

**GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO
MOTION 26-17(4): UNIVERSAL AFFORDABLE DAYCARE**

Motion

THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Sahtu, that within the next 12 months, the Government of the Northwest Territories conduct a feasibility study on putting in place universal, affordable child daycare run by people trained in early childhood development and education, similar to the systems in Quebec and Scandinavia.

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

GNWT Response

The GNWT is moving forward in a number of ways to address access to quality early childhood programs throughout the NWT and recently completed a comprehensive environmental scan of early childhood education in every Canadian province and territory and in Australia, New Zealand, Italy, Sweden, Norway, Finland and Hawaii.

This scan provided a thorough overview of early childhood programs both nationally and internationally. It also informed the development of *Right from the Start: A Framework for Early Childhood Development in the Northwest Territories*, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in June 2013 and the development of the Early Childhood Development action plan.

The Early Childhood Development action plan lists a multitude of actions aimed at strengthening supports to parents, childcare providers and early childhood educators, all of which are grounded in solid research and experience. However, the GNWT will conduct a feasibility study on universal, affordable child daycare run by people trained in early childhood development and education, similar to the systems in Quebec and Scandinavia, within the prescribed timeframe.