

Votes and Proceedings

SECOND SESSION OF THE NINETEENTH LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

March 30, 2021

The Assembly commenced sitting at 1:31 pm, with the Honourable Frederick Blake Jr., Speaker, presiding.

Ministers' Statements

- 148-19(2) The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs made a statement regarding youth initiatives.
- 149-19(2) The Minister of Health and Social Services made a statement regarding vaccine uptake in the Northwest Territories.
- 150-19(2) The Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs made a statement regarding COVID-19 emergency support funding for sport organizations.
- 151-19(2) The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment made a statement regarding Tourism 2025: Roadmap to Recovery.

Members' Statements

- 684-19(2) The Member for Hay River South made a statement regarding support for small businesses during the pandemic.
- 685-19(2) The Member for Nunakput made a statement regarding reconciliation and the lack of mental health supports for communities in Nunakput.
- 686-19(2) The Member for Great Slave made a statement offering appreciation for northern artists.
- 687-19(2) The Member for Thebacha made a statement regarding the Taltson Hydro Expansion Project.

- 688-19(2) The Member for Yellowknife North made a statement regarding the importance of law libraries.
- 689-19(2) The Member for Frame Lake made a statement regarding community-based suicide prevention and continuing care.
- 690-19(2) The Member for Kam Lake made a statement regarding the need for housing and homeownership.
- 691-19(2) The Member for Monfwi made a statement regarding electricity services in Whatì.
- 692-19(2) The Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh made a statement marking the passing of constituents in Dettah and Deninu Kué.
- 693-19(2) The Honourable Member for Nahendeh delivered a eulogy for Dillon Cazon.

Written Questions

- 27-19(2) The Member for Frame Lake asked a question of the Minister of Infrastructure regarding the Slave Geological Province Corridor.
- 28-19(2) The Member for Frame Lake asked a question of the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Power Corporation regarding the Taltson Hydro Expansion Project.

Returns to Written Questions

- 23-19(2) The Clerk tabled a return to Written Question 23-19(2) from the Minister responsible for the Public Utilities Board to the Member for Nunakput regarding the practice of using power-limiting devices in the Northwest Territories.
- 24-19(2) The Clerk tabled a Return to Written Question 24-19(2) from the Minister of Finance to the Member for Deh Cho regarding assessing and managing conflict of interest in the Government of the Northwest Territories.

Tabling of Documents

- 365-19(2) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 497-19(2): Corrections Workplace Assessment. Tabled by the Minister of Justice.

- 366-19(2) Operating Plans for Northwest Territories Education Bodies for the 2020-2021 School Year Ending June 30, 2021. Tabled by the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment.
- 367-19(2) Northwest Territories Tourism: Towards Resilience – 2021-2022 Marketing Plan. Tabled by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.
- 368-19(2) Tourism 2025: Roadmap to Recovery. Tabled by the Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment.
- 369-19(2) Conflict of Interest Information. Tabled by the Minister of Finance.
- 370-19(2) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 655-19(2): Biomass Heating and Energy Efficiency for Northwest Territories Housing Corporation. Tabled by the Minister responsible for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation.
- 371-19(2) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 664-19(2): Devolving Powers to Municipal Governments. Tabled by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs.
- 372-19(2) Follow-up Letter for Oral Question 515-19(2): Highway Infrastructure Projects in the Next Year. Tabled by the Minister of Infrastructure.
- 373-19(2) Consensus Government in the Northwest Territories – Guiding Principles and Process Conventions, August 2020. Tabled by the Member for Yellowknife North.

First Reading of Bills

Bill 28: *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2021-2022*

Introduced by Minister of Finance.

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, seconded by the Honourable Member for Range Lake, moved that Bill 28, *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) 2021-2022*, be read for the first time.

The motion was CARRIED.

Second Reading of Bills

Bill 24: *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act*

The Honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, seconded by the Honourable Member for Hay River North, moved that Bill 24, *An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act*, be read for the second time.

The motion was CARRIED.

Bill 24 was referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment.

Bill 25: *An Act to Amend the Education Act*

The Honourable Member for Hay River North, seconded by the Honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, moved that Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Education Act*, be read for the second time.

The motion was CARRIED.

Bill 25 was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Development.

Bill 28: *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2021-2022*

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, seconded by the Honourable Member for Range Lake, moved that Bill 28, *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2021-2022*, 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 Hay River South, reported that the Committee of the Whole considered Committee Report 9-19(2): Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures Report on the Chief Electoral Officer's Report on the Administration of the 2019 Territorial General Election and reported progress with 19 motions carried and that Committee Report 9-19(2) is concluded.

Committee Motion 103-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* be amended to require regulations be developed governing voting by electronic means, including setting cybersecurity standards, technical specifications, procurement guidelines, and an audit mechanism.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 104-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that Elections NWT implement and administer an election rebate program as laid out in this report for candidates, starting with the 2023 territorial election.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 105-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that "email address" be included under section 54(2) of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*;

AND FURTHER, that email addresses should only be used to maintain or update the Register of Electors, and not be shared with any candidate.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 106-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the *elections and plebiscites act* be amended to require a public body at request to provide the personal information held by that body.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 107-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that section 73 of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* be amended to state that the list of electors shall be provided to candidates as soon as possible.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 108-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that section 121 and section 309 of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* be amended to include a prohibition on the sale of cannabis during the hours a poll is open on polling day.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 109-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* be amended to expressly prohibit liquor and cannabis as campaign expenses.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 110-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* be amended to prohibit photography, videography, or phone calls within the polling station, and to authorize the Chief Electoral Officer to issue guidance on the usage of electronics in polling stations.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 111-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* be amended to prohibit a candidate's polling agent from being able to assist an elector in casting a vote.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 112-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer investigate how other provinces or territories allow residents to cast votes from any polling station, and report back to the Legislative Assembly within six months of the outcomes of that investigation.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 113-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* be amended to remove the requirement for electors to act as witnesses;

AND FURTHER, an election officer and one other election official should be required, with candidates permitted one representative each.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 114-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* be amended to allow for a candidate's financial report to be submitted electronically.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 115-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that section 144(1) of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* be amended to allow for voting in the Office of the Returning Officer to commence on the 21st day before polling day.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 116-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that Elections NWT follow the same procurement practices as the Legislative Assembly, and publicly disclose all contracts, the procurement process used for each contract, and the amount of each contract in the Elections NWT Annual Report.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 117-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer undertake a review of best practices on election reporting and return to the Legislative Assembly within six months with the findings of that review and any potential amendments to the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 118-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that Elections NWT post all election data that is included in its reports in a machine-readable format on the Elections NWT website.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 119-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the Chief Electoral Officer undertake a review of the requirements to publicly disclose a candidate's residential address and return to the Legislative Assembly within six months with the findings of that review and any potential amendments to the *Elections and Plebiscites Act*.

The motion was CARRIED.

Motion to Amend Committee Motion 119-19(2):

Moved by the Honourable Member for Yellowknife South:

I MOVE that Committee Motion 119-19(2) be amended by adding the words “or donor’s” immediately following the word “candidate’s”.

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 120-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that section 24(4) of the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* be amended to specify that the act applies to Additional Assistant Returning Officers the same as it does to Assistant Returning Officers, except for the limitations specified in section 24(4).

The motion was CARRIED.

Committee Motion 121-19(2):

Moved by the Member for Frame Lake:

I MOVE that this committee recommends that the *Elections and Plebiscites Act* be amended to fix references to other clauses and to reflect current electronic management of the List of Electors and the polling station account.

The motion was CARRIED.

The Member for Hay River South, seconded by the Member for Frame Lake, moved concurrence of the report of the Committee of the Whole. The motion was CARRIED.

Third Reading of Bills

Bill 28: *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2021-2022*

The Honourable Member for Yellowknife South, seconded by the Honourable Member for Range Lake, moved that Bill 28, *Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) 2021-2022*, be read for the third time.

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

Members for: Great Slave, Kam Lake, Frame Lake, Deh Cho, Yellowknife North, Monfwi, Nahendeh, Sahtu, Inuvik Boot Lake, Hay River North, Hay River

South, Thebacha, Nunakput, Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, Yellowknife South, Range Lake, Yellowknife Centre. (17)

Members against: (0)

Members abstaining: (0)

The motion was CARRIED.

The Speaker adjourned the House at 4:52 pm.



Hon. Frederick Blake Jr.
Speaker of the Legislative Assembly



Glen Rutland
Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly