

14 June 2021

Our File No. 5758-10

The Honourable Frederick Blake, Jr., Speaker
Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories
Box 1320, 4570-48th Street,
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

By email

Dear Mr. Speaker:

Investigation into a complaint made by Mr. Rylund Johnson, MLA for Yellowknife North, at the direction of the MLAs' Caucus alleging that Mr. Steve Norn, MLA for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, has breached the Members' Code of Conduct

On Thursday, May 6, 2021, I received a written complaint from Mr. Rylund Johnson, MLA for Yellowknife North, made at the direction of the MLAs' Caucus, alleging that certain actions of Mr. Steve Norn, MLA for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, breached the Members' Code of Conduct by:

Allegation One

Breaching sections 2(a) and (d) of the Public Health Order - COVID-19 Travel Restrictions and Self Isolation Protocol - As amended December 1, 2020 (Self-Isolation Order) by:

- failing to self-isolate for 14 days, in accordance with the self isolation requirements set out in Appendix A of the Order; and*
- failing to comply with his self-isolation plan.*

Allegation Two

Misleading the public regarding his compliance with the Self-Isolation Order.

The complaint letter refers to sections 2, 4 and 8 of the Code of Conduct (reproduced below).

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In addition to the complaint letter (Attachment A to this report), Mr. Johnson provided a copy of a Media Statement issued by Mr. Norn on April 23, 2021 (Attachment B), as well as copies of media articles about this matter which were published during the period from April 23, 2021 to May 4, 2021 (Attachment C), as well as a link to the relevant Public Health Order (Attachment D).

Background to the complaint

The complaint described the background to the complaint as follows (footnotes omitted):

Circumstances of Allegation One

Mr. Norn publicly stated that he travelled by car out of the Northwest Territories to Alberta on Thursday April 1, 2021 for a family emergency. He returned on Sunday April 4, 2021, crossing the Alberta/NWT border in the late afternoon/evening. In his statement, Mr. Norn noted that he filed a self-isolation plan on April 1, 2021 identifying that he would self-isolate at home. Mr. Norn's isolation period would have ended on April 18, 2021.

On April 17, 2021, while he was subject to the Self-Isolation Order, Mr. Norn left his home, and entered the Legislative Assembly. As the Assembly was not aware he was self-isolating at the time, he was allowed access to the building. Mr. Norn has publicly admitted that he did breach the order by attending the Assembly.

In addition to attending the Legislative Assembly, I seek clarification on whether Mr. Norn may have had contact with other people in violation of the Self-Isolation Order.

Circumstances of Allegation Two

On April 23, 2021, Mr. Norn did an interview with Ollie Williams from Cabin Radio. In the story published by Cabin Radio, Mr. Norn is quoted as saying "I followed all the rules, I was up front with everybody," and "I stayed home" when referring to residents' concern about whether isolation rules had been broken.

On May 5, 2021 in a conversation with CBC, Mr. Norn is reported as confirming he broke the two-week isolation period after travelling. It is reported Mr. Norn said, "Yes, yes, I did. I'll wear that." And "if public health wants to do something with that, they can. Absolutely, I'll own it."

Investigation of the complaint

As required by section 101 of the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* (the “Act”), on May 7, 2021, I gave notice to Mr. Norn and Mr. Johnson that I would conduct an investigation into the complaint to determine whether it should be dismissed or referred to an inquiry by a Sole Adjudicator. I provided Mr. Norn with copies of all of the material which I had received from Mr. Johnson, and asked for his response to the complaint.

In addition, I asked Mr. Norn to provide (1) a detailed description of the reasons why he had left the Northwest Territories, where he went, and what he did during the trip referred to in the complaint; (2) a copy of the self-isolation plan which he filed with Protect NWT; and (3) a copy of the positive COVID-19 test results he had received.

Mr. Norn’s response to the complaint

Mr. Norn’s legal counsel provided Mr. Norn’s response on June 7, 2020 urging that the complaint should be dismissed for the following reasons:

1. *The contravention was minor or was committed inadvertently or due to an error in judgment made in good faith; and*
2. *Mr. Norn took all reasonable measures to prevent a contravention of the Code of Conduct.*

The response then describes the facts as follows:

A. Facts

3. *On April 1, 2021, Mr. Norn left the Northwest Territories and travelled to Grande Prairie, Alberta. His presence was required for a non-COVID-19 related medical emergency concerning an immediate family member.*
4. *Prior to his departure, he filed a self-isolation plan which was to commence on April 5, 2021, and last for 14 days.*
5. *Mr. Norn’s immediate presence was required to deal with the medical emergency. [REDACTED] accompanied Mr. Norn for emotional support.*

6. Mr. Norn and [REDACTED] expected to remain out of the Northwest Territories from April 1, 2021, and return the morning of April 5, 2021.
7. On April 4, 2021, Mr. Norn and [REDACTED] returned to the Northwest Territories and began their 14-day self-isolation at home.
8. Mr. Norn and [REDACTED] remained in the same home to finish out the 14-day isolation. [REDACTED], was also in the home and was required to quarantine for 14 days.
9. Mr. Norn believed that the 14-day isolation included April 4th, 2021, as such, Mr. Norn believed his isolation ended on April 18, 2021.
10. On the evening of April 17, 2021, Mr. Norn attended the Legislative Assembly. The only person present was a sole security guard who granted access to Mr. Norn. Both Mr. Norn and the security guard were wearing masks during their brief encounter.
11. Mr. Norn retrieved his glasses and some work files from his office, then immediately left the Legislative Assembly.
12. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] both submitted themselves for testing. [REDACTED] tested negative while [REDACTED], tested positive.
13. [REDACTED] resided with [REDACTED] and, unbeknownst to Mr. Norn, broke [REDACTED] quarantine by attending evening bonfires.
14. The lone security guard that was present at the Legislative Assembly, when Mr. Norn attended on April 18, 2021 [sic: should be April 17, 2021], received a negative test result.
15. On April 18, 2021, Mr. Norn attended the Yellowknife Racquet Club. No COVID-19 cases resulted from this visit.
16. On April 19, 2021, Mr. Norn ordered and picked up meals at Taste of Saigon, a local restaurant in Yellowknife. No COVID-19 transmission resulted from this visit.

17. *After a COVID-19 wastewater advisory alert in Yellowknife, Mr. Norn submitted himself for testing and received a positive test result on April 21, 2021. Mr. Norn then, immediately, proceeded to isolate in an isolation hotel.*
18. *On May 7, 2021, Mr. Norn received a letter from your office indicating that a complaint has been filed against him for breach of the Code as set out in ss. 101 and 102 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act (“the Act”).*
19. *At or around April 4, 2021, an unknown resident tested positive for COVID-19. This resident returned to the Territories from an international destination and is suspected of contracting the virus during their travels.*

I note that Mr. Norn did not provide the additional information I had requested, namely (1) a detailed description of the reasons why he had left the Northwest Territories, where he went, and what he did during the trip referred to in the complaint; (2) a copy of the self-isolation plan which he filed with Protect NWT; and (3) a copy of the positive COVID-19 test results he had received.

The response for Mr. Norn contains the following analysis:

- The Public Health Order does not provide a definition of essential travel. “Essential travel” would include attending a seriously ill immediate family member who required Mr. Norn’s presence.
- Mr. Norn actually returned to the NWT a day earlier than expected, so he ended his isolation period a day earlier than his isolation plan specified.
- Mr. Norn erroneously but honestly believed that the day he returned to NWT (April 4) would be included in the 14-day self-isolation period.
- Alternatively, if Mr. Norn’s visit to the Legislative Assembly on April 17 and to the Racquet Club on April 18 took place within the required 14-day self-isolation period, he nevertheless substantially complied with spirit of the self-isolation period.
- There is no evidence Mr. Norn acted in bad faith.
- There is no evidence that anyone contracted COVID-19 as a result of Mr. Norn’s “ending his isolation mere hours before the date set out in his isolation plan”.

- The political context in which a complaint is made is relevant, including the history between the complainant and Mr. Norn—politically-motivated complaints are not made in good faith.
- Accordingly, legal counsel submitted that the complaint should be dismissed.

The Members’ Code of Conduct

Amendments to the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* (the “Act”) that came into force on October 1, 2019 provide that the Assembly may adopt a Code of Conduct (the “Code”) for Members, which continues in force from session to session until amended or replaced by the Assembly (section 74.1). In addition, the Act confers jurisdiction on the Integrity Commissioner to investigate a complaint that a Member has contravened any provision of the Code (section 100).

The Legislative Assembly has adopted a Code of Conduct for its Members (the “Code”) as well as a *Guide to the Rules relating to Conduct of Members* (the “Guide”), both of which can be found at: <https://www.ntassembly.ca/meet-members/accountability>.

The Guide contains the following statement:

Responsibility for disciplining or censuring a Member of the Assembly lies with the Legislative Assembly itself, and is a fundamental aspect of the privileges enjoyed by the Legislative Assembly as a house of parliament. Neither the Code of Conduct nor this Guide impinges upon, restricts or narrows the Legislative Assembly’s fundamental right to regulate its internal affairs. Any role assigned to the Integrity Commissioner is for the purpose of assisting the Legislative Assembly in exercising this authority.

and:

The Guide to the Rules and amendments to it are approved by resolutions of the Legislative Assembly. This Guide therefore carries the full authority of the Legislative Assembly.

The complaint letter refers to the following provisions in the Code and Guide:

- Section 2 of the Code

Members must act lawfully and in a manner that will withstand the closest public scrutiny, upholding the integrity and honour of the Legislative Assembly and its Members. Members shall ensure their conduct does not bring the integrity of their office or of the Legislative Assembly into disrepute.

The Guide provides the following commentary to section 2:

Commentary

As elected representatives of the people of the Northwest Territories, Members hold a position of trust and authority. Members are expected to hold themselves to a high standard of conduct. While this expectation is largely directed at a Member's public behaviour, Members must recognize that, as elected officials, behaviour in their personal lives will also be closely scrutinized. A Member's integrity is fundamental to maintaining public confidence, both in the individual Member and in the Legislative Assembly as an institution.

The Legislative Assembly will not generally be interested in the personal or private affairs of a Member. However, if a Member's conduct is such that knowledge of it would be likely to impair the public's trust in the institution of the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Assembly may be justified in taking action. This is particularly so where the conduct in question is unlawful.

Excessive public consumption of alcohol, cannabis or other drugs or intoxicants, particularly where such consumption results in behaviour that could lessen the dignity of the Legislative Assembly, is unacceptable and constitutes a breach of the Code of Conduct.

Violation of certain laws, such as those involving a breach of trust or abuse of a position of trust, authority or intimacy, will be considered to be particularly damaging to the integrity and honour of the Legislative Assembly. This factor will be considered by the Legislative Assembly in deciding what action, if any, is to be taken under the Assembly's power to regulate its internal affairs and discipline Members.

- Section 4 of the Code

Members must carry out their official duties objectively and without consideration of personal or financial interests and must arrange their personal affairs so as to maintain the trust and confidence of the public.

The Guide provides the following commentary to section 4:

Commentary

This section of the Code of Conduct reflects a Member's obligation to avoid conflicts of interests, to declare conflicts that cannot be avoided, and to ensure a Member's actions reflect a commitment to the public interest, and not a Member's own personal or financial interests. The specific obligations of all Members regarding conflicts of interest, contracts and financial matters, gifts and benefits, and disclosure are set out in Part 3 of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act.

Members must comply with the provisions of the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act and any other statutes, regulations, Board of Management resolutions or decisions of the Integrity Commissioner relating to ethics and conflicts of interest. Where a Member is uncertain about their compliance with conflict of interest rules, a Member should seek the advice of the Integrity Commissioner.

Members must conduct themselves professionally in their dealings with staff and contractors of the Legislative Assembly. Where a personal relationship may exist beyond a Member's professional interactions with an employee or contractor of the Legislative Assembly, Members are expected to make appropriate disclosure of the relationship. What constitutes appropriate disclosure will depend on the circumstances. Where there is any uncertainty regarding the need for disclosure of such relationships, Members are encouraged to consult the Integrity Commissioner for advice.

It is inappropriate for a Member of the Legislative Assembly to use the privileges of their office to seek special benefits or treatment for friends or family members of the Member.

- Section 8 of the Code

The Code is not designed to be exhaustive, and there will be occasions on which Members will find it necessary to adopt more stringent standards of conduct in order to protect the public interest and to enhance public confidence and trust.

The *Guide* provides the following commentary to section 8:

Commentary

As elected representatives of the people of the Northwest Territories, Members hold a position of trust and authority. Public confidence in an individual Member and in the Legislative Assembly as an institution requires that Members hold themselves to a high standard of conduct, in both their personal and professional lives. The Legislative Assembly may at times find it necessary to respond to a Member's conduct that is found to undermine public confidence and trust, even if the provisions of this Code and all applicable laws have been respected.

The Integrity Commissioner's role in investigating a complaint that a Member has breached the Code of Conduct

Section 101 of the Act requires the Integrity Commissioner to investigate a complaint alleging that a Member has breached the Code.

Section 102 of the Act provides that the Integrity Commissioner may then either (a) dismiss the complaint, or (b) direct it to an inquiry by a Sole Adjudicator.

102. (1) *After conducting an investigation into the complaint, the Integrity Commissioner shall submit to the Speaker, the member or former member complained of and the complainant, a report, with reasons, advising that the Integrity Commissioner*

(a) is dismissing the complaint, where the Integrity Commissioner has determined that

(i) the complaint is frivolous or vexatious or was not made in good faith,

- (ii) *there are insufficient grounds to warrant an inquiry,*
 - (iii) *the complaint does not disclose a contravention of this Part or the Code of Conduct,*
 - (iv) *a contravention of this Part or the Code of Conduct was minor or was committed through inadvertence or by reason of an error in judgment made in good faith,*
 - (v) *the member or former member took all reasonable measures to prevent a contravention of this Part or the Code of Conduct, or*
 - (vi) *the public interest would not be served if the complaint proceeded to an inquiry before a Sole Adjudicator; or*
- (b) *is directing that an inquiry be held before a Sole Adjudicator.*
- (2) *The Speaker shall deliver a copy of the report to each member of the Legislative Assembly and to the Clerk.*
- ...
- (4) *The Speaker shall, at the first opportunity, lay a copy of the report before the Legislative Assembly.*

Accordingly, my task is a gate-keeper to decide whether the complaints should be dismissed or directed to an inquiry by a Sole Adjudicator.

Conclusions from the Investigation

After considering the information I have received during my investigation, I have concluded that the complaint cannot be dismissed and must be directed to an inquiry before a Sole Adjudicator.

In making this decision, I have considered the unambiguous and mandatory requirements for self-isolation contained in the Public Health Order.

In addition, I have carefully considered the provisions contained in section 102(1)(a) of the Act which would permit me to dismiss the complaint, and have concluded that none of them applies to this situation for the following reasons:

(i) The complaint is not frivolous, vexatious or made in bad faith

A complaint that a Member has breached a mandatory public health order which has the force of law, and has issued an inaccurate or misleading public statement about being in compliance with the order, cannot be characterized as being frivolous or vexatious. There is no evidence whatever that the complaint, which was made at the direction of the MLAs' caucus, was made in bad faith.

(ii) The facts in the public record are sufficient grounds to warrant an inquiry

The facts in the public record establish that Mr. Norn's required self-isolation period would not have ended until 14 days *after* his return to the NWT late on April 4—that is, *after* April 18. The public record includes numerous statements by Mr. Norn that his isolation period was from April 4 to April 18, and that he had complied fully with the required 14-day self-isolation period. However, it also includes Mr. Norn's subsequent admission that he had gone to the Legislative Assembly on April 17 before the end of the 14-day self-isolation period,¹ which is inconsistent with his previous statements.

The public record also indicates that Mr. Norn went to the Racquet Club on April 18, which was prior to the expiry of his self-isolation period.

The public record also contains Mr. Norn's inaccurate statements that he had complied with the mandatory self-isolation requirement.

Both Mr. Norn's breach of the mandatory self-isolation period, and his inaccurate statements that he had complied with that obligation, are sufficient grounds to warrant an inquiry.

¹ In his conversation with the CBC on May 5, 2021 which is referred to in the complaint:

“Yes, yes, I did. I'll wear that,” he said. “If public health wants to do something with that, they can. Absolutely, I'll own it.”

(iii) The facts in the public record disclose a contravention of the Code

The Code requires Members to comply with the law, hold themselves to a high standard of conduct, act with integrity, and not do anything to impair public trust either in the Member or the Legislative Assembly.

Mr. Norn's breaching the mandatory self-isolation period, and his making statements that he had complied with that obligation when he had not done so, both fall short of the standards contained in the Code.

(iv) The contraventions of the Code cannot be characterized as being minor, or committed through inadvertence or by reason of an error of judgment made in good faith

In my view, one cannot characterize Mr. Norn's contraventions of the Code as being minor, or committed through inadvertence or by reason of an error of judgment made in good faith.

Leaving self-isolation prior to the required 14 days is not a trivial or minor matter. The public health order was mandatory; the self-isolation requirement was well known; Mr. Norn knew about it, as evidenced by his filing his self-isolation plan. Going to the Legislative Assembly on April 17 was a major deviation from his obligation to stay isolated at his home for the required 14 days. So was his going to the Racquet Club on the following day, April 18, which was still within the self-isolation period. Neither of these was a case of going a few metres outside of his home lot, which might perhaps be considered a minor infraction.

Similarly, neither of these breaches was committed through inadvertence; both breaches of the self-isolation requirement were intentional.

With respect to making an error in judgment in good faith, even if Mr. Norn made an error in thinking that the self-isolation period included *all* of April 4 (the date he crossed the Alberta/NWT border late in the afternoon or early in the evening) so that April 17 would have been the last day of his required self-isolation, he nevertheless went to the Legislative Assembly on April 17 when he was still required to be isolated at home. That is not simply an error of judgment.

With respect to Mr. Norn's incorrect media statements after he tested positive that he had complied fully with the 14-day self-isolation requirement with references to the period from April 4 to 18 (not 17), he made those statements even though he knew that he had gone to the Legislative Assembly on April 17 (although that was not yet known to the public) and the Racquet Club on April 18. Knowingly making inaccurate statements cannot be characterized as minor contraventions of the Code, or ones which were made inadvertently, or were errors of judgment made in good faith.

- (v) **There is no evidence that the Member took any measures to prevent a contravention of the Code**
- (vi) **The public interest would not be served by dismissing the complaint instead of proceeding to an inquiry before a Sole Adjudicator.**

In my view, the public interest requires this matter to go to an inquiry. The complaint raises serious questions about the actions of Mr. Norn. Dismissing the complaint at this stage would undermine the integrity, reputation and stature of all Members, and the public's estimation of the Legislative Assembly as an institution. To dismiss the complaint would make the Code ineffective.

Although breach of the mandatory self-isolation requirement and his inaccurate statements justify sending the complaint to a Sole Adjudicator, I note that Mr. Norn's failure to respond to my request for a detailed description of the reasons why he had left the Northwest Territories, where he went, and what he did during the trip referred to in the complaint, means that I cannot determine whether the taking the trip itself would constitute a breach of the Code. That matter must also be directed to the Sole Adjudicator.

Unlike my function as a gate keeper, the function of a Sole Adjudicator is to conduct an inquiry during which Mr. Norn will have full opportunity to present evidence about his actions, make submissions about whether his actions do constitute a breach of the Code (paragraph (iii) above) or can be excused (paragraphs (iv) or (v) above). The Sole Adjudicator will make definitive determinations about these matters. In addition, if the Sole Adjudicator were to sustain the complaint, the Sole Adjudicator has the ability to impose a fine or recommend other sanctions to the Legislative Assembly.

Next steps

I am sending a copy of this report to Mr. Norn (via his legal counsel) and to Mr. Johnson.

Section 102(2) of the Act provides that the Speaker will deliver a copy of this report to each member of the Legislative Assembly and to the Clerk.

Section 102(4) requires the Speaker to lay a copy of the report before the Legislative Assembly at the earliest opportunity.

Pursuant to section 103(2), the Board of Management will recommend to the Commissioner of the NWT the appointment of the Sole Adjudicator from the list of names which the Legislative Assembly has previously approved pursuant to section 103(1).

Yours sincerely,



David Phillip Jones, Q.C.
NWT Integrity Commissioner

cc: Mr. Steve Norn, MLA c/o Mr. Steven Cooper
Mr. Rylund Johnson, MLA

Attachments

- Appendix A: Complaint letter from Mr. Rylund Johnson, MLA for Yellowknife North, made at the direction of the Members' Caucus.
- Appendix B: Media Statement on April 23, 2021 from the Member for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh
- Appendix C: Various media articles from April 23, 2021 to May 4, 2021 about Mr. Norn and COVID-19.
- Appendix D: Public Health Order COVID-19 Travel Restrictions Self-Isolation Protocol, amended December 1, 2020.

shall ensure their conduct does not bring the integrity of their office or of the Legislative Assembly into disrepute.

- Section 4 - Members must carry out their official duties objectively and without consideration of personal or financial interests, and must arrange their personal affairs so as to maintain the trust and confidence of the public.

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- Section 8 - The Code is not designed to be exhaustive, and there will be occasions on which Members will find it necessary to adopt more stringent standards of conduct in order to protect the public interest and to enhance public confidence and trust.³

It is alleged that Mr. Norn breached the Code of Conduct by:

- Allegation One - Breaching sections 2(a) and (d) of the Public Health Order - COVID-19 Travel Restrictions and Self-Isolation Protocol - As amended December 1, 2020 (Self-Isolation Order)⁴ by:
 - failing to self-isolate for 14 days, in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out in Appendix A of the Order; and
 - failing to comply with his self-isolation plan.
- Allegation Two - Misleading the public regarding his compliance with the Self-Isolation Order.

CIRCUMSTANCES OF ALLEGATION ONE

Mr. Norn publicly stated that he travelled by car out of the Northwest Territories to Alberta on Thursday April 1, 2021 for a family emergency. He returned on Sunday April 4, 2021, crossing the Alberta/NWT border in the late afternoon/early evening.⁵ In his statement, Mr. Norn noted that he filed a self-isolation plan on April 1, 2021 identifying he would self-isolate at home. Mr. Norn's isolation period would have ended on April 18, 2021.

On April 17, 2021, while he was subject to the Self-Isolation Order, Mr. Norn left his home, and entered the Legislative Assembly. As the Assembly was not aware he was self-isolating at the time, he was allowed access to the

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ Government of the Northwest Territories, "Public Health Order – Travel Restrictions and Self-Isolation Protocol – As Amended December 1, 2020", 12/01/2020 <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19/en/public-health-order-%E2%80%93-travel-restrictions-and-self-isolation-protocol-amended-december-1-2020> retrieved May 5, 2021.

⁵ Norn, Steve. "Statement by Mr. Steve Norn, the MLA for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh", issued April 23, 2021 (attached).

building. Mr. Norn has publicly admitted that he did breach the order by attending the Assembly.⁶

In addition to attending the Legislative Assembly, I seek clarification on whether Mr. Norn may have had contact with other people in violation of the Self-Isolation Order.

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CIRCUMSTANCES OF ALLEGATION TWO

On April 23, 2021 Mr. Norn did an interview with Ollie Williams from Cabin Radio. In the story published by Cabin Radio, Mr. Norn is quoted as saying “I followed all the rules, I was up front with everybody,” and “I stayed home” when referring to residents concern about whether isolation rules had been broken.⁷

On May 5, 2021 in a conversation with CBC, Mr. Norn is reported as confirming he broke his two-week isolation period after travelling. It is reported that Mr. Norn said, “Yes, yes, I did. I’ll wear that.” And “If public health wants to do something with that, they can. Absolutely, I’ll own it.”

APPLICATION OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT

Sections 2 and 8 of the Code of Conduct

Both allegations are believed to be breaches of Code of Conduct. As noted in the Guide to the Code of Conduct:

As elected representatives of the people of the Northwest Territories, Members hold a position of trust and authority. Members are expected to hold themselves to a high standard of conduct. While this expectation is largely directed at a Member’s public behaviour, Members must recognize that, as elected officials, behaviour in their personal lives will also be closely scrutinized. A Member’s integrity is fundamental to maintaining public confidence, both in the individual

⁶ CBC News, “NWT MLA’s broken isolation leads to integrity complaint”, May 5, 2021, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/steve-norn-integrity-commissioner-1.6014145>, retrieved May 5, 2021.

⁷ Cabin Radio. “Steve Norn says he and family member are this week’s YK cases.” April 23, 2021. <https://cabinradio.ca/60772/news/yellowknife/steve-norn-says-he-and-family-member-are-this-weeks-yk-cases/> Retrieved on May 5, 2021.

Member and in the Legislative Assembly as an institution.

The Legislative Assembly will not generally be interested in the personal or private affairs of a Member. However, if a Member's conduct is such that knowledge of it would be likely to impair the public's trust in the institution of the Legislative Assembly, the Legislative Assembly may be justified in taking action. This is particularly so where the conduct in question is unlawful.

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Violation of certain laws, such as those involving a breach of trust or abuse of a position of trust, authority or intimacy, will be considered to be particularly damaging to the integrity and honour of the Legislative Assembly. This factor will be considered by the Legislative Assembly in deciding what action, if any, is to be taken under the Assembly's power to regulate its internal affairs and discipline Members.⁸

Mr. Norn's violation of the Self-Isolation Order, if confirmed, is an offence under section 49 of the *Public Health Act*, and as such would be a breach of a territorial law. Mr. Norn has failed to hold himself to the lawful standard of conduct, let alone the higher or more stringent standards of conduct required as a Member to protect the public interest and to enhance public confidence and trust.

Throughout the pandemic, the Self-Isolation Order has been the single most-effective tool in protecting the Northwest Territories from the spread of COVID-19. Similarly, since the beginning of the pandemic, the Chief Public Health Officer has recommended against all non-essential travel outside of the Northwest Territories. This message has been underscored repeatedly by the Government and Members.

⁸ *Supra*, note 2.

Since the identification of a cluster of cases associated with Mr. Norn, additional positive tests have been identified, with a new cluster of 20 confirmed cases, many young children, and more than 1000 close contacts now self-isolating.⁹ While a direct link between the two clusters has not been identified publicly, Public Health officials have ruled out community transmission.¹⁰

People have made many sacrifices to keep the Territories safe over the past 14 months. A failure to self-isolate in accordance with the Self-Isolation Order, questions the integrity of Mr. Norn, and the institution, as it makes it appear that those same sacrifices do not apply to Members.

Mr. Norn's breach has been the subject of extensive news coverage and public comment, drawing attention to the Legislative Assembly, and having an effect on all Members. A copy of the news coverage relating to Mr. Norn, as of May 5, 2021 is included with this complaint, as Appendix A.

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Mr. Norn is reported to have publicly provided false information about his compliance with the Self-Isolation Order. As a Member's integrity is fundamental to maintaining public confidence, this causes great concern.

Section 4 of the Code of Conduct

Mr. Norn's failure to organize his personal affairs and responsibilities, including complying with the Self-Isolation Order, is a breach of the Code of Conduct. As noted in the Guide to the Code of Conduct:

This section of the Code of Conduct reflects a Member's obligation to avoid conflicts of interests, to declare conflicts that cannot be avoided, and to ensure a Member's actions reflect a commitment to the public interest, and not a Member's own personal or financial interests.¹¹

⁹ CBC News, "Yellowknife has 20 active cases of COVID-19, no community transmission so far", May 4, 2021, <https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/north/yellowknife-covid-19-cases-1.6013927>, retrieved May 5, 2021.

¹⁰ *Ibid.*

¹¹ *Supra*, note 2.

This section deals with ethics and conflict of interests. In not following the Self-Isolation Order, Mr. Norn's actions failed to reflect a commitment to the public interest. During this pandemic, the public interest in the Northwest Territories has been for everyone to comply with the Public Health Orders to protect each other from COVID-19.

I am available at Rylund_Johnson@ntassembly.ca or (867) 767-9143, ext. 12173 if you have questions regarding this complaint.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rylund Johnson', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Rylund Johnson
MLA, Yellowknife North

Attachment

- c. Members of the Legislative Assembly
Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

From: [LA PAC](#)
To: [Glen Rutland](#)
Subject: FW: Media Statement: Statement from the Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh/Déclaration aux médias du député de Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, Steve Norn
Date: April 23, 2021 10:40:08 AM
Attachments: [image001.png](#)

French version has been distributed.

Nicole

From: LA PAC
Sent: April 23, 2021 10:39 AM
Subject: RE: Media Statement: Statement from the Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh/Déclaration aux médias du député de Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, Steve Norn



Yellowknife, le 23 avril 2021 – M. Steve Norn, député de Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, a fait la déclaration suivante :

« J'ai décidé d'informer le public que c'est moi qui, cette semaine, ai reçu un résultat positif à un test de dépistage de la COVID-19. Le deuxième cas confirmé annoncé aujourd'hui est un membre de ma famille, qui est actuellement en auto-isolément.

J'ai quitté les Territoires du Nord-Ouest en voiture le 1^{er} avril 2021 pour me rendre en Alberta pour une urgence familiale. À mon retour, le 4 avril 2021, j'ai traversé la frontière en début de soirée.

Conformément aux exigences, j'ai rempli un plan d'isolement le 1^{er} avril 2021, dans lequel j'ai précisé que j'allais m'isoler à la maison.

En soirée le lundi 19 avril 2021, l'administratrice en chef de la santé publique a signalé la présence du virus de la COVID-19 à Yellowknife grâce à une analyse des eaux usées, et a demandé à toute personne qui était en auto-isolément ou en autosurveillance entre le 14 avril et le 17 avril 2021 de passer un test de dépistage de la COVID-19.

Comme je m'auto-isolais ces jours-là, le mardi 20 avril 2021, je suis allé passer un test de dépistage, même si je ne présentais aucun symptôme. Le jour suivant, le mercredi 21 avril 2021, le Service de santé publique m'a informé que le résultat de mon test était positif à la COVID-19. Je suis immédiatement retournée en auto-isolément.

J'aimerais remercier tous les professionnels de la santé du ministère de la Santé et des Services sociaux et de l'Administration des services de santé et des services sociaux des Territoires du Nord-Ouest qui travaillent pour nous protéger.

Étant donné que je suis une personnalité publique, j'ai décidé d'informer la population de

ce qui s'est passé. Toutefois, à partir de maintenant, j'aimerais demander à la population de respecter ma vie privée et celle des membres de ma famille. Mes adjoints de circonscription sont disponibles pour répondre à toute question concernant la circonscription Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh. »

From: LA PAC

Sent: April 23, 2021 9:30 AM

Subject: Media Statement: Statement from the Member for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh



YELLOWKNIFE (April 23, 2021) - Mr. Steve Norn, the MLA for Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh, has issued the following statement:

“I have chosen to identify myself as the positive COVID test result this week. The second confirmed test announced today is a member of my family, and is self-isolating.

I travelled by car to Alberta in response to a family emergency. I left the Northwest Territories on Thursday April 1, 2021 and returned on Sunday April 4, 2021, crossing the border in the late afternoon/early evening.

I filed a self-isolation plan on April 1, 2021 as required, identifying that I would isolate at home.

On the evening of Monday April 19, 2021, the Chief Public Health Officer identified that wastewater testing had identified the presence of the COVID-19 virus in Yellowknife, and asked that any person who was self-isolating or self-monitoring from April 14 - 17, 2021 get tested.

As I was self-isolating on those days, I went and had a COVID-19 test on Tuesday April 20, 2021, even though I had no symptoms. The next day, on Wednesday April 21, 2021, I was notified by public health that I had tested positive for COVID-19 and immediately returned to self-isolation.

I want to thank all the health professionals at the Department of Health and Social Services and the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority for their work in keeping us safe.

Given my public role, I have chosen to identify myself, however I do ask that people respect my family's privacy as we move forward.

My team of Constituency Assistants is available to take calls for constituency matters.”

French to follow.

Media Articles Regarding MLA Norn & COVID-19

April 23, 2021 – May 4, 2021

Article #1: “Steve Norn says he and family member are this week’s YK cases” (Cabin Radio, April 23, 2021)

Article #2: “YK gym confirms ‘small group of contacts’ related to Covid-19 cases (Cabin Radio, April 23, 2021)

Article #3: “NWT politician broke isolation to enter legislature, staff told” (Cabin Radio, April 23, 2021)

Article #4: “MLA Steve Norn identifies himself as one of 2 COVID-19 cases in Yellowknife” (CBC News, April 23, 2021)

Article #5: “Steve Norn identifies himself and family member as the two YK COVID cases” (CKLB, April 23 2021)

Article #6: “COVID-19 carrier may have attended high school party: source” (NNSL, April 23, 2021)

Article #7: “Three new Covid-19 cases in Yellowknife, new exposure warning” (Cabin Radio, April 23, 2021)

Article #8: “Premier calls for kindness but consequences over Covid-19 rules” (Cabin Radio, April 25, 2021)

Article #9: “‘Do not panic’: Dr. Kandola says COVID-19 cluster in Yellowknife is under control (CKLB, April 26, 2021)

Article #9.1 “Breaking COVID-19 rules comes with consequences, says NWT Premier” (CBC News, April 26, 2021)

Article 9.2 “Kandola calls for calm as officials await test results from COVID-19 contacts in Yellowknife” (CBC News, April 26, 2021)

Article 9.3 “‘Politicians are not allowed to break the law’ says N.W.T. premier” (CBC News, April 27, 2021)

Article #10: “Q&A: Yellowknife’s Covid-19 cluster, isolation rules, and charges” (Cabin Radio, April 27, 2021)

Article #11 “A call for kindness: NWT MLA Steve Norn has COVID-19. Isn’t that enough?” (NNSL, April 28, 2021)

Article #12 “Yellowknife cluster is ‘UK variant,’ NWT announces” (Cabin Radio, April 28, 2021)

Article #12.1 “MLAs convening Tuesday to discuss member who may have breached COVID-19 isolation” (CBC News, April 30, 2021)

Article #13 “N.J. Macpherson School in YK closed after COVID-19 case confirmed” (NNSL, May 2 2021)

Article #14 “Covid-19 outbreak at YK school, all youth activities suspended” (Cabin Radio, May 2 2021)

Article #15 “Yellowknife ‘on the brink of community spread,’ Kandola says” (Cabin Radio, May 3, 2021)

Article #16 “Yellowknives Dene First Nation calls for Steve Norn’s resignation” (Cabin Radio, May 4, 2021)

Article #17 “YKDFN chiefs call on MLA Steve Norn to resign after alleged COVID-19 isolation breach” (CBC News, May 4, 2021)

Article #18 “YKDFN calls for Norn’s resignation” (CKLB, May 4, 2021)

Article #19 “MLAs refer Steve Norn to integrity commissioner” (May 4, 2021)



CORONAVIRUS YELLOWKNIFE

Steve Norn says he and family member are this week's YK cases

Ollie Williams - April 23, 2021

LAST MODIFIED: APRIL 23, 2021 AT 9:32AM

Steve Norn, the MLA for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, says he has tested positive for Covid-19 and a family member also has the disease. They are the two cases identified in Yellowknife this week, he said.



A photo posted to Steve Norn's Facebook page on March 26, 2021 shows the Tu Nedhé-Williideh MLA receiving his first Covid-19 vaccine.

Norn told Cabin Radio he received a positive test on Wednesday. He took the test after reading the NWT chief public health officer's [call for people to be tested](#) when the virus responsible for Covid-19 turned up in a Yellowknife sewage sample.

Norn, who lives in Yellowknife, had travelled to the Alberta community of Grande Prairie for a family emergency at the start of April. He said he isolated as instructed from April 4 to 18 before visiting Yellowknife's Taste of Saigon restaurant on April 19, a day after his isolation ended.

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Once Norn tested positive, that trip to Taste of Saigon triggered an exposure advisory. The Norn family's positive tests also ended up involving the city's École St Patrick High School, where some 40 contacts have been identified and which sent a letter to parents on Thursday night.


"I followed all the rules, I was up front with everybody," Norn told Cabin Radio on Friday morning. He said he and his family member were doing well physically, but added he was "mentally exhausted."

Asked what could have led him to remain infectious beyond the two-week isolation period, he acknowledged his first thought had been: "How the hell did this happen?"

"I did talk to a medical expert," Norn said. "They said the variant could stay in your body for 17 days."

There is currently limited scientific evidence related to the longevity of variants of Covid-19, as most are relatively new and have not been thoroughly studied.

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The poster features a circular logo for the Yellowknife Shooting Club on the right side, which includes a moose and a rifle. The background of the poster is a light brown, textured pattern.

The territorial government has not confirmed whether either of this week's two cases involve variants of concern. Samples have been sent to labs in southern Canada for analysis.

Norn said he was coming forward because he realized residents would have "all kinds of speculation" about what had happened.

"I stayed home," he said, referring to residents' concern about whether isolation rules had been broken.

After Norn spoke with Cabin Radio, Yellowknife's Racquet Club gym said there had been potential exposure at the gym on April 18 – the day Norn said his isolation period would have come to an end – related to the cases involving Norn and his family member. All those involved have been contacted.

Norn has received his first shot of Moderna's vaccine against Covid-19 – posting a photo of it on March 26 – but not the second, as is required for full vaccination.

"I'm feeling OK," he said on Friday. "Just a little tired, mentally fried."



Article #2

CORONAVIRUS YELLOWKNIFE

YK gym confirms 'small group of contacts' related to Covid-19 cases

Sarah Pruyts and Ollie Williams - April 23, 2021

Yellowknife's Racquet Club on Friday said a "small group of contacts" had been identified at the gym following the two cases of Covid-19 reported in the city this week.



A photo of a squash court shared on Facebook by the Racquet Club in

Yellowknife.

Earlier on Friday, Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA Steve Norn said he and a family member were the two cases identified by public health officials. Norn said he had triggered an exposure advisory after visiting Yellowknife's Taste of Saigon restaurant on April 19, a day after his 14-day isolation beginning on April 4 had ended.

An employee at the Racquet Club told Cabin Radio the NWT's chief public health officer "did identify a contact here" and that contact was related to "the case you reported this morning," referring to Norn or the family member.

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"We've been following their orders moving forward," the gym employee said.

The gym later posted to Facebook that a "small group of contacts" had been identified related to potential exposure on April 18, the day Norn said his 14-day isolation period ended.

Members of the gym use a fob system that tracks who was in attendance at any

given point.

“Our contact list is very small,” the employee told Cabin Radio. “Everyone who was in contact with the case has already been contacted by public health.”

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Following the Racquet Club’s disclosure, Norn could not be immediately reached for comment.

In an [earlier statement](#), Norn said he crossed the border back into the NWT on the evening of April 4 following a family emergency in Alberta. His isolation period would have ended on the evening of April 18.

The Racquet Club did not specify the time that day at which possible exposure took place. On Sundays such as April 18, the club’s posted opening hours are 8am until 8pm.

The NWT government issues exposure advisories if potential exposure to Covid-19 affects a significant number of people or not all possible contacts can be immediately identified.

The identification of just one contact would not ordinarily trigger an exposure alert and no such warning has been issued by the territory this week, other than for Norn’s trip to Taste of Saigon.

Around 40 contacts have been identified at Yellowknife’s École St Patrick High School following the two cases. Both the school and territorial government said they did not yet consider an outbreak to be in progress and contacts were isolating.

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NWT politician broke isolation to enter legislature, staff told April 23rd, 2021

Steve Norn says he and family member are this week's YK cases April 23rd, 2021

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SARAH PRUYS AND OLLIE WILLIAMS

MORE »



Article #3

CORONAVIRUS

NWT politician broke isolation to enter legislature, staff told

Ollie Williams - April 23, 2021

LAST MODIFIED: APRIL 23, 2021 AT 1:17PM

Steve Norn, the MLA for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, broke isolation to enter the NWT's legislature, three people with direct knowledge of the incident told Cabin Radio.



Steve Norn addresses the legislature in October 2019.

Norn has already come forward to identify himself and a family member as the two people diagnosed with Covid-19 in Yellowknife this week. He said he had isolated appropriately for 14 days after returning from a family emergency in Grande Prairie, Alberta.

“I followed all the rules. I was up front with everybody,” Norn told Cabin Radio at the time.

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However, staff at the legislature were on Friday told Norn had entered the building on Saturday, April 17, a full day before his isolation period – which Norn himself identified as April 4-18 – was due to expire.

One member of legislature staff, understood to be a security guard, is isolating as a result.

There is likely to have been minimal exposure beyond that, given Norn chose to enter the building on a Saturday. However, doing so is a clear breach of the NWT’s rules for people isolating on their return from travel.

The Legislative Assembly refused to comment when approached by Cabin Radio on Friday.

“The Legislative Assembly has an exposure control plan, and works closely with the Department of Health and Social Services to ensure appropriate communication measures are met. The Assembly will not comment further,” a spokesperson said by email.

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A Cabin Radio reporter at the legislature on Friday asked to see the sign-in book kept by security staff. The book meticulously records the comings and goings of all visitors and staff, including MLAs.

An official on duty refused the reporter permission to inspect the log for April 17, saying a warrant would be required and the sergeant-at-arms must be consulted. The reporter was told the sergeant-at-arms had gone for lunch. The sergeant-at-arms, Brian Thagard, could not be immediately reached by phone.

Though Norn conducted an interview on the subject of his isolation early on

Friday morning, he has not responded to calls or text messages since. MLAs are understood to be in a full day of committee meetings, in which Norn can participate by video call while in isolation.

He earlier said he was feeling physically well but “mentally exhausted.” His relative is also doing well, Norn said.

Norn’s infection and emergence from isolation have triggered a string of incidents in Yellowknife. It is unusual for a person with Covid-19 to be publicly identified, but Norn said he had chosen to come forward because he occupies a leadership position and realized residents would have “all kinds of speculation.”

An exposure advisory has been issued for Yellowknife’s Taste of Saigon restaurant, visited by Norn on Monday, April 19, a day after he said his isolation period ended.

The city’s Racquet Club gym has confirmed a “small group of contacts” was potentially exposed to Covid-19 on April 18, the day Norn said his isolation finished. A gym employee confirmed the possible exposure was connected to the Norn cases.

And Yellowknife’s École St Patrick High School told parents 40 contacts had been notified after potential exposure on April 19 associated with the same two cases.

The territorial government has so far said the two cases do not warrant the declaration of an outbreak. As of 1pm on

Friday, no other connected cases had been announced.

Sarah Pruy's contributed reporting.

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OLLIE WILLIAMS

Cabin Radio's head of programming and news. Click here to contact Ollie. [MORE »](#)

CONTACT US

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Article #4

North

MLA Steve Norn identifies himself as one of 2 COVID-19 cases in Yellowknife

'Given my public role, I have chosen to identify myself,' says Norn in a statement

CBC News · Posted: Apr 23, 2021 7:49 AM CT | Last Updated: April 23



MLA for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh Steve Norn pictured at the N.W.T. Legislative Assembly. Norn has identified himself and a family member as the two positive COVID-19 cases in Yellowknife, after he took trip to Alberta for a family emergency. (Sara Minogue/CBC)

A member of the N.W.T. Legislature says he and a family member are the two people with COVID-19 in Yellowknife.

In a statement released late Thursday night, Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA Steve Norn said he tested positive for the virus on Wednesday, April 21.

He said he had gone to Alberta by car for a family emergency on April 1 and returned later on April 4, after filing a self-isolation plan.

Norn said he did not have any symptoms at the time, but decided to get tested after COVID-19 was [detected in the wastewater](#) in Yellowknife. The Chief Public Health Officer had asked that anyone who was self-isolating or self-monitoring from April 14 to 17 get tested.

"Given my public role, I have chosen to identify myself, however I do ask that people respect my family's privacy as we move forward," said Norn in the release.

According to a public Facebook post, Norn has received at least one dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine, on March 26.

Norn also said a family member has the [second case of COVID-19](#) in Yellowknife, which was announced Thursday.

Public health said 40 contacts have been identified, and the individual is involved with a school in Yellowknife.

- [1 new COVID-19 infection in Yellowknife, 40 contacts identified](#)

Exposure at St. Patrick's High School

Yellowknife Catholic Schools [confirmed on Twitter](#) it was St. Patrick's High School in Yellowknife that received the COVID-19 positive exposure notice.

Health officials say their investigation so far does not "indicate an outbreak."

The school is continuing to follow the recommendations of the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer including physical distancing and masking, along with regular cleaning and sanitizing,

according to Simone Gessler, superintendent with Yellowknife Catholic Schools.

"Our students are kept in bubbles. If they move to a different space then ... the area is cleaned before the students come in and before they leave," said Gessler. "That's a daily practice."

Classes have resumed as usual and all people affected have been contacted and are in self-isolation, she said.

Gessler was not able to provide details on how many classrooms were affected by the exposure, but did say the attached elementary school — Weledeh Catholic School — has not been impacted.

"Our message is the message that we have been provided ... by the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer, that we are safe to return to school. All the pieces that are required to be actioned have been actioned."

If parents have any concerns they can speak to Public Health or ProtectNWT, she added.

Contacts identified at Yellowknife Racquet Club

On Friday morning, the Yellowknife Racquet Club announced that a person with a confirmed case of COVID-19 entered the facility on April 18th.

"We have been very lucky to have a close and open relationship with the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer along with Yellowknife Public Health and were able to very quickly help both of these teams identify a small group of contacts," the [Facebook post](#) reads.

Anyone with potential contact with the person with this confirmed case has already been contacted by Yellowknife Public Health and is asked to please follow the direction given to them, it says.

People can get tested in Yellowknife by booking an appointment at the COVID-19 testing centre at 108 Archibald Street or [online](#).

There are extended hours on Fridays and Saturdays from 8:30 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

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Article #5

RECENT POSTS

Steve Norn identifies himself and family member as the two YK COVID cases

Exposure notices issued for École St. Patrick High School, the Racquet Club and Taste of Saigon.

YKDFN calls for Norn's resignation



The Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) has issued a letter to the...

May 4, 2021 2:14 pm

ECE notifies over 1,100 residents that personal...



Steve Norn confirmed he and a family member have contracted COVID-19. (Francis Tessier-Burns/CKLB)

POSTED BY: MARIAH CARUSO AND LUKE CARROLL APRIL 23, 2021

Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA Steve Norn confirmed he and a family member have tested positive for COVID-19 — explaining the origin of the two cases identified in Yellowknife this week.

“I have chosen to identify myself as the positive COVID test result this week. The second confirmed test announced today is a member of my family, and is self-isolating,” Norn wrote in a press release.

He says he travelled by car to Alberta on April 1 as the result of a family emergency and returned on April 4. He says he self-isolated for the full 14 days.

The positive case was first identified on Monday evening as a result of the wastewater testing. The chief public health officer (CPHO) advised anyone who had been self-isolating between April 14 to 17 to be tested.

Norn says he followed this advice despite having no symptoms and discovered on Tuesday he was the positive case.

A second positive case was confirmed on Thursday.

The positive cases have triggered exposure notices at several Yellowknife institutions.

The first was Taste of Saigon, which Norn allegedly went to the day after his isolation had finished. The exposure notice was for April 19 between 3 p.m. and 4:30 p.m.

The CPHO issued another exposure notice for a Yellowknife school for April 21. École St. Patrick High School confirmed it was the school in question **on twitter.**



The department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) has...

May 4, 2021 9:05 am

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Despite over 30 exposure locations across the city, the chief public health...

May 3, 2021 6:44 pm

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The wait is over. Six years have passed since the NWT

The Yellowknife Racquet Club announced on Facebook it is the latest exposure notice. The gym says the exposure was reported on April 18, and “a small group of contacts” have been identified and are in touch with the CPHO.

Norn posted on Facebook on March 26 that he had received his first dose of the Moderna vaccine. However, a person is not considered fully vaccinated until two weeks after receiving their second dose of the vaccine.

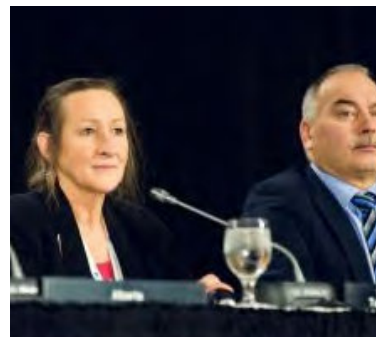
According to **Cabin Radio**, Norn broke isolation to enter the legislature, but CKLB has not independently confirmed this.

[Previous post](#) [Next post](#)

has had a taste of the...

May 3, 2021 6:44 pm

Nunavut suspends travel bubble with NWT



Nunavut has suspended its travel bubble with the Northwest Territories as...

May 3, 2021 4:21 pm



News, Yellowknifer

Article #6

COVID-19 carrier may have attended high school party: source

by Blair McBride
April 23, 2021



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The person who tested positive for Covid-19 **on April 22** might have attended a party with students from at least one school in Yellowknife.

The party took place on April 17 and students from St. Patrick and Sir John Franklin high schools might have attended, a reliable source who asked to remain anonymous told NNSL Media.

In a statement released on April 23 through the legislative assembly, Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA Steve Norn, who **said he tested positive for COVID-19** on April 21, also stated that a member of his family tested positive on April 22.

Yellowknife Catholic Schools **said in a tweet** that the case was identified at École St. Patrick High School, and that the school would remain open. It is not yet known if was a student or a staff member who was infected.

A principal from one of those schools was contacted but couldn't comment officially on the party. The COVID-19 Secretariat has also not yet responded to requests for comment.

But it is believed they are collecting as many names as possible as to who attended the party.

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Article #7

CORONAVIRUS YELLOWKNIFE

Three new Covid-19 cases in Yellowknife, new exposure warning

Ollie Williams - April 23, 2021

LAST MODIFIED: APRIL 23, 2021 AT 9:16PM

Three more people in Yellowknife have been diagnosed with Covid-19, bringing this week's total to five. A new exposure warning has also been issued.



Dr Kami Kandola speaks at a news conference on April 21, 2021. Sarah

Pruys/Cabin Radio

Late on Friday evening, the NWT's chief public health officer said anyone attending a bonfire at the sandpits from 9:30pm till midnight on April 16 or 11pm till 2am on April 17 could have been exposed.

If that includes you, isolate immediately and contact public health at (867) 767-9120.

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Two of the new cases are from the same household and are linked to travel within Canada. The third is linked to international travel.

Dr Kami Kandola, the chief public health officer, did not declare an outbreak. All cases this week have a link to travel rather than community spread within the city.

None of the new cases had any public exposure risk, Dr Kandola said, suggesting the sandpits warning was connected to the two cases confirmed earlier in the week.

Meanwhile, Kandola said the situation at École St Patrick High School remained unchanged. There are no new contacts and no “documented transmission” at the school, Kandola said, “meaning the school is not in an outbreak.”

Her office continues to monitor the situation, she said.

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There is so far no word regarding whether any of this week’s cases are variants of concern.

At least two smaller communities near Yellowknife have put travel restrictions in place in response to this week’s Covid-19 cases in the city.

Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh Steve Norn said he and a family member were the week’s first two cases, which have so far triggered an exposure advisory at a restaurant alongside potential exposures at the high school, a gym, and the Legislative Assembly.

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OLLIE WILLIAMS

Cabin Radio's head of programming and news.

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CORONAVIRUS POLITICS

Premier calls for kindness but consequences over Covid-19 rules

Ollie Williams - April 25, 2021

The Premier of the Northwest Territories on Sunday called for “compassion and kindness” as Yellowknife faces fresh cases of Covid-19, but said rule-breakers should be held to account.



Premier Caroline Cochrane speaks at a news conference on April 21, 2021. Sarah Pruys/Cabin Radio

In an unprompted statement emailed to newsrooms, Premier Caroline Cochrane said six new cases in Yellowknife this week represented a “stark reminder of how quickly our pandemic situation ... could easily change if we let our guard down.”

Cochrane wrote: “The pandemic is not over. And no matter what, we all need to follow the isolation and public health orders to ensure we are protecting our communities and loved ones.

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“There is no excuse for not following the orders. I want to be clear that there are consequences when people don’t follow them.”

The premier’s remarks come after her legislature colleague Steve Norn, the MLA for Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh, this week said he and a family member had contracted Covid-19. It later emerged that Norn had visited the NWT legislature one day before his isolation period was due to

expire. A security guard at the legislature is isolating as a result.

Meanwhile, exposure advisories related to the same set of cases exist for a restaurant and a two-night bonfire on the outskirts of the city. Public health is tracking contacts at École St Patrick High School and the Racquet Club gym after potential exposure at each location, again connected to the same cases.

Norn has not commented since an initial statement and interview on Friday morning in which he said he had followed isolation rules.

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“As you are aware, several students and teachers are self-isolating because of the confirmed case at St Patrick’s High School, along with multiple other residents from two local businesses,” said Cochrane on Sunday. She appeared to be referring to the gym and Taste of Saigon restaurant.

“This is a situation that we hoped we would be able to avoid during this pandemic. However, that is not the case. And while we are not out of the woods

just yet – this unfortunate situation is a reminder that residents need to continue to get vaccinated.

“We need to achieve herd protection – especially when it comes to insulating our children from the virus until the health community deems it safe. We have a responsibility to protect them.”

The premier added: “As I have said before, it’s important during these moments that we practise compassion, kindness, and express empathy, especially for those who have Covid-19. If there is anything that this pandemic has shown us, it is that we can and will handle every challenge with the strength of our community behind us.”

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Article #9

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Dr. Kami Kandola addresses reporters at the Legislative Assembly. (Photo by Luke Carroll/ CKLB Radio.)

POSTED BY: BRETT MCGARRY APRIL 26, 2021

In a press conference Monday morning, Chief Public Health Officer Dr. Kami Kandola urged residents not to panic amid the **new cluster of cases in Yellowknife.**

Dr. Kandola said there are 90 contacts related to confirmed cases from the Yellowknife cluster. She said many are isolating, 85 have been tested and await their results. Dr. Kandola's office is also waiting for test results if confirmed cases are of a variant of concern.

"This is, more than anything else, a safety measure," she said.

She reassured media that the NWT has control of the situation.

"I want to assure the public that we are prepared for this and that our office and regional health authorities are implementing processes and procedures as we should be," she said.

Kandola did say, however, that she did not advise the closing of any institutions. Łutselk'e Dene First Nation recently shut down their only school as a precautionary measure, Chief Daryl Marlowe told CBC last week. The community put out a warning advising members to not travel to Yellowknife. Fort Providence also implemented travel warnings and a three-day isolation period for residents coming from Yellowknife.

She is also requesting communities talk to public health and "would recommend they talk to us and we can explain why we would not recommend certain measures and what our guidance is."

Contacts identified in the Yellowknife cluster were directly related to St. Patrick High School and a gathering at the sand pits on April 16 and 17.



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Dr. Kandola said parents are receiving detailed directions Monday on how to navigate self-isolation with their children.

“If you have not been notified, you should go about your daily routine as you did last week and the week before that,” she said.

Dr. Kandola said her office tries to maintain the privacy of institutions when there are positive cases and an exposure notice is given out only when they are unable to track down all contacts.

When it came to St. Patrick, Dr. Kandola said her team knew exactly who the contacts were and times for potential exposure, and contacted them immediately. Administrators from the school independently decided to come forward.

Dr. Kandola also refused to comment on specific details of confirmed cases. This cluster of cases comes after **MLA Steve Norn came forward** last week admitting him and a family member tested positive with COVID-19.

Over the weekend Premier Caroline Cochrane released a statement calling for compassion relating to the current cluster of cases.

“This is a situation that we hoped we would be able to avoid during this pandemic. However, that is not the case. And while we are not out of the woods just yet – this unfortunate situation is a reminder that residents need to continue to get vaccinated,” she stated.

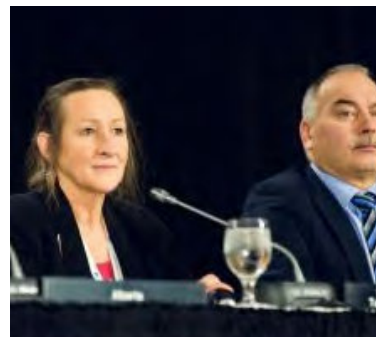
Cochrane said that no matter what health orders must be followed and “I want to be clear that there are consequences when people don’t follow them.”

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The office of the chief public health officer will also be delaying any amendments to the Emerging Wisely plan to ease health restrictions to the end of May. Previously, the plan was going to be **updated at the end of April.**



She said, “With eight cases in the NWT in one week, this is a time to focus on containment. We can also give the rest of Canada time to catch up and get the third wave of outbreaks under control.”

“This week we’re containing contacts, and seeing if there is community spread, if anything we don’t want to go back but definitely not a time to go forward,” Dr. Kandola said in reference to Emerging Wisely.

Dr. Kandola said her office is taking into account the third wave passing through parts of Canada, is looking at Canada-wide vaccine roll out and is staying vigilant given an increase of travellers coming into the territory when addressing health restrictions.

The chief public health officer continued to discourage unnecessary travel and encouraged residents to do their part to prevent COVID-19 through regular hand washing, wearing masks, keeping six feet of distance and getting vaccinated.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



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Article #9.1

North

Breaking COVID-19 rules comes with consequences, says N.W.T. Premier

Public health not releasing investigative info, cites Public Health Act

[Liny Lamberink](#) · CBC News · Posted: Apr 26, 2021 7:44 AM CT | Last Updated: April 26

N.W.T. Premier Caroline Cochrane said there will be consequences for those who get caught breaking COVID-19 public health orders. She also urged people to show compassion and kindness to those who have the disease. (Mario De Ciccio/Radio-Canada)

Premier Caroline Cochrane says there are no excuses for breaking COVID-19 public health orders, as a cluster of cases in the city of Yellowknife continues to grow.

"I want to be clear that there are consequences when people don't follow [the rules]" she said in a statement Sunday.

The comments come amid a controversy surrounding Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA Steve Norn, who identified himself as one of the cases and who, by Sunday, had been linked to a cluster of four other cases and 90 contacts.

Norn said a family member had also tested positive for the virus in a statement late Thursday night. He said he had travelled to Alberta for a family emergency by car, filed a self-isolation plan as required, and returned on April 4.

- [MLA Steve Norn identifies himself as one of 2 COVID-19 cases in Yellowknife](#)

Citing unnamed sources at the Legislative Assembly, on Friday, Cabin Radio reported that Norn broke his isolation period to enter the N.W.T.'s legislature on Saturday, April 17, a full day before he told the news outlet his isolation period was supposed to end.

CBC News has not confirmed these allegations.

Norn declined CBC's request for an interview Friday, and did not respond to requests for comment over the weekend.

Legislature, public health, not releasing info

A CBC reporter attended the legislature building on Friday. They were told the visitor log book was not accessible to the public and a search warrant would be needed in order to see it.

Nicole Bonnell, manager of public affairs and communications at the legislative assembly, also said in an email the log book was not available for review and was used for security purposes.

The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer, meanwhile, acknowledged there is public interest in its investigations but says it will not confirm whether Norn broke his isolation period.

"We know that residents are concerned about allegations of individuals posing a risk to others by not following the rules," said spokesperson Darren Campbell, in an email.

"We are not able to comment on any potential investigations nor share any personal health information, including details of self-isolation plans," he said, citing the Public Health Act.

"If a high-profile member of the public has made statements on his or her accord, we will not be confirming any details."

Practice compassion

Premier Cochrane said the past few days have been a "stark reminder" of how quickly the pandemic situation in the territory can change if people let their guards down.

- [1 new COVID-19 case in Yellowknife, 90 contacts of cluster identified](#)

Ninety people had been identified as contacts of the cluster of cases.

One of the cases was linked to École St Patrick High School. Exposure notices were issued for patrons at the Taste of Saigon Restaurant and to those who attended a bonfire at the Yellowknife sandpits last weekend.

The Yellowknife Racquet Club also announced on Facebook that a person with COVID-19 had been inside their facility, saying that all contacts had been identified, contacted, and were isolating.

"This is a situation that we hoped we would be able to avoid," said Cochrane. "It's important during these moments that we practice compassion, kindness and express empathy, especially for those who have COVID-19."

She also said the situation is a reminder that people should continue to get vaccinated.

North

Kandola calls for calm as officials await test results from COVID-19 contacts in Yellowknife

'We must stop this cluster from becoming an outbreak,' Kandola says

CBC News · Posted: Apr 26, 2021 9:30 AM CT | Last Updated: April 26



Dr. Kami Kandola, chief public health officer of the N.W.T., says officials are awaiting test results from approximately 90 people identified as contacts of a cluster of five COVID-19 cases in Yellowknife. (Kate Kyle/CBC)



N.W.T. health officials are awaiting test results from roughly 90 people identified as contacts to a cluster of five COVID-19 cases in Yellowknife.

All but five of the approximately 90 people have been tested. Eighty-five people have either tested negative or are awaiting results.

Officials are also awaiting to learn whether any of the cases are variants of concern.

"There is no need to panic. This does not mean that there's no reason to be concerned and concern is very justified right now," Dr. Kami Kandola, the territory's chief public health officer, said in a press update Monday.

Kandola said many people have been required to self-isolate as a result of the cluster.

"This is, more than anything else, a safety measure. We must stop this cluster from becoming an outbreak," Kandola said.

"Right now we have a map. We know who is connected to whom and that matters. It means we have some control over the situation and I do want to reassure you of that."

The media briefing comes after the territory recorded eight COVID-19 cases within a week — six cases in the capital and two in Fort Smith, N.W.T.

- [Breaking COVID-19 rules comes with consequences, says N.W.T. Premier](#)
- [1 new COVID-19 case in Yellowknife, 90 contacts of cluster identified](#)

Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA Steve Norn [identified himself and a family member](#) as two of the cases in Yellowknife.

Kandola declined to answer questions regarding Norn, citing privacy legislation. "If a high-profile member of the public has made statements on his or her own accord, we will not be confirming any details," Kandola said.

Why Yellowknife school was not named

Dozens of the 90 contacts were from École St. Patrick High School in Yellowknife, though the school was not initially named by the office of the chief public health officer.

When asked why she chose not to name the school, Kandola said her office had reached out and contacted students and were able to tell them to isolate after identifying an exact time period, the names of contacts and place of exposure.

In that scenario, she said limited information is released because it wouldn't have lead to any more contacts or exposure.

"Whether it's a school, restaurant or fitness centre, if we know who the contacts are, we can reach them, we can tell them to isolate, we don't typically do an exposure notification," she said.

She said students who experience any of the major COVID-19 symptoms, including fever, cough, difficulty breathing or loss of taste or smell, cannot attend class until they have been assessed by a health-care provider and told when they can return.

If they are experiencing any minor symptoms, students will need to stay home for 24 hours. If symptoms have resolved, they can return to school. If they don't, or more symptoms show up, Kandola said they must stay home and consult with a health care provider.

Emerging Wisely delayed

Kandola also announced a revised version of the territory's Emerging Wisely plan has been pushed back to the end of May, saying the last few days "are a stark reminder that we can't get complacent."

"This is a time to focus on containment. With a few more weeks, we can also give the rest of Canada some time to catch up and get the third wave of outbreaks under more control."

Kandola had previously said an update to the territory's COVID-19 restrictions was anticipated by the end of April or early May.

900 COVID-19 tests last week

Dr. AnneMarie Pegg, the territory's medical director, said the laboratory at Stanton Hospital is on "surge mode" with close to 900 COVID-19 tests processed over the last week, with a turnaround time of just over 24-hours.

A rapid response team has been deployed to isolation centres to provide testing support and additional staffing and nurses have been added to assist with contact tracing.

"This situation is a stark reminder of how fast the virus can move and how only a few cases can involve dozens of contacts," Pegg said.

When asked to comment on a decision by some communities to institute their own measures in response to the cluster of cases, Kandola encouraged them to reach out to her office to avoid "unnecessary disruption."

Last week, the Łutsek'e Dene First Nation issued a travel advisory to Yellowknife and closed its school for two weeks in response to cases in the capital, and Fort Providence, N.W.T., announced it is closing its doors to visitors and hunters.

Missed the COVID-19 briefing? Watch it here:

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Article #9.3

North

'Politicians are not allowed to break the law' says N.W.T. premier

Comments come after reports that MLA broke COVID-19 isolation protocols

CBC News · Posted: Apr 27, 2021 10:21 AM CT | Last Updated: April 27



N.W.T. Premier Caroline Cochrane spoke with CBC's The Trailbreaker on Tuesday morning. She says no one is above the law in the territory. (Walter Strong/CBC)

N.W.T. Premier Caroline Cochrane is doubling down on [her comments](#) that there are consequences for breaking COVID-19 protocols.

Speaking on CBC's *The Trailbreaker* on Tuesday morning, Cochrane said no one is above the law in the territory.

"Politicians are not allowed to break the law ... every politician is accountable to the law, none of us are above it. We are responsible for making it. We are responsible for abiding by it," said Cochrane.

Last week Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA Steve Norn identified himself as one of the cases and linked to a cluster of four other cases and 90 contacts.

Cabin Radio reported on Friday that Norn broke his isolation period to enter the N.W.T.'s legislature on Saturday, April 17, a full day before he told the news outlet his isolation period was supposed to end, and that a legislature employee is now in isolation.

Cochrane did confirm that someone who works at the Legislative Assembly is isolating, but did not say if Norn broke isolation rules.

"I do know that we have a worker isolating. I haven't seen the footage, I do know that we have had logs within the Legislative Assembly, so I'm sure that they will be reviewed," said Cochrane.

A CBC reporter attended the legislature building on Friday, and was told the visitor log book was not accessible to the public and a search warrant would be needed in order to see it.

People who don't follow their self-isolation plan can face hefty fines in the N.W.T.

Balancing public health and privacy

One of the positive exposure locations announced last week was École St. Patrick High School in Yellowknife.

The office of the chief public health officer decided not to name the school at the time.

Asked about that decision, Cochrane said it was one that put Dr. Kami Kandola in a "difficult position."

"It's a fine balance between protecting the public health and moving into respecting people's privacy," she said.

Dr. Kandola determined the cluster was fairly contained at the time, and had reached out to all of the identified contacts, said Cochrane.

- [Kandola calls for calm as officials await test results from COVID-19 contacts in Yellowknife](#)
- [Breaking COVID-19 rules comes with consequences, says N.W.T. Premier](#)

"Personally, I had concerns as well, I know that even though Yellowknife's our capital city, that it wouldn't be long until the people found out. But again, that is the determination of the public health officer."

"But I do know that she didn't make the decision lightly."

Cochrane also reiterated that the COVID-19 situation shows the importance of being kind to one another, and getting vaccinated.

"COVID is a virus, so don't blame people. If they do get it, be kind to people. It's not the time to be judging people."

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CORONAVIRUS YELLOWKNIFE

Q&A: Yellowknife's Covid-19 cluster, isolation rules, and charges

Ollie Williams - April 27, 2021

It's been a long week in Yellowknife. Almost 100 people are isolating after coming into contact with what is now a cluster of five Covid-19 cases in the city.



The NWT Legislative Assembly. Ollie Williams/Cabin Radio

A sixth case, related to international travel, is separate. There are also two active cases in Fort Smith and one was confirmed in Inuvik on Monday night, while a flight exposure warning was issued.

On Monday, NWT Chief Public Health Officer Dr Kami Kandola held a news conference at which she addressed a wide range of questions about the cluster in Yellowknife, the measures in place to contain the spread of the virus, and how those might change.

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However, she declined to take questions regarding breaches of her public health orders. She spoke a day after Premier Caroline Cochrane said there must be “consequences” if rules are broken, and three days after Cabin Radio reported Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA Steve Norn had visited the NWT legislature a day before the end of his isolation.

On this page, we’ve looked at some common questions related to the latest cluster and paired them with answers given by Dr Kandola, plus other answers

we've been able to glean from public health officials in recent days.

I'm in Yellowknife. Am I at risk?

If you haven't heard from public health yet, you are almost certainly not at elevated risk. (There's still a pandemic going on, so don't take that to mean the risk is zero. Keep following the usual rules.)

"Parents are being sent today specific directions and being reminded how to negotiate self-isolation with their teen or child," said Kandola on Monday. "If you have not been notified, go about your daily routine ... while following the public health guidelines we have stressed throughout the pandemic."

Kandola said sending contacts of the cluster into isolation was "more than anything else, a safety measure" designed to stop the cluster becoming an outbreak. It's worth emphasizing that there is not yet an outbreak in Yellowknife.

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“Right now, we have a map,” said Kandola, referring to her team’s ability to readily connect all five cases in the cluster to each other.

“We know who is connected to whom, and that matters. It means we have some control over the situation.”

How many contacts are there?

There are 90. Of those, 85 have been tested for Covid-19. Many have already tested negative and others are awaiting their results. Five had yet to be tested as of Monday morning.

Being a contact means you’re someone who “had an interaction” with an infected person, according to the NWT’s health authority. Public health assesses whether or not someone is a contact on a case-by-case basis. Kandola made it clear on Monday that she felt confident contacts of the cluster had been quickly traced.

How long do the contacts have to isolate?

For 14 days after their potential exposure. The NWT’s health authority [sent a letter](#) to all contacts that explains this in more detail, including what the ramifications are for contacts’ household members.

Is this a variant?

We currently have no idea which form of the virus responsible for Covid-19 is involved.

All positive tests get sent to a southern lab to test for variants of concern. So far, the GNWT has not reported the results of any tests involving the Yellowknife cluster. The results may not yet be back.

On Monday evening, Kandola's office said the public would be updated "if a variant of concern is identified."

Norn said last week he had been told by "a medical expert," who was not identified, that some variants of Covid-19 could remain in the body for up to 17 days. Asked about this on Monday, Kandola said all recommendations from federal health experts still pointed to a 14-day isolation period being adequate.

"The majority of infections, if you're incubating, occur within the first five to seven days. The second week, you would have a lower risk of presenting with the virus," Kandola said.

"Worldwide, they have used 14 days as their cut-off for incubation."

She acknowledged that there "could be a small, small percentage" of cases where the infectious period extends beyond 14 days of isolation, but said requiring the vast majority of people to isolate for any longer than two weeks would be unfair and unnecessary.

Is there community spread?

No. Community spread is a specific term: it refers to when cases of the virus appear that can't be readily explained. For example, if a person with no recent travel history develops Covid-19 despite

apparently not having crossed paths with anyone else who travelled or who was sick, that's community spread – it has no obvious origin.

All five cluster cases could be directly connected to each other by public health, either through a clear connection to travel (Norn, the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA, has [explained his case's direct travel connection](#)) or through exposure to an existing case in the cluster.

Will there be any charges?

The territorial government says it will not discuss investigations or charges against anyone.

This appears to mark a change in policy. When, at the start of the pandemic, [NNSL reported](#) resident Mike Harrison had declared he would flout the NWT's travel restrictions to drive to his Dehcho home, the chief public health officer issued a [fiercely worded statement](#) denouncing Harrison and concluding: "Needless to say, we will be investigating this matter."

On Monday, both Kandola and GNWT communications staff said they would not make any comment regarding Norn or any other active investigations.

"While we understand there is public interest in the details of any potential investigations conducted by the Covid Secretariat Compliance and Enforcement section, we are not able to comment on any potential investigations nor share any personal health information, including details of self-isolation plans," read a form response issued by the

territorial government. (Details of isolation plans and personal health information had not been requested by Cabin Radio.)

“We also can’t confirm or deny if an investigation is actioned until it becomes part of the court process. As you can appreciate, doing so would hinder a potential investigation and/or breach privacy restrictions under the Public Health Act,” the response concluded.

In March 2020, Kandola [announced the opening](#) of an investigation into Harrison’s conduct long before the case became part of the court process, not least because it never did. As [the CBC reported](#), the investigation was closed in August 2020 and charges were never laid.

That’s despite the fact that behind the scenes, Kandola had pressed for action. The CBC, reporting internal emails through an access to information request, said Kandola had written to colleagues on April 2, 2020: “In the public eye, it will be important we lay charges.” (It turned out the NWT did not, at the time, have the legal mechanism in place to do so. The matter was dropped.)

On Monday, the territorial government denied a double standard was at play in the way it had treated Harrison versus the way it was responding to the case involving the MLA.

“There are differences between the two situations that you raise,” GNWT communications manager Dawn Ostrem told Cabin Radio by email. “Mike

Harrison came out to state publicly that he would not follow the public health orders in the media.”

Ultimately, the territorial court docket will disclose whether or not any resident in the NWT is charged regarding breaches of public health orders. The docket, which lists upcoming court appearances, is how the Monkey Tree Pub’s ticket for a public health breach related to Covid-19 [came to light](#). The territorial government did not publicize that charge. (The Monkey Tree is [contesting the fine](#).)

Norn has not commented since an interview early on Friday in which he [set out his account](#) of how he isolated. Calls and texts from Cabin Radio have not been returned. [The CBC](#) and [NNSL](#) said on Monday they, too, had been unable to reach the MLA.

What’s the timeline of the cluster?

In coming forward late on Thursday, April 22, Norn confirmed he was the first publicized case in the cluster. That case had been announced by the NWT government [on Wednesday, April 21](#). Here’s a timeline with all the information we have:

Thursday, April 1: Norn said he travelled to Alberta to deal with what he termed a family emergency.

Sunday, April 4: Norn said he returned to the NWT. In a statement sent to newsrooms on April 23, he said he

crossed the border in the late afternoon or early evening of April 4, suggesting formal isolation at his Yellowknife home would have begun later that night.

Friday, April 16: A bonfire party is held at Yellowknife's sandpits. (On April 23, the chief public health officer [issues an exposure advisory](#) for this party in connection with the cluster.)

Saturday, April 17: Norn, a day before his isolation is due to end, [heads to the NWT legislature](#). As it's a Saturday, the building is practically empty but a security guard on duty at the time is subsequently sent into isolation as a precaution. Later that night, a bonfire party is again held at Yellowknife's sandpits. (This, again, becomes the subject of an exposure advisory on April 23.)

Sunday, April 18: This is the day on which Norn's isolation ended, according to the timeline he provided. To have completed 14 full days, isolation would have ended in the evening. Either Norn or a family member with Covid-19 [attended the Racquet Club gym](#) that day (it's not clear when – the gym is usually open until 8pm on Sundays), resulting in several people being identified as contacts.

Monday, April 19: Norn goes to the Taste of Saigon restaurant – a day after his isolation had ended, according to the timeline he provided. That trip later [triggers an exposure advisory](#) for 3pm-4:30pm that day. Later, the NWT issues a call for recent travellers [to get a Covid-19 test](#) because there is unexplained coronavirus in Yellowknife's latest

sewage sample (which sampled the city's wastewater between April 14 and April 17).

Tuesday, April 20: Having seen the call for recent travellers to be tested, Norn said he received a Covid-19 test on this date.

Wednesday, April 21: Norn said he was told on this date that he had tested positive for Covid-19. He said he immediately returned to isolation.

Thursday, April 22: A second Covid-19 case is announced in Yellowknife, this one connected to École St Patrick High School. Late in the evening, a statement from Norn identifying himself for the first time as having tested positive for Covid-19 is sent to some, but not all newsrooms.

Friday, April 23: 7:50am – In an interview with Cabin Radio, Norn says he isolated appropriately for the full 14 days yet remained infectious beyond that point. He suggests this may have something to do with a variant form of the virus. He says a family member has also tested positive (it's not 100-percent clear if this family member travelled back to the NWT with Norn on April 4).

9:30am – The Racquet Club gym confirms it was the site of some exposure to Covid-19 related to either Norn or the family member.

1:15pm – It emerges that staff at the NWT legislature have been told Norn visited the building on April 17, prior to his isolation period expiring.

9:10pm – [Two more cases](#) connected to the cluster are announced. An exposure warning is issued for the sandpits on April 16 and April 17.

Sunday, April 25: A [fifth case](#) connected to the cluster is announced. Premier Caroline Cochrane calls for “compassion and kindness” as [concern over Covid-19 grows](#) in Yellowknife, but says there must be “consequences” for people who break the rules.

Why aren't people tested when they leave isolation?

At the moment, you don't get tested for Covid-19 on your 14th and final day of isolation in the NWT. Kandola said the current 14-day isolation period is considered “sufficient” without testing at the end.

However, there is some nuance to this.

Firstly, if you take advantage of the new, [shorter isolation period](#) for fully vaccinated travellers, you can get a Covid-19 test on your eighth day of isolation. If that comes back negative, you can stop isolating. You need to take the test on day eight in order to activate the chance of leaving isolation sooner.

Secondly, the rules aren't the same in all communities and in all circumstances.

In smaller communities where there's no sewage sampling taking place, people who are isolating are asked to take a Covid-19 test on day 12. (Exceptions can be granted that allow people to isolate in small communities, even though that's

ordinarily not allowed. Often, the exceptions are related to medical travel.)

In larger communities, though, Kandola said symptom checks on the 14th day had “worked well” for the NWT so far. (Norn has said he had no symptoms on day 14.)

Are any of the rules changing?

The shorter isolation period for fully vaccinated travellers is still going ahead, as are changes that allow tourists to visit remote destinations in the NWT. But more changes have been put on hold while Yellowknife deals with the cluster. Kandola said now was not the time to start easing any other restrictions.

Is anything else changing?

The GNWT is stepping up sewage sampling in Yellowknife.

Testing will now take place every 24 hours “until we are confident that the signal is decreasing,” said the territorial government on Monday, referring to the level of coronavirus in the sample. Normally, sampling takes place in three-day blocks in Yellowknife.

“Increasing the frequency of testing has been done previously. The GNWT did so in Hay River and Fort Simpson when unexpected positive wastewater signals were detected in their wastewater,” the territorial government said.

The GNWT believes sewage sampling’s role in identifying the current cluster of cases has proved its worth. Previously,

some residents had questioned the benefits of the program versus its cost.

“Last week’s unexpected positive wastewater signal in Yellowknife demonstrates the value of our surveillance program. With unexpected positive wastewater signals, public health will take actions, which include recommending testing of those who recently travelled into the community to identify people with Covid-19,” the territory said in a statement to Cabin Radio.

Norn made clear in his Friday interview that he had come forward for a test after seeing the call for tests prompted by the spike in Yellowknife’s sewage sample.

“The wastewater testing program will be in place for at least the next 12 months, pending progression of the pandemic and the role this surveillance activity has in informing the public health response,” the territory concluded.

Has there been any impact on vaccination rates?

Anecdotally, Yellowknife residents have described finding the city’s vaccination clinic busier than they expected in recent days. However, the latest vaccination data shows the number of people getting a shot in the NWT dropped last week.

On Monday, the NWT’s latest figures showed 482 people across the whole territory got their first shot – the second-smallest week-on-week increase since the territory began vaccinating people,

and around 150 fewer than in each of the past two weeks.

The number of people across the NWT getting their second shot fell week-on-week from 2,800 to 1,672. Bear in mind that there are lots of factors at play beyond the current cluster: for example, the number of people getting second shots is primarily governed by when they got their first.

Perhaps most importantly, Monday's update was only to territory-wide data. There was no update for regional vaccination data, making it impossible to tell how the figures changed in Yellowknife specifically. Regional data is due to be updated in a week's time.

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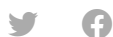
- All YK schools close as city's Covid-19 caseload rises May 2nd, 2021
- Yellowknife 'on the brink of communi... spread,' Kandola says May 3rd, 2021
- Premier calls for kindness but consequence s over Covid-19 rules April 25th, 2021



Yellowknifer

A call for kindness: NWT MLA Steve Norn has COVID-19. Isn't that enough?

by Nancy Vail
April 28, 2021



NOTES from the trail

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The greatest threat to our continued existence as a species is not a virus; it is the loss of our humanity.

Last week, the story broke that an MLA and his teenager tested positive for COVID-19. In the spirit of transparency, he self-identified. He didn't have to. We also learned that he had left his self-isolation period one day early to go to work. Unfortunately, his teenage daughter who was also self-isolating participated in social gatherings that evening. Now a whole lot of people are being monitored for signs of COVID-19.

He had received one shot of the vaccine in late March before traveling to Alberta. Sadly, that did not protect them from contracting the virus which should be more of a concern to people than the fact that he went out on day 13. Apparently, no one is sure how long this virus can survive in our system but there is little doubt that he could have infected people just as easily the next day. That doesn't justify the choice but it does say that the results would likely not have been significantly different.

No one focused on that nor the fact that he had received one dose and still contracted the virus or that he and his daughter were sick. The focal point was that he left one day early.

In the onslaught of the sometimes-vicious comments that followed on some social media posts last week, it quickly became clear that people had forgotten this was not the first time people had broken the rules. The stage was set months before when another MLA, a female cabinet minister, allegedly socialized with others out of her bubble in Inuvik.

Other than a few media stories, the situation was swept quickly under the rug. Far worse, were the three senior civil servants who vacationed over Christmas despite persistent messaging from the chief public health officer and the Legislative Assembly to the rest of us to stay put.

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NOTES

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One of those who traveled was the newly-appointed head of the COVID-19 secretariat, who went to B.C. with his wife to spend Christmas with their three university-aged children. How nice. Part of his responsibility in this new role was to oversee the regulations everyone else was being asked to follow. Everyone else, that is, except senior government personnel.

Prior to the Christmas break, Caroline Cochrane had pleaded with residents to stay home, tell their university kids to shelter in place and abandon their much-needed visits with loved family members that they had not seen since spring. Thank goodness, the majority did the right thing.

The outpouring of anger when people learned about the Christmas trips was palpable. While the premier said residents' frustration was "understandable" she urged patience. Patience?

In other provinces, elected and non-elected officials who traveled and broke rules and regulations either resigned or were voluntold to. But not in the NWT. Other than some red faces and aw-shucks moments – there were no consequences and the Christmas Grinch disappeared. It was a clear case of civil servant privilege.

Some of the social media comments last week also called for consequences and Cochrane hinted that this might happen. Unlike the previous people who flaunted the regulations, though, it is well known that this MLA has been a bit of a thorn in the side of some cabinet ministers so they might consider that consequences would be helpful in this case.

The appropriate outcome though would be for the NWT government to pick up the cost of any parents or workers who will lose pay cheques during their isolation periods if they have to do that. After all, the casual way the breaches were handled at Christmas sent out the message that it is okay to break the rules. That horse was let out of the barn a long time ago – we're just dealing with karmic repercussions.

It was his decision to break his isolation period one day early and he will have to choose his next steps wisely. But I think everyone needs to remember that permission slips for lax behaviour were handed out in January. Maybe none of this would have happened if tougher action was taken then, when we should have been setting one firm tone for all.

Finally, let's remember that people are ill with COVID-19 right now. One of them is a teenager. How about instead of getting nasty, we work hard to contain the virus and send those infected our best wishes for speedy recoveries. That is our own better nature at work and what we too would appreciate if we were in their shoes.



Article #12

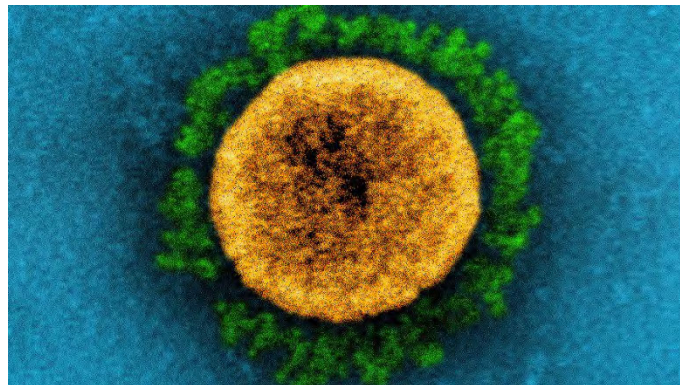
CORONAVIRUS SAHTU
YELLOWKNIFE

Yellowknife cluster is 'UK variant,' NWT announces

Ollie Williams - April 28, 2021

LAST MODIFIED: APRIL 28, 2021 AT 6:13PM

Yellowknife's cluster of five active Covid-19 cases was caused by the coronavirus variant B117, the NWT government announced on Wednesday evening.



A false-colour National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases image of the B117 variant of the virus responsible for Covid-19.

Known as the “UK variant” as it was first identified in the United Kingdom, B117 is a so-called variant of concern as research to date suggests it is easier to transmit and deadlier than earlier forms of the virus.

In a news release, the NWT’s chief public health officer said all five cases connected to Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA Steve Norn – who proactively identified himself as the cluster’s first case last week – involve the B117 variant. Samples were tested at an Alberta laboratory.

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Yellowknife has six active Covid-19 cases as of Wednesday evening. The sixth is unrelated to the cluster and the form of coronavirus with which it is associated is not known. There is no information related to the nature of the virus that caused active cases in Fort Smith or Inuvik.

There have been no new cases of Covid-19 confirmed in Yellowknife since Sunday. The territory says more than 900 tests have taken place since April 19.

Meanwhile, Imperial Oil – which operates a facility in Norman Wells – on Wednesday told Sahtu residents an employee of the company had tested positive for Covid-19 and was isolating. The NWT government later said two employees had tested positive and there was no identified public risk. Both were said to be doing well.

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Article #12.1

North

MLAs convening Tuesday to discuss member who may have breached COVID-19 isolation

Email from caucus chair says meeting organized ‘after requests from various members’

[John Last](#) · CBC News · Posted: Apr 30, 2021 1:42 PM CT | Last Updated: April 30



Tu Nedhé-Willideh MLA Steve Norn will be a topic of discussion at a caucus meeting Tuesday, an email sent to members Thursday suggests. (Mario De Ciccio/Radio-Canada)

Northwest Territories MLAs will meet Tuesday to discuss the case of an MLA who identified himself as a positive COVID-19 case and who was later reported to have broken isolation.

An email sent to MLAs Thursday by caucus chair and Yellowknife North MLA Rylund Johnson, and obtained by CBC News, says members will meet at 10 a.m. Tuesday "to discuss the recent COVID[-19] situation and more specifically the situation regarding MLA [Steve] Norn."

Norn, who represents the riding of Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh — encompassing the communities of Dettah, Ndilo, Łutsek'e, and Fort Resolution — named himself last week as one of two positive COVID-19 cases identified April 23, and linked to a cluster of new cases in Yellowknife with more than 90 contacts between them.

Health officials subsequently warned of possible exposures at a Yellowknife Catholic school, a bonfire party and a local gym.

At the time, Norn said he chose to identify himself because of his "public role," but was later reported by Cabin Radio to have visited the Legislative Assembly one day before his mandatory isolation period had ended. CBC has not independently verified the report.

A few days later, Premier Caroline Cochrane [told media "there are consequences"](#) for breaking COVID-19 protocols.

She [doubled down on those comments](#) Tuesday morning, saying that "politicians are not allowed to break the law."

Premier's comments 'unusual', leak 'unfortunate': Norn

Reached by CBC Friday, Norn called those comments "unusual."

"I spoke to her a couple times," he said. "I don't know what she means by that, and maybe that's why, when we've got an opportunity to meet, there may be more to discuss."

Johnson's email says the meeting was scheduled after "requests from various members," but does not specify who. Johnson refused to comment when reached by CBC.

Responding to the email, Norn said it was "unfortunate ... that we're still getting leaks in these forms."

He said he has yet to receive a response to questions on what the meeting is about.

Norn told CBC he is currently staying in an isolation hotel in Yellowknife after testing positive for COVID-19.

- [N.W.T. infrastructure minister says she was potentially exposed to COVID-19](#)
- ['Politicians are not allowed to break the law' says N.W.T. premier](#)

"I'm sitting here in the dark, I'm not at the [legislature]. I don't know what's going on."

In the meantime, Norn said he is "trying to continue just doing my job, and trying to be a dad.

"It's very difficult, in all this," he said. "I'm going to do my best, and just try to keep my mind busy."

Corrections

- A previous version of this story said Norn was in isolation as a result of having travelled. In fact, he is isolating because of his positive diagnosis for COVID-19.

Apr 30, 2021 5:05 PM CT

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Menu

Yellowknifer

Article #13

N.J. Macpherson School in YK closed after COVID-19 case confirmed

by Blair McBride

May 2, 2021



N.J. Macpherson School in Yellowknife has been closed after a case of COVID-19 was confirmed on May 1, chief public health officer Dr. Kami Kandola said in a news release on May 1. NNSL photo

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N.J. Macpherson School in Yellowknife will be closed due to an outbreak after an individual was diagnosed with COVID-19 on May 1.

The Junior Kindergarten-Grade 5 school will move to remote learning as of May 3 for 14 days, chief public health officer Dr. Kami Kandola said in a news release late at night on May 1.

It is the first closure of a school due to COVID-19 in the NWT since **Yellowknife schools decided to shut down** in the initial spring lockdown in March of 2020.

The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer (OCPHO) is also suspending all organized child and youth extra-curricular activities (including sports and arts) until further notice.

The infection is not related to travel outside the NWT and the individual is currently isolating and doing well.

The OCPHO has determined there are four additional probable cases of COVID-19, of which two are presumptive positive based on ID NOW testing, though final laboratory results remain to be confirmed.

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Public health teams are directly contacting people identified as contacts.

All household members of close contacts are asked to isolate for 14 days after the last exposure to a known case, Kandola said.

Members of the public must notify public health if they or members of their household were at Quiznos Restaurant at 314 Old Airport Road on April 29 between 6:15 and 7:15 p.m, though there is no risk of ongoing exposure there, the OCPHO said.

The advisory also applies to people who were at N.J. Macpherson School during regular school hours from April 26-29, including students, staff and volunteers and anyone identified during that time interval.

Those individuals must stay at home and isolate for 14 days starting May 1 and monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 using the [NWT online COVID-19 self-assessment tool](#).

Household members who are fully vaccinated (two weeks have passed since their second dose of COVID-19 vaccine) can safely work if no one in the household is symptomatic or identified as a close contact of COVID-19.

As a result of the school outbreak, there has been a “surge in demand” for COVID-19 testing on May 2, said [Health Minister Julie Green in a Facebook post](#).

Public health staff were expected to implement a surge capacity plan and increase testing capacity,” she said.

Also on May 2, a community organization called the [NJ Macpherson isolation volunteers](#) formed on Facebook to offer contactless pick up and delivery for families isolating due to the outbreak.

The latest case brings to 58 the total number of COVID-19 cases that have occurred in the NWT, with seven cases currently active among NWT residents.



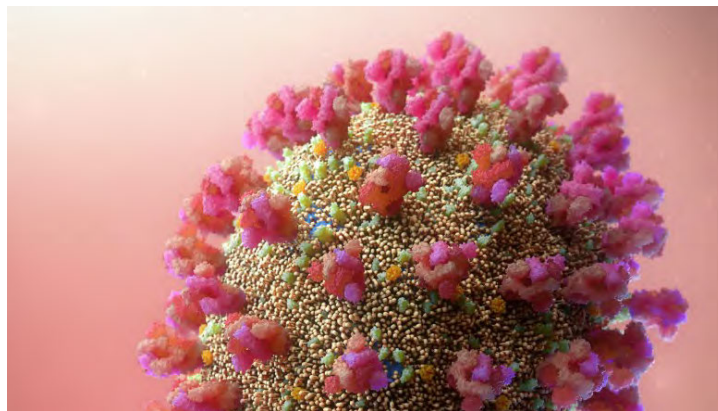
Article #14

CORONAVIRUS YELLOWKNIFE

Covid-19 outbreak at YK school, all youth activities suspended

Ollie Williams - May 2, 2021

LAST MODIFIED: MAY 2, 2021 AT 10:15AM



A 3D visualization of the Sars-CoV-2 virus published by medical illustration firm Iso-Form LLC in 2020.

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The NWT's chief public health officer declared a Covid-19 outbreak at Yellowknife's NJ Macpherson School with one confirmed case and another four considered "probable."

The infection was "not related to travel outside the Northwest Territories," Dr Kami Kandola said, though she did not confirm community spread or use the phrase in a late-Saturday news release [first published by Kam Lake MLA Caitlin Cleveland](#).

NJ Macpherson will move to remote learning for two weeks from Monday, May 3.

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Dr Kandola said she was "suspending all organized child and youth extra-curricular activities (sports, arts, other) until further notice."

On Sunday morning, her office clarified: "Child and youth activities refers to extra-curricular activities that are organized through schools or other community groups that have regularly scheduled meeting times. The Office of

the Chief Public Health Officer also advises against more spontaneous group gatherings at this time. This refers to Yellowknife only. This does not include daycare and day homes for anyone not required to self-isolate.”

Affected residents considered contacts in the cases were being called by public health officials throughout Saturday and into Sunday.

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In two instances, the chief public health officer said, not all contacts could be identified. As a result, exposure advisories have been issued for two locations.

If you were in the Quiznos restaurant at 314 Old Airport Road on Thursday, April 29 from 6:15pm to 7:15pm, notify public health immediately. There was “no ongoing risk of exposure,” Kandola said.

If you were at NJ Macpherson during regular school hours on any day from Monday, April 26 to Thursday, April 29, you should notify public health immediately and isolate for 14 days from Saturday, May 1. You should also monitor

for Covid-19 symptoms and get tested immediately if any symptoms show.

Household members who are fully vaccinated – meaning more than two weeks have passed since their second vaccine dose – “can safely work if no one in the household is symptomatic or identified as a close contact,” Kandola said.

Hundreds of people were understood to be heading into isolation as contacts, including all students who had attended NJ Macpherson on any of those four days and any of their parents who are not fully vaccinated. The GNWT did not immediately provide the full number of contacts identified to date. A spokesperson said the investigation was ongoing and the number was regularly changing.

In a brief statement early on Sunday morning, NJ Macpherson School said Kandola’s office was “working closely with school administrators and Yellowknife public health staff to ensure that the appropriate public health response is in effect.”

The individual with the confirmed case is isolating and doing well, the territory said. Of the other four probable cases, two are presumptive positives having tested positive using rapid tests. All four are awaiting laboratory confirmation. They are “closely connected to the confirmed case,” Kandola said.

More: Read the GNWT’s NJ Macpherson advisory in full

[More: Read Dr Kandola's letter to parents \(contains isolation advice\)](#)

Saturday's declaration of an outbreak is the first in Yellowknife, though outbreaks have been declared at several remote work camps in the NWT in recent months. In each case, the outbreak was fairly swiftly contained and numbers of cases rarely exceeded a handful.

"Now is not the time to panic," Premier Caroline Cochrane said in an overnight statement [posted to her Facebook page](#). She warned residents to be prepared for the possibility of more cases being confirmed in the coming days, and urged them to follow existing public health guidelines.

"Stay positive, stay safe," the premier wrote.

Are you affected by this announcement?

If you are now isolating as a result of Saturday's advisory, or are otherwise affected, let us know about the impact it's having on you and your family and how you're coping. You can reach us at the Cabin Radio newsroom using this form.

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Article #15

CORONAVIRUS YELLOWKNIFE

Yellowknife 'on the brink of community spread,' Kandola says

Ollie Williams - May 3, 2021

LAST MODIFIED: MAY 3, 2021 AT 12:22PM

Yellowknife's latest Covid-19 outbreak is pushing the city to the "brink of community spread," NWT Chief Public Health Officer Dr Kami Kandola said on Monday.



Dr Kami Kandola speaks at a press conference on April 21, 2021. Sarah Pruys/Cabin Radio

There are now eight confirmed and 12 probable cases connected to an outbreak of the disease centred on the city's NJ Macpherson School. All city schools have been closed indefinitely. The "vast majority" of those cases involve children, Dr Kandola said.

Kandola said community spread had not yet taken place but the city was close as investigations continue into the disease's spread so far.

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She said the school closure was a form of "circuit breaker" designed to help trap the outbreak before that tipping point is reached. There was not yet a need for a full lockdown, Kandola said, hesitating over terming the current situation – in which hundreds of students and families are isolating – a partial lockdown.

"We are on the brink of community spread but when we declared an outbreak at NJ, in pretty-much all the

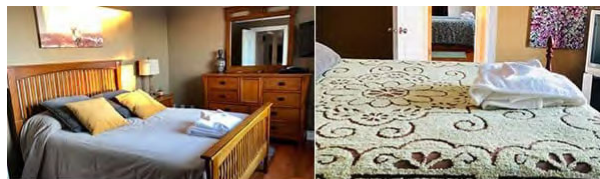
grades there were cases,” Kandola told reporters at a Monday news conference.

“To date, all the cases have been connected to the specific outbreak in NJ. We haven’t had any other cases occurring that haven’t travelled or have not been connected to close contacts.”

Kandola was not able to confirm how the first case in the NJ Macpherson cluster had acquired the disease.

“This is a cluster in and of itself,” Kandola said.

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“We are currently investigating any links to the Yellowknife cluster,” she added, referring to a five-case cluster in the city last month. Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA Steve Norn proactively identified himself as the first case in the Yellowknife cluster.

Kandola said the NJ Macpherson cluster had no connection to an exposure advisory issued for École St Patrick High School in connection with the earlier Yellowknife cluster. “At this point, no other school has met the definition of an outbreak,” she said.

The NWT's medical director, Dr AnneMarie Pegg, said testing for Covid-19 was being focused on highest-risk contacts in the NJ Macpherson outbreak. Efforts were under way to expand testing capacity, Dr Pegg said, and allow more appointments in the coming days.

Addressing the public at Monday's news conference, Premier Caroline Cochrane said an outbreak like this in Yellowknife was "inevitable" but stressed her government was prepared.

"The situation in Yellowknife is fluid and we don't have all the answers yet," Cochrane said, adding closing schools was "meant to ensure the spread was contained" and eliminate unnecessary risks.

"It's important that we all remain calm and committed to following the public health orders and recommendations," the premier said.

"We need to support our community members who are now isolating."

Several hundred people in Yellowknife are believed to be isolating as a result of connection to the NJ Macpherson cluster.

Those who are losing income as a result may be eligible to [claim a federal benefit](#) that offers up to \$2,000 per month if you're unable to work and lose more than half of your income for any period.



CORONAVIRUS POLITICS

Yellowknives Dene First Nation calls for Steve Norn's resignation

Meaghan Brackenbury and Ollie Williams - May 4, 2021

LAST MODIFIED: MAY 4, 2021 AT 11:26AM



A le photo of Steve Norn in October 2019.
Sarah Pruy/Cabin Radio

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation has called for the resignation of Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA Steve Norn.

First Nation chief executive officer Jason Snaggs confirmed to Cabin Radio the letter had been sent to Premier Caroline Cochrane and other MLAs, and that it called for Norn to step down.

Norn came forward last month to identify himself and a family member as the first two cases in a five-case Covid-19 cluster in Yellowknife. It subsequently emerged that he had visited the NWT legislature a day before he said his 14-day isolation period expired, while exposure advisories were issued for several Yellowknife locations in connection with the same cases.

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It's not clear whether the cluster of cases involving Norn is connected to the current, larger cluster centred on the city's NJ Macpherson School.

The NWT's MLAs are holding a meeting on Tuesday to discuss Norn's actions. The Yellowknives Dene First Nation is understood to have delivered its letter to MLAs in advance of that meeting.

Norn represents the Yellowknives Dene communities of Dettah and Ndilo in the

territorial legislature, alongside the communities of Fort Resolution and Łútsël K'é. He could not be reached for comment on Tuesday morning.

Chief Ernest Betsina of Ndilo, reached by phone, confirmed the letter had been sent to MLAs but said he would reserve comment until he had received a response.

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Norn has made little public comment in the past week, other than a brief interview [with the CBC](#) in which he was not reported to have directly commented on his actions during the isolation period.

It isn't clear if NWT public health officials have pursued any form of charge or ticket against Norn. The territorial government says it will not comment on individual cases. In cases where fines are issued, there is no public registry. Only if a case were to be challenged in court would it appear on the territorial court docket.

Code of conduct

MLAs in the Northwest Territories operate to a mutually agreed code of conduct.

“Members must act lawfully and in a manner that will withstand the closest public scrutiny,” that code reads in part.

If an MLA is felt by their colleagues to have contravened the code, a complaint can be lodged with an independent integrity commissioner who will review the case. (Members of the public are also able to make complaints to the commissioner.)

The commissioner – currently lawyer David Phillip Jones, QC – can order an inquiry to be held before a sole adjudicator. That adjudicator has the power to recommend that MLAs reprimand, fine, or suspend a colleague, and can also recommend that an MLA’s seat be declared vacant. A majority of MLAs would have to support the adjudicator’s recommendation for action to be taken.

The NWT’s premier, without directly referring to Norn, has in recent days publicly stated people must be held to account for breaches of the territory’s public health orders during the Covid-19 pandemic. One of those orders mandates that people isolate for a full 14 days on their return from travel outside the territory.

Norn represents a range of Akaitcho peoples including members of the Yellowknives Dene, Łútsël K’é Dene, and Deninu Kue.

Chief Darryl Marlowe of the Łútsël K'é Dene First Nation could not be reached for comment. Chief Louis Balsillie of the Deninu Kue First Nation, reached by Cabin Radio, said he had not been aware of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation's letter and had no immediate comment.

Sarah Pruys contributed reporting.

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Article #17

North

YKDFN chiefs call on MLA Steve Norn to resign after alleged COVID-19 isolation breach

In email to premier, Chiefs Edward Sangris and Ernest Betsina called Norn's alleged actions 'selfish'

CBC News · Posted: May 04, 2021 1:52 PM CT | Last Updated: 3 hours ago



Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA Steve Norn pictured at the N.W.T. Legislative Assembly. The chiefs of the Yellowknives Dene First Nation are calling for Norn's resignation after he allegedly breached COVID-19 self-isolation

requirements. (Sara Minogue/CBC)

The chiefs of Yellowknives Dene First Nation are calling on Northwest Territories MLA Steve Norn to resign after he allegedly breached COVID-19 self-isolation rules.

In an email to Premier Caroline Cochrane, Dettah Chief Edward Sangris and Ndilq Chief Ernest Betsina, wrote that their First Nation has "lost all confidence and trust in this MLA and that he should not be allowed to represent our members in the legislature."

"[We] are extremely concerned by the risks posed to our members and the NWT due to the selfish actions of the MLA in question," the email reads.

"His disregard for the COVID-19 protocols and rules as established by the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer is reprehensible."

Norn represents the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh riding, which includes Dettah, Ndilq, Łutsek'e, and Fort Resolution.

On April 22, he identified himself and a family member as two of the people who tested positive for COVID-19 in a cluster of five cases in Yellowknife linked to École St. Patrick High School. Officials say so far, this cluster is not connected to the 14 cases associated with the outbreak at N.J. Macpherson School.

[Cabin Radio first reported](#) that Norn had visited the Legislative Assembly one day before his mandatory isolation period ended. CBC has not independently verified the report.

MLAs were [set to meet today](#) to discuss his case.

In their email, Sangris and Betsina wrote that they, along with their members, are recommending that the premier ask for Norn's resignation, adding that everyone, "including politicians and public officials, who inconsiderately puts themselves above the safety of others during the pandemic must face serious consequences for their actions."

- [Breaking COVID-19 rules comes with consequences, says N.W.T. Premier](#)
- [MLAs convening Tuesday to discuss member who may have breached COVID-19 isolation](#)

"The Government of the Northwest Territories must take a tough stance on this incident and send a clear strong message to the people of the NWT that no one is above the law," the email says.

"We urge you and your MLAs to take strong action on this incident, if not the [Northwest Territories government] will be perceived as weak and send that wrong signal to others that the COVID-19 rules and protocols are to be disregarded."

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Article #18

RECENT POSTS

YKDFN calls for Norn's resignation

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Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA Steve Norn.

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May 4, 2021 2:20 pm

ECE notifies over 1,100 residents that personal...

POSTED BY: LUKE CARROLL MAY 4, 2021

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) has issued a letter to the premier and legislature calling for the resignation of MLA Steve Norn for breaking COVID-19 rules.

First reported by **Cabin Radio**, Jason Snaggs, CEO of YKDFN, also confirmed with CKLB by email, that the letter calling for Norn’s resignation was sent.

Norn represents Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh which includes Ndilq, Dettah, Fort Resolution and Łutselk’e.

According to the CBC, the legislature met at 10 a.m. on Tuesday to discuss the COVID-19 situation in Yellowknife as well as Norn’s conduct.

“The chiefs are waiting on the outcome of the legislature’s decision to comment to the media later this afternoon,” Snaggs wrote.

Norn identified himself and a family member as **two positive COVID** cases identified in Yellowknife in late April.

In an official statement he claimed to have self-isolated for the full 14 days and only discovered to have tested positive after.

However, **Cabin Radio** reported Norn visited the legislature a day before leaving isolation.

Health officials won’t say whether the current outbreak at N.J. Macpherson School is connected to Norn.

This story will be updated.

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Article #19

CORONAVIRUS YELLOWKNIFE

MLAs refer Steve Norn to integrity commissioner

Ollie Williams - May 4, 2021

LAST MODIFIED: MAY 4, 2021 AT 4:07PM

The NWT's MLAs have referred their colleague Steve Norn to an independent integrity commissioner after legislature staff were told he broke isolation last month.



A photo posted to Steve Norn's Facebook page on March 26, 2021 shows the Tu Nedhé-Willideh MLA receiving his first Covid-19 vaccine.

In a joint statement, the territory's other 18 MLAs said nothing about the substance of their complaint to the commissioner. They simply said it followed "public allegations" against Norn, the Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh MLA, and was "in relation to those allegations."

The Yellowknives Dene First Nation has called for Norn to resign.

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As first reported by Cabin Radio in April, Norn visited the NWT legislature on April 17 – a trip that caused one security guard to be placed into isolation. Before news of that visit emerged, Norn had said his isolation period was April 4-18.

Norn has not directly commented on the April 17 visit since its existence became public. He could not be reached by Cabin Radio on Tuesday. Nor could Yellowknife North MLA Rylund Johnson, the caucus chair, who oversees meetings of the group of all 19 MLAs and speaks on their behalf.

Last month, Norn proactively came forward to identify himself and a family member as the first two Covid-19 cases in

what ultimately became a five-case Yellowknife cluster. Those cases involved the so-called UK variant of the virus that causes Covid-19, which is said to be more easily transmitted and deadlier than earlier forms of the virus.

It's not clear if the latest cluster in Yellowknife, centred on NJ Macpherson School, is connected to last month's cluster. Nor is it yet known if the NJ Macpherson cluster is also the UK variant.

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Filing a complaint with the integrity commissioner sets off a process that could lead to a fine, suspension from the legislature, or even a declaration that the MLA's seat is now vacant.

MLAs in the Northwest Territories operate to a mutually agreed code of conduct. "Members must act lawfully and in a manner that will withstand the closest public scrutiny," that code reads in part.

The complaint to be filed by Johnson, in the name of the caucus of MLAs, suggests they feel Norn has contravened

part of that code, though the specific section is not clear.

The integrity commissioner – currently lawyer David Phillip Jones, QC – will now investigate and can then either dismiss the complaint or order that an inquiry be held before a sole adjudicator. (Nobody answered the phone at Jones' office on Tuesday afternoon.)

A sole adjudicator has the power to issue a fine for minor contraventions of the code. For more serious contraventions, the adjudicator can recommend that MLAs reprimand, fine, or suspend a colleague, and can also recommend that an MLA's seat be declared vacant.

A majority of MLAs would have to support the adjudicator's recommendation for action to be taken.

Meanwhile, Chief Louis Balsillie of the Deninu Kue First Nation wrote to Premier Caroline Cochrane to voice support for Norn.

Chief Balsillie – whose First Nation said on Tuesday it would reinstate a highway “monitoring stop” outside the community because of Covid-19 in Yellowknife – has been outspoken in defending his community's at-times hardline stance in operating checkstops and imposing its own travel restrictions.

In his letter to Cochrane, Balsillie said he was “not in support” of Norn's removal. (Cochrane alone does not have any power to remove Norn. The caucus of MLAs would have to vote to accept an adjudicator's recommendation that

Norn's seat be vacated, if that conclusion were reached.)



Chief Louis Balsillie's letter to Premier Caroline Cochrane.

Balsillie wrote: “We are aware of concerns raised regarding his violation in going to the Legislative Assembly after hours during his recent isolation upon returning from travel out of the NWT.

“We do not know the facts surrounding any incidents that have been posted in the media but do support reprimand if required.

“In our view, we do not believe that his actions were deliberately negligent but more of a situation of basic human error in this circumstance.”

Balsillie said Norn had “performed well for his people ... and has always been accessible, supportive, and proactive in advocating for all people in our region.”

According to [the CBC](#), the Yellowknives Dene First Nation – in a letter to MLAs – stated its chiefs had “lost all confidence and trust in this MLA [and] he should not be allowed to represent our members in the legislature.”

The two Yellowknives Dene chiefs were “extremely concerned by the risks posed to our members and the NWT due to the selfish actions of the MLA in question,” that letter reportedly continued.

There was no clear timeline for the integrity commissioner’s investigation and any subsequent investigation by a sole adjudicator.

Norn initially told Cabin Radio he had travelled to the Alberta community of Grande Prairie for a family emergency at the start of April. He said he “stayed home” and isolated as instructed from April 4 to 18.

“I followed all the rules, I was up front with everybody,” Norn told Cabin Radio before news of his April 17 trip was reported.

Meaghan Brackenbury contributed reporting.



Public Health Order – COVID-19 TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS AND SELF-ISOLATION PROTOCOL – AS AMENDED DECEMBER 1, 2020

WHEREAS the Minister, upon the recommendation of the Chief Public Health Officer, has declared a Public Health Emergency in the Northwest Territories effective March 18, 2020;

AND WHEREAS the Public Health Emergency has been subsequently renewed and remains in force;

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer may take certain actions including issuing directions or orders for the purpose of protecting the public health under the authority of the *Public Health Act*, S.N.W.T. 2007, c.17 (hereinafter the “Act”);

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer issued an order dated July 16, 2020 entitled “COVID-19 Travel Restrictions and Self-Isolation Protocol - As amended July 16, 2020” (the “July 16, 2020 order”);

AND WHEREAS the Chief Public Health Officer now wishes to amend the July 16, 2020 order, including but not limited to the following amendments: (i) the elimination of the exemptions applying to travellers from Nunavut; (ii) a revision to the self-isolation protocols; (iii) a revision to the COVID-19 symptoms; and (iv) the addition of new self-isolation requirements for persons sharing accommodations in the Northwest Territories with a person who has travelled across an interjurisdictional border;

The Chief Public Health Officer, in accordance with subsection 42(e) of the *Act* hereby amends the July 16, 2020 order as follows:

TRAVEL PROHIBITION AND EXEMPTIONS

1. Pursuant to section 33(1) of the Act, and in order to prevent, combat, or alleviate the effects of the Public Health Emergency, all persons are prohibited from travel within the Northwest Territories that originated from across any inter-jurisdictional border with the following exceptions, which are subject to further conditions in this order:
 - a. Northwest Territories residents, which include students temporarily residing in the Northwest Territories to attend an educational facility, college, or trade school (“Residents”);
 - b. Persons providing services in the course of importation/exportation of goods and other supply chain transportation workers, including movers



- and carriers, and those persons who are necessary to maintain supply chain transportation services (hereinafter “Supply Chain Workers”);
- c. Flight crews and airline employees (hereinafter “Flight Crew Workers and Airline Employees”) arriving in the Northwest Territories;
 - d. Persons providing essential services in the Northwest Territories, including but not limited to:
 - (i) health and social service providers;
 - (ii) postal service workers;
 - (iii) peace officers and others employed for the preservation and maintenance of the public peace;
 - (iv) emergency responders;
 - (v) employees of and persons engaged by the Department of National Defence;
 - (vi) municipal enforcement officers;
 - (vii) community government essential service workers;
 - (viii) federal and territorial parks officers; and
 - (ix) correctional workers engaged in the transportation of inmates to a correctional facility.(hereinafter “Essential Services Workers”)
 - e. Persons providing child and dependent care to Essential Services Workers (hereinafter “Support Workers”) in the Northwest Territories;
 - f. A person from outside the Northwest Territories who has an Aboriginal or treaty right to harvest in an area of the Northwest Territories while exercising that right within the Northwest Territories, provided those persons do not travel to a community or populated area of the Northwest Territories or have any contact with persons in the Northwest Territories;
 - g. Transient workers employed at a work camp where work is being done in relation to the mineral and petroleum resources industry in the Northwest Territories;
 - h. Persons engaged in work on the construction of public and Indigenous infrastructure projects. This includes:
 - i. Persons attending remote work camps in the Northwest Territories where workers reside at the workplace for the duration of their rotation; and
 - ii. Persons attending open, non-remote workplaces in the



Northwest Territories where workers interact with community residents during work and when off shift (hereinafter “Non-Remote Infrastructure Workers”).

- i. Persons being transported to a correctional facility in the Northwest Territories;
- j. Persons traveling through the Northwest Territories in transit to another jurisdictional destination (hereinafter “Persons in Transit”); and
- k. Persons traveling within the Northwest Territories to pursue the gaining of a livelihood (hereinafter “Non-Resident Worker”);
- l. Persons moving to and taking up residence in the Northwest Territories which includes students moving to and taking up residence in the Northwest Territories to attend an educational facility, college, or trade school (hereinafter “New Residents”);
- m. Persons whose travel originates in Alberta east of and including Peace Point, west of and including Hay Camp, and north of but not including the community of Fort Chipewyan and terminates in the vicinity of Fort Smith. Notwithstanding anything in this Order, persons exempt under this section may not be required to self-isolate and shall apply to a Public Health Officer in Fort Smith before traveling within the Northwest Territories and comply with further direction issued; and
- n. Persons otherwise granted prior approval by the Chief Public Health Officer for reasons including but not limited to compassionate or family reunification. To request approval the person must contact Protect NWT at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or by calling 1-833-378-8297, prior to traveling within the Northwest Territories.

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RESIDENTS AND NEW RESIDENTS

- 2. Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation to COVID-19, Residents and New Residents entering the Northwest Territories from across an inter-jurisdictional border, who are not subject to other exemptions herein, shall:
 - (a) Self-isolate for 14 days, in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out at Appendix A of this Order, immediately



following entry into the Northwest Territories in one of Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River or Fort Smith (“the Four Designated Communities”);

- (b) Within 24 hours of entering the Northwest Territories complete and submit a [resident self-isolation plan](#) to ProtectNWT@gov.nt.ca or by calling 1-833-378-8297. Self-Isolation plans must be approved by Protect NWT;
- (c) Stay at home or in one residence until a Self-Isolation Plan has been approved;
- (d) Upon approval of the Self-Isolation Plan, comply with the Self-Isolation Plan;
- (e) Complete and submit the symptom check form to Protect NWT online or by calling 1-833-378-8297 on each of the 2nd, 6th, 10th and 14th days following entry into the Northwest Territories;
- (f) Contact a local health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19 including fever, new or worsening cough, shortness of breath or difficulty breathing, generally feeling unwell, chills, muscle aches, fatigue or weakness, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, headache, diarrhoea, nausea or vomiting, abdominal pain, loss of appetite, loss of sense of taste, loss of sense of smell, skin changes or rashes (hereinafter “symptoms of COVID- 19”);
- (g) Residents of the Northwest Territories, who have an Aboriginal or treaty right to harvest and who return to the to the Northwest Territories after exercising their right to harvest outside of the Northwest Territories are exempt from the directives at paragraphs 2 (a) to (e) herein if, while they were in the area outside the Northwest Territories, they:
 - (i) Did not go to a community or populated area;
 - (ii) Maintained a minimum distance of 2 meters from any person who is not a member of their household; and
 - (iii) Did not gather in any indoor location with any person who is not a member of their household.



- (h) For greater certainty, all residents of the Northwest Territories, who have an Aboriginal or treaty right to harvest and who return to the Northwest Territories after exercising their right to harvest outside of the Northwest Territories and who do not satisfy the conditions set out in paragraph 2(g) must self-isolate on their return and comply with all the conditions and directives set out in paragraph 2(a) to (e) herein.
- (i) New Residents, in addition to the other requirements set out in paragraph 2 herein, must submit a [resident self-isolation plan](#) to ProtectNWT@gov.nt.ca or by calling 1-833-378-8297. Notwithstanding paragraph 2(b), New Residents shall have self-isolation plans approved by Protect NWT prior to traveling within the Northwest Territories.

SUPPLY CHAIN WORKERS, FLIGHT CREW WORKERS AND AIRLINE EMPLOYEES

- 3. Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation to COVID-19;
 - (a) Supply Chain Workers, Flight Crew Workers and Airline Employees travelling in the Northwest Territories, where travel originated from across an inter-jurisdictional border shall:
 - i. If in the Northwest Territories for less than 36 hours, self-monitor, and abide by [social distancing protocols](#) established by the Chief Public Health Officer while working, self-isolate while not working in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out at Appendix A of this Order, and immediately self-isolate and contact a health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19;
 - ii. If in the Northwest Territories for more than 36 hours:
 - a. As soon as reasonably possible, submit a [worker self-isolation plan](#) to ProtectNWT@gov.nt.ca, or by calling 1-833-378-8297;
 - b. Self-isolate when not working, in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out at Appendix A of this Order, established by the Chief Public Health Officer; and
 - c. Abide by [social distancing protocols](#) when working. When social distancing is not possible while working, wear a face mask or appropriate personal protective equipment to prevent the spread or transmission of COVID-19.



(b) Supply Chain Workers, Flight Crew Workers and Airline Employees who are Residents of the Northwest Territories, who have not travelled outside Canada within the past 14 days and who have travelled outside of the Northwest Territories in the course of their duties as Supply Chain Workers, Flight Crew Workers and Airline Employees are exempt from the requirements set out at paragraph 3(a) if they:

- i. Abide by the [Travel Restriction Protocol](#) established by the Chief Public Health Officer while working outside of the Northwest Territories;
- ii. Maintain 2 meters distance from persons outside their household while working. When this is not possible, wear a face mask or appropriate personal protective equipment to prevent the spread or transmission of COVID-19;
- iii. Self-isolate while not working in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out at Appendix A of this Order;
- iv. Self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and complete the [daily self-monitoring form](#) while working outside of the Northwest Territories and for 14 days following their return to the Northwest Territories, and make the completed form readily available upon request from a public health official; and
- v. Immediately self-isolate and contact a health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19.

(c) Employers, managers or other authorized persons having charge of Supply Chain Workers, Flight Crew Workers and Airline Employees who are Residents of the Northwest Territories shall compile and submit to a Public Health Official through Protect NWT every 90 days, an up-to-date list of their employees who, as part of their regular work duties, will work outside of the Northwest Territories and travel within the Northwest Territories from across an inter-jurisdictional border.

PERSONS IN TRANSIT

4. Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation to COVID-19, Persons in Transit, shall:



- (a) If in the Northwest Territories for less than 12 hours, abide by [general social distancing protocols](#), and immediately self-isolate in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out at Appendix A of this Order and contact a health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19;
- (b) If in the Northwest Territories for more than 12 hours, comply with all of the provisions of paragraph 2 of this order until departure from the Northwest Territories.

ESSENTIAL SERVICE WORKERS, NON-REMOTE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS, AND SUPPORT WORKERS

- 5. Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation to COVID-19, Essential Services Workers, Non-Remote Infrastructure Workers and Support Workers (hereinafter “Workers”), who travel within the Northwest Territories, shall:
 - (a) Self-isolate for 14 days, in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out at Appendix A of this Order, immediately following entry into the Northwest Territories in one of the Four Designated Communities;
 - (b) Prior to traveling within the Northwest Territories complete and submit a [worker self-isolation plan](#) to ProtectNWT@gov.nt.ca, or by calling 1-833-378-8297. Self-isolation plans must be approved by Protect NWT prior to traveling within the Northwest Territories;
 - (c) Obtain an approval document from the Chief Public Health Officer via Protect NWT, prior to traveling within the Northwest Territories;
 - (d) Upon approval of the self-isolation plan, the Worker shall comply with the self-isolation plan;
 - (e) Complete and submit the symptom check form to Protect NWT online or by calling 1-833-378-8297 on each of the 2nd, 6th, 10th and 14th days following entry into the Northwest Territories; and
 - (f) Contact a local health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19.
- 6. If an Employer, manager, or other authorized person having charge of the Worker (hereinafter “Employer”) reasonably believes that the Worker is unable



to comply with paragraph 5 of this Order, the Employer may request written permission from the Chief Public Health Officer for an exemption. To request an exemption, the Employer must submit the following to Protect NWT at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca, prior to the Worker traveling within the Northwest Territories:

- (a) An [application for permission to work](#); and
 - (b) A [Workplace Risk Assessment](#) and [Work Hazard Assessment](#) using the approved WSCC forms.
7. If the Employer makes a request for exemption from paragraph 5 of this Order, the Worker shall, prior to traveling within the Northwest Territories:
 - (a) Follow the [social distancing protocol for Essential Service Workers](#) for 14 days; and
 - (b) Complete a [worker self-isolation plan online](#) or by contacting Protect NWT at protectNWT@gov.nt.ca or calling 1-833- 378-8297.
8. If the Chief Public Health Officer grants the Worker an exemption from paragraph 5 of this Order the Chief Public Health Officer shall issue an approval document to the Worker via Protect NWT, prior to the Worker traveling within the Northwest Territories.
9. If approval is granted by the Chief Public Health Officer pursuant to paragraph 8 herein, the Worker shall, for the first 14 days following their arrival to the Northwest Territories:
 - (a) Wear a face mask in public when it is not possible to socially distance, including but not limited to when traveling by airplane;
 - (b) Self-isolate when not working, in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out at Appendix A of this Order;
 - (c) Make efforts to socially distance from co-workers and members of the public while working, in accordance with protocols established by their Employer;
 - (d) Where not possible to socially distance in the workplace, wear a face mask or appropriate personal protective equipment to prevent the spread or transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace as directed by the Employer in accordance with WSCC Work Hazard Assessment;



- (e) Not travel within the Northwest Territories unless required to for the purposes of carrying out their work duties, and only in accordance with the approval granted by the Chief Public Health Officer;
 - (f) Complete and submit the symptom check form to Protect NWT online or by calling 1-833-378-8297 on each of the 2nd, 6th, 10th and 14th days following entry into the Northwest Territories; and
 - (g) Comply with any other conditions provided by the Chief Public Health Officer in the approval granted under paragraph 8 herein.
10. If a Worker displays symptoms of COVID-19, the Worker shall immediately self-isolate, notify a local health care provider and comply with any further directions provided by the Chief Public Health Officer.

PERSONS EMPLOYING ESSENTIAL SERVICE WORKERS, NON-REMOTE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS AND SUPPORT WORKERS

11. Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation to COVID-19, the Employer having charge of a Worker, travelling within the Northwest Territories, where travel originated from across any inter-jurisdictional border, shall:
- (a) Ensure all Workers complete 14 days of self-isolation in one of the Four Designated Communities prior to starting work and comply with all obligations pursuant to paragraph 5 herein, unless the Worker is otherwise exempted by the Chief Public Health Officer pursuant paragraph 8;
 - (b) Establish workplace social distancing protocols consistent with the workplace risk assessment and Work Hazard Assessment completed pursuant to paragraph 6(b) herein and ensure compliance by all persons in the workplace;
 - (c) Ensure Workers, where granted permission to work pursuant to paragraph 8 herein, for the first 14 days after their arrival to the Northwest Territories:
 - i. Self-isolate when not working in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out at Appendix A of this Order;



- ii. Make efforts to socially distance from co-workers and members of the public while working, in accordance with protocols established by their Employer;
- iii. Where not possible to socially distance in the workplace, wear a face mask or appropriate personal protective equipment to prevent the spread or transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace, in accordance with the WSCC Work Hazard Assessment;
- iv. Not travel within the Northwest Territories unless required to for the purposes of carrying out their work duties, and only in accordance with the approval granted by the Chief Public Health Officer; and
- v. Comply with all conditions provided by the Chief Public Health Officer as part of the approval granted.

NON-RESIDENT WORKERS

12. Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation to COVID-19, Non-Resident Workers, who travel within the Northwest Territories, shall:

- (a) Self-isolate for 14 days, in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out at Appendix A of this Order, immediately following entry into the Northwest Territories in one the Four Designated Communities;
- (b) Prior to traveling within the Northwest Territories complete and submit a [worker self-isolation plan](#) to ProtectNWT@gov.nt.ca, or by calling 1-833-378-8297. Self-isolation plans must be approved by Protect NWT prior to entering the Northwest Territories;
- (c) Obtain an approval document from the Chief Public Health Officer via Protect NWT, prior to traveling within the Northwest Territories;
- (d) Upon approval of the self-isolation plan, the Worker shall comply with the self-isolation plan;



- (e) Complete and submit the symptom check form to Protect NWT online or by calling 1-833-378-8297 on each of the 2nd, 6th, 10th and 14th days following entry into the Northwest Territories; and
- (f) Contact a local health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19.

SELF-ISOLATION REQUIREMENTS OF PERSONS SHARING ACCOMMODATIONS WITH TRAVELLERS

13. Pursuant to sections 25 of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation to COVID-19, persons in the Northwest Territories, who are not subject to other exemptions herein, sharing accommodations with a person who is required to self-isolate in accordance with this Order:

- (a) Shall immediately self-isolate in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out at Appendix A of this Order and continue to self-isolate for 14 days from the date they began sharing accommodations with the person who is self-isolating; and
- (b) Contact a local health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19.

SUPPLY CHAIN WORKERS, FLIGHT CREW WORKERS AND AIRLINE EMPLOYEES SHARING ACCOMMODATIONS WITH TRAVELLERS

14. Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation to COVID-19,

- (a) Supply Chain Workers, Flight Crew Workers and Airline Employees in the Northwest Territories, who are sharing accommodations with a person who is required to self-isolate in accordance with this Order, are exempt from the requirements set out at paragraph 13, if they:
 - i. Maintain 2 meters distance from persons outside their household while working. When this is not possible, wear a face mask or appropriate personal protective equipment to prevent the spread or transmission of COVID-19;



- ii. Self-isolate while not working in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out at Appendix A of this Order;
- iii. Self-monitor for symptoms of COVID-19 and complete the [daily self-monitoring form](#) for 14 days, and make the completed form readily available upon request from a public health official; and
- iv. Immediately self-isolate and contact a health care provider if they exhibit any symptoms of COVID-19.

ESSENTIAL SERVICE WORKERS, NON-REMOTE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS, AND SUPPORT WORKERS SHARING ACCOMMODATIONS WITH TRAVELLERS

15. Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation to COVID-19, if an Employer reasonably believes that a Worker is unable to comply with paragraph 13 of this Order, the Employer may request written permission from the Chief Public Health Officer for an exemption. To request an exemption from paragraph 13, the Employer must submit the following to Protect NWT at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca, prior to the Worker traveling within the Northwest Territories:

- (a) An [application for permission to work](#); and
- (b) A [Workplace Risk Assessment](#) and [Work Hazard Assessment](#) using the approved WSCC forms.

16. If the Employer makes a request for exemption from paragraph 13 of this Order, the Worker shall, prior to working within the Northwest Territories:

- (a) Complete a [worker self-isolation plan](#) online or by contacting Protect NWT at protectNWT@gov.nt.ca or calling 1-833- 378-8297.

17. If the Chief Public Health Officer grants the Worker an exemption from paragraph 13 of this Order the Chief Public Health Officer shall issue an approval document to the Worker via Protect NWT, prior to them being permitted to work within the Northwest Territories.

18. If approval is granted by the Chief Public Health Officer pursuant to paragraph 17 herein, the Worker shall:

- (a) Wear a face mask in public when it is not possible to socially distance;



- (b) Self-isolate when not working, in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out at Appendix A of this Order;
 - (c) Make efforts to socially distance from co-workers and members of the public while working, in accordance with protocols established by their Employer;
 - (d) Where not possible to socially distance in the workplace, wear a face mask or appropriate personal protective equipment to prevent the spread or transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace as directed by the Employer in accordance with WSCC Work Hazard Assessment;
 - (e) Not travel within the Northwest Territories unless required to for the purposes of carrying out their work duties, and only in accordance with the approval granted by the Chief Public Health Officer;
 - (f) Complete and submit the symptom check form to Protect NWT online or by calling 1-833-378-8297 on each of the 2nd, 6th, 10th and 14th days following entry into the Northwest Territories; and
 - (g) Comply with any other conditions provided by the Chief Public Health Officer in the approval granted under paragraph 16 herein.
19. If the Worker displays symptoms of COVID-19, they shall immediately self-isolate, notify a local health care provider and comply with any further directions provided by the Chief Public Health Officer.

PERSONS EMPLOYING ESSENTIAL SERVICE WORKERS, NON-REMOTE INFRASTRUCTURE WORKERS, AND SUPPORT WORKERS SHARING ACCOMMODATIONS WITH TRAVELLERS

20. Pursuant to section 25(1) of the Act and in order to decrease or eliminate the risk to the public health in relation to COVID-19, the Employer having charge of a Worker exempted by the Chief Public Health Officer pursuant to paragraph 17, shall:
- (a) Establish workplace social distancing protocols consistent with the workplace risk assessment and Work Hazard Assessment completed pursuant to paragraph 15(b) herein and ensure compliance by all persons in the workplace; and



- (b) Ensure Workers, where granted permission to work pursuant to paragraph 17 herein, for the first 14 days after they begin self-isolating in the Northwest Territories:
- i. Self-isolate when not working in accordance with the self-isolation requirements set out at Appendix A of this Order;
 - ii. Make efforts to socially distance from co-workers and members of the public while working, in accordance with protocols established by their Employer;
 - iii. Where not possible to socially distance in the workplace, wear a face mask or appropriate personal protective equipment to prevent the spread or transmission of COVID-19 in the workplace, in accordance with the WSCC Work Hazard Assessment;
 - iv. Not travel within the Northwest Territories unless required to for the purposes of carrying out their work duties, and only in accordance with the approval granted by the Chief Public Health Officer; and
 - v. Comply with all conditions provided by the Chief Public Health Officer as part of the approval granted.

EXEMPTIONS

21. Notwithstanding anything in this Order, the Chief Public Health Officer may exempt a person or class of persons from the application of this Order.

Any person who is subject to this Order may appeal the Order to the Supreme Court of the Northwest Territories pursuant to s.47 of the *Public Health Act* within 30 days after the day on which the Order is served on the person in accordance with the provisions of the *Public Health Act*.

It is an offence pursuant to s.49 of the *Public Health Act* for a person to fail to comply with the *Public Health Act*, its regulations or an order made under it.

Any person who has any questions or inquiries about this Order, or who wishes to apply for an approval or exemption related to this Order, can contact Protect NWT protectnwt@gov.nt.ca or 1-833-378-8297 and can obtain a copy of this Order from Protect NWT or from <https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19>.



This Order is effective on December 1, 2020 at 12:00pm and remains in effect for the duration of the Public Health Emergency, unless otherwise rescinded.

Any person in the process of self-isolating at the time this Order comes into effect is subject to the terms of the July 16, 2020 order and their approved self-isolation plan, approval or exemption.

Any person who has received approval for a self-isolation plan, or any other type of approval or exemption that will begin after the time this Order comes into effect, must comply with the terms of this Order and their approved self-isolation plan, approval or exemption, as if that self-isolation plan, approval or exemption had been issued pursuant to this Order.

<original signed by>

Dr. Kami Kandola
Chief Public Health Officer



Appendix A Self-Isolation Protocol

When you enter the Northwest Territories from across an inter-jurisdictional border:

- Limit your interactions with other persons as much as possible. Wear a face mask and go directly to your self-isolation location (for example: home, hotel, rental accommodation or Isolation Centre).
- If you are being picked up in a car, taxi or other motor vehicle, sit in the back seat as far from the driver as possible. Do not share a car, taxi or other motor vehicle with any person, other than the driver if necessary, who is not self-isolating in the same home, hotel room or accommodation as you.
- If you have to make a long drive, only make short stops for take-out food, fuel or to use washroom facilities, if necessary, and wear a face mask. Contactless payment must be used where available and any time spent inside a store, gas station, or other similar indoor location is to be kept to a minimum.
- Keep a 2 metre distance from other persons you will not be self-isolating with.

Once at your self-isolation location you must self-isolate as follows:

- Stay at your self-isolation location (for example: home, hotel, rental accommodation or Isolation Centre) for 14 days. If you do not have a confirmed case of COVID-19, have no COVID-19 symptoms, are not a close contact of a person suspected of having COVID-19 and are not part of a suspected outbreak of COVID-19, you can go outdoors for fresh air. Do not go to outdoor spaces where persons congregate. Keep a 2 metre distance from other persons and wear a face mask where this is not possible. Do not use public transportation or share a car, taxi or other motor vehicle.
- While at your self-isolation location, stay in a separate room away from other persons. Always wear a face mask when outside your room. Use a separate bathroom. If not possible, sanitize the bathroom after each use. Do not share any items with household members. Do not have any visitors at your self-isolation location.
- It is permitted to pass through common areas of a self-isolation location, such as a shared corridor or lobby, to access the outdoors, but only if a face mask is worn.
- Do not go to work, school, or enter any other indoor spaces for 14 days from the time you entered the Northwest Territories.
- If you have a medical appointment or need medical care, contact your health care provider and follow their instructions.
- Follow all the requirements in your approved Self-Isolation Plan.
- If you are a worker who is permitted to work, you are required to self-isolate when you are not at work for 14 days in accordance with all of the requirements of this Self-Isolation Protocol.