



**Government of the Northwest Territories Response to
Motion 23-20(1): Call to Uphold Human Rights in Gaza**

Motion

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Member for Yellowknife North, that this Legislative Assembly condemn all acts of antisemitism and anti-Palestinian racism in our territory;

AND FURTHER, that this Legislative Assembly calls upon the Premier to write a letter to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie Joly, and Permanent Representative of Canada to the United Nations Bob Rae, that will call upon the Canadian Government to:

- ***call for an immediate and effective ceasefire and halt to violence by both Israel and Hamas;***
- ***advocate for the immediate release of all hostages;***
- ***advocate for, and provide funds for unhindered access for humanitarian aid for all those in need in Gaza; and***
- ***take all actions necessary to fully uphold its obligations under the Genocide Convention;***

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Northwest Territories Member of Parliament, Michael McLeod, receive a copy of this letter;

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

GNWT Response

CALL TO CONDEMN ALL ACTS OF ANTISEMITISM AND ANTI-PALESTINIAN RACISM IN OUR TERRITORY

Racism has no place in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is committed to maintaining a peaceful democracy where hatred is prohibited from flourishing and undermining the safety and sense of inclusion that NWT residents both expect and deserve.

The GNWT is growing and enhancing immigration and has a set of immigration programs, policies and services that support newcomers and contributes towards the building of a strong economy, skilled workforce, and diverse economy.

The GNWT is further committed to diversity and inclusion in building a representative and inclusive public service.

The GNWT is committed to building strong and diverse communities and supporting all community members to reach their potential.

These commitments are inconsistent with any act of racism, including acts of antisemitism and anti-Palestinian racism in the NWT.

IMMEDIATE AND EFFECTIVE CEASEFIRE AND HALT TO VIOLENCE BY BOTH ISRAEL AND HAMAS

We are hopeful that a peaceful resolution to the conflict can be achieved as soon as possible. The GNWT recognizes that the Government of Canada is in the best position to address matters involving international affairs.

ADVOCATE FOR THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF ALL HOSTAGES

The Government of Canada is actively engaged and working with its international partners in an effort to secure the release of hostages.

Acknowledging that the taking of hostages is prohibited under international law, the [United Nations Security Council Resolution 2728](#) demands the immediate and unconditional release of all hostages.

As a founding member of the United Nations, Canada is committed to the guidance provided in the United Nation Charter to maintain peace and security and to achieve international co-operation in international issues and to promote and encourage respect for human rights. The NWT is fully supportive of Canada in this endeavor.

HUMANITARIAN AID FOR ALL THOSE IN NEED IN GAZA

After a brief pause, Canada has resumed funding to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

Canada is providing \$100 million in funding for humanitarian assistance to address urgent needs stemming from the crisis in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Israel and neighboring areas. This funding will help provide food, water, emergency medical assistance, protection services and other life-saving assistance.

Money is being allocated to the World Food Program, UNICEF, the World Health Organization, the UN Population Fund, the International Committee of the Red Cross, and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs.

TAKE ALL ACTION NECESSARY TO FUND AND UPHOLD ITS OBLIGATIONS UNDER THE GENOCIDE CONVENTION

The Government of Canada was a signatory to the Genocide Convention in 1948 and is well versed in its obligations. It is incumbent on each of us to support and respect human rights and do our part to be good global citizens. The GNWT is focused on establishing priorities and a mandate that supports the residents of the NWT. Global affairs, such as the current conflict in Gaza, are outside of the jurisdiction of the NWT.

The GNWT has supports in place for those who are experiencing stress and anxiety as a result of this ongoing conflict in the Middle East. Residents are encouraged to reach out to the Community Counselling Program, which offers flexible in-person and virtual services for residents when and where they need it, or by calling the 811 NWT Helpline. Responders are registered nurses who are trained professionals that can also assist with concerns in a variety of areas, including stress management, suicidal thoughts, abuse, sexual assault, depression, anxiety, grief, loss, and substance use. This is a service that we provide and is something tangible that can have a positive impact on our residents. Support from the community strengthens families and relationships through times of adversity.

The GNWT is focused on serving NWT residents, providing support where appropriate and creating strong resilient communities that support residents, particularly during this challenging time of increased global conflict.