVER SOUTH	518	4,228	4,746
MOSES, Alfred	INUVIK BOOT LAKE	3,329	5,848	9,177
MCLEOD, Robert C.	INUVIK TWIN LAKES	500	4,552	5,052
TESTART, Kieron	KAM LAKE	250	5,315	5,565
BLAKE JR., Frederick	MACKENZIE DELTA	5,913	12,172	18,085
LAFFERTY, Jackson	MONFWI	3,179	7,714	10,893
THOMPSON, Shane	NAHENDEH	1,217	5,479	6,696
NAKIMAYAK, Herbert	NUNAKPUT	1,490	3,832	5,322
COCHRANE, Caroline	RANGE LAKE	250	6,847	7,097
MCNEELY, Daniel	SAHTU	434	5,251	5,685
SEBERT, Louis	THEBACHA	500	2,124	2,624
BEAULIEU, Tom	TU NEDHE-WILIDEH	9,696	7,591	17,287
GREEN, Julie	YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE	3,500	15,764	19,264
VANTHUYNE, Cory	YELLOWKNIFE NORTH	250	11,617	11,867
MCLEOD, Bob	YELLOWKNIFE SOUTH	250	11,239	11,489



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).”

The following benefits were provided under this Regulation to the Speaker and Executive Council of the 18th Assembly, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Total of Trust Payments Paid by the GNWT</u>
Hon. Wally Schumann	\$4,162.42

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, 2017, the following medical travel benefits were provided to the Speaker and Executive Council of the 18th Assembly:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Total Medical Travel Paid by the GNWT</u>
Hon. Glen Abernethy	\$1,037.15
Hon. Robert R. McLeod	\$2,163.73

(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, 2017, the following benefits were provided to the Speaker and Executive Council of the 18th Assembly:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Total of Premiums Paid by the GNWT</u>
Hon. Glen Abernethy	\$2,674.30
Hon. Caroline Cochrane	\$2,906.89
Hon. Robert C. McLeod	\$2,677.93
Hon. Robert R. McLeod	\$3,811.99
Hon. Alfred Moses	\$2,731.54
Hon. Wally Schumann	\$2,611.15
Hon. Louis Sebert	\$2,884.12
Hon. Jackson Lafferty	\$2,312.62

Entertainment Allowance – Section 12.6 of the Indemnities, Allowances and Expense Regulations pro-

vides 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 18th Assembly, for the fiscal year ending March 31, 2017:

<u>Member</u>	<u>Total Benefits Paid</u>
Hon. Glen Abernethy	\$1,500.00
Hon. Caroline Cochrane	\$1,500.00
Hon. Robert C. McLeod	\$1,500.00
Hon. Robert R. McLeod	\$1,500.00
Hon. Alfred Moses	\$1,500.00
Hon. Wally Schumann	\$1,500.00
Hon. Louis Sebert	\$1,500.00
Hon. Jackson Lafferty	\$1,500.00



2016:

54th CPA Canadian Regional Conference
July 17th-22nd, 2016, St. John's, NL
Speaker Jackson Lafferty, R.J. Simpson, Michael Ball

38th CPA Canadian Regional Parliamentary Seminar
November 10th-12th, 2016, Québec, QC
Speaker Jackson Lafferty, Tim Mercer, Tom Beaulieu,
R.J. Simpson

62nd Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference
December 11th-17th, 2016, London, UK
Speaker Jackson Lafferty, R.J. Simpson, Tim Mercer

2017:

34th Presiding Officers Conference
January 26th-29th, Toronto, ON
Speaker Jackson Lafferty, Tim Mercer

2016-2017 Financial Summary of Operations



(thousands of dollars)

By Activity	2016-2017 Actuals	2016-2017 Revised Estimates	2016-2017 Main Estimates
OFFICE OF THE CLERK			
Compensation and Benefits	4,210	4,006	4,006
Amortization	816	810	810
Other Expenses	<u>2,927</u>	<u>3,397</u>	<u>3,397</u>
	7,953	8,213	8,213
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER			
Compensation and Benefits	146	148	148
Contributions	0	0	0
Other Expenses	<u>223</u>	<u>192</u>	<u>192</u>
	369	340	340
EXPENDITURES ON BEHALF OF MEMBERS			
Compensation and Benefits	5,954	6,720	6,720
Other Expenses	<u>1,422</u>	<u>1,659</u>	<u>1,659</u>
	7,376	8,379	8,379
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF ELECTORAL OFFICER			
Compensation and Benefits	415	423	423
Other Expenses	<u>86</u>	<u>108</u>	<u>108</u>
	501	531	531
STATUTORY OFFICERS			
Compensation and Benefits	925	920	920
Grants and Contributions	239	239	250
Other Expenses	<u>1,016</u>	<u>984</u>	<u>703</u>
	2,180	2,143	1,873
TOTAL	18,379	19,606	19,336

**Record of Decision
– BOM 56-18-2016
Amendments to the
Residency Assessment
Policy**

On May 11th, 2016, the Board of Management approved amendments to the 18th Legislative Assembly Members' Handbook, Policy 67 – Place of Residence. This amendment ensures that Members assigned a “low” rating are not subject to unnecessary monetary hardships. It provides Members in this category with a reasonable period of time to provide documentation in support of the residency declaration and ensures Members are aware of the measures that can be undertaken, and recommendations that can be made by the Clerk in evaluating the residency declaration of Members.

**Record of Decision
– BOM 57-18-2016
Amendment to the
Retraining Assistance
Policy for Non-Returning Members**

On May 11th, 2016, the Board of Management approved amendments to the 18th Legislative Assembly Members' Handbook, Policy 71.1 – Retraining Assistance Program for Non-Returning Members. This amendment clarifies what the retraining assistance funding can be used for, and what expenses are not eligible for the program. It also increases the maximum amount to which former Members are entitled from \$10,000 to \$12,000, based on their length of service.



**Record of Decision –
BOM 62-18-2016 MLA
Logo and Branding**

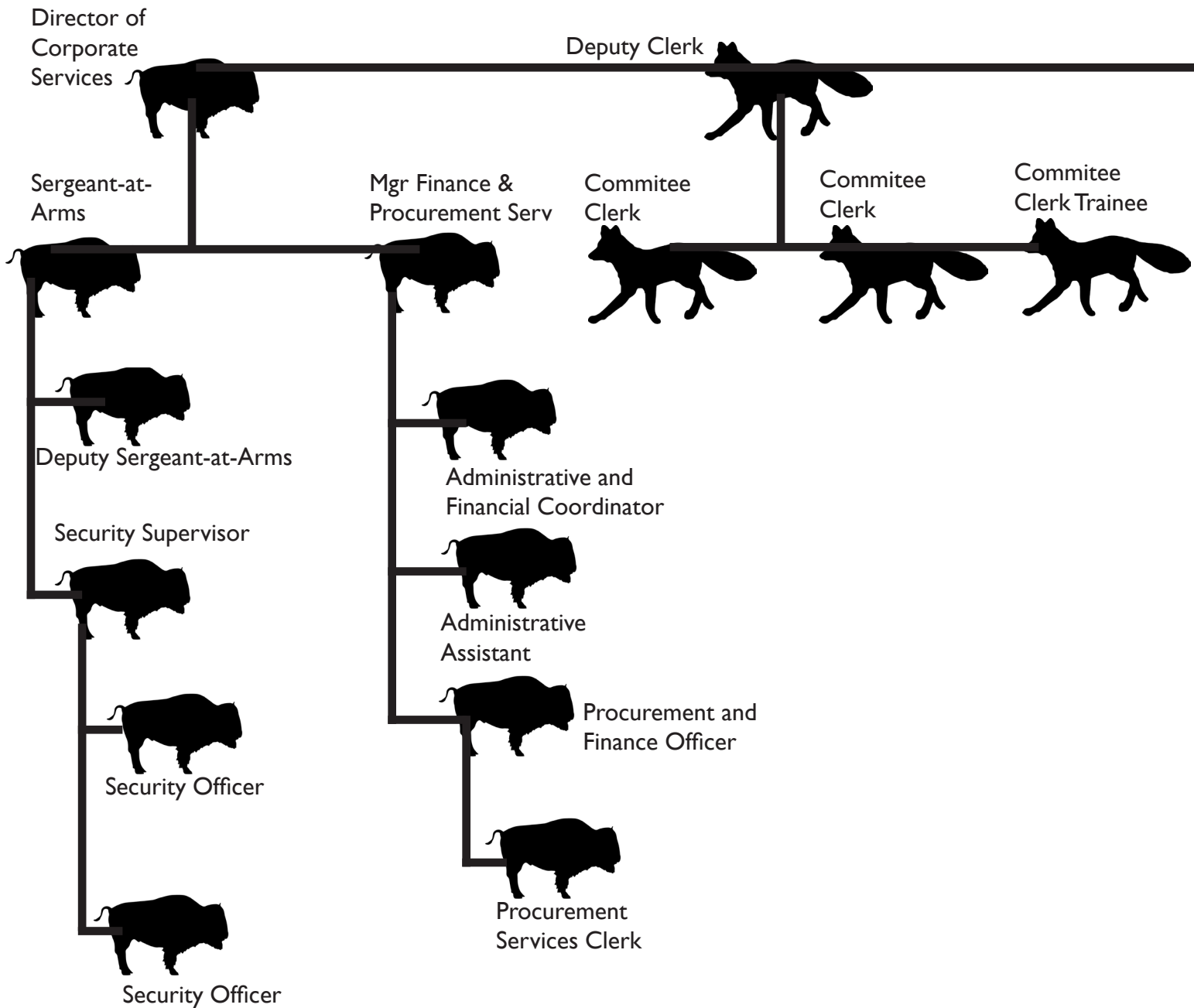
On October 28th, 2016, the Board of Management agreed to continue to disallow the further use of custom logos by Members for constituency work purposes until a visual identity policy for the Legislative Assembly has been completed and the recommendations have been considered. And further that the use of custom logos established by Members with public-funds for use in their re-election campaigns or the use of election materials for MLA purposes be disallowed.

**Record of Decision –
BOM 64-18-2016 Flag
Protocol**

On October 28th, 2016, the Board of Management adopted a flag protocol policy for the Legislative Assembly and rules for half-masting of the territorial flag. This protocol clarifies what constitutes an appropriate event to half-mast the territorial flag at the Legislative Assembly, as well as identifies who has the authority to direct or authorize flag protocols on behalf of the Legislative Assembly.

Office of the Clerk

Organizational Chart





Clerk of the Legislative Assembly



Director of Research Services



Legislative Assembly Advisor



Legislative Assembly Advisor



Legislative Assembly Advisor



Hansard Editor



Legislative Librarian



Assistant Legislative Librarian



Library Technician



Manager of Public Affairs and Communications



Communications Technical Support Officer



Public Affairs and Communications Intern

Senior Advisor



Clerk's Executive Secretary



Speaker's Executive Administrative Assistant



Seasonal Chamber Supervisor

Clerk's Message

This has been a progressive year in terms of building a stronger Legislative Assembly for the Northwest Territories. The Speaker of the Legislative Assembly hosted a Daughters of the Vote workshop in February, 2017. Daughters of the Vote is an initiative of Equal Voice, a national organization dedicated to electing more women to all levels of government. By coordinating this workshop, the Legislative Assembly demonstrated its deep interest in creating a more fair representation of the population of the Northwest Territories among the faces we see in leadership roles. It was important not only to the participants in the program, but for the building's occupants to see our commitment to fair representation in the House and in other leadership roles across other jurisdictions in the Territory.

Similarly, the current Assembly has taken on public engagement and transparency as a project of its own, as seen in the research and commitments made in the "Interim Report on the Review of Standing Committee Public Engagement and Transparency", tabled by the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures in November 2016. This dedication to improving public engagement in consensus government was further authenticated when Caucus amended the "Guiding Principles and Process Conventions of Consensus Government" in October 2016: "The business of consensus government should be carried out in public, unless there are compelling reasons to meet in private. Public meetings should be the rule and not the exception." Fundamental changes in the ideologies behind how a system of government should be transparent and equal in day-to-day life are significant steps toward tangible change.

Self-analysis of shortcomings, followed by recommendations and actions to solve those shortcomings, is both a humbling and motivating experience. From a lack of women's representation in leadership roles,



to missed opportunities for transparency, it is safe to say there is work cut out for our Legislative Assembly. However, upon identification of these issues, the elected officials, staff, and even the building itself all have an energized quality about them to create the necessary changes. I believe this synergy will continue to grow in the coming years of this Assembly. It is encouraging to see the symmetry of goals between staff and current elected Members, and I look forward to seeing what else can be accomplished.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Tim Mercer".

Tim Mercer, Clerk
Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories



If you would like copies of this
report, please contact:

Public Affairs and Communications
Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320; Yellowknife, NT
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1-800-661-0784