

**Constituency Meeting Notes**  
**May 24, 2022**  
**Stanton Suites Hotel**

Introduction to what a constituency meeting is now that we are back in person, that it will hopefully be less of a talking head on a computer screen and be more of a conversation. It is a meeting where folks are updated on what I have been doing and a place where people are free to ask questions and bring up topics of interest to them.

**General Update from Caroline:**

- Floods were a big topic of late, and discussions with MACA on ETO
- The new school is on budget and on schedule for fall opening
- Habitat for Humanity will be building more family homes in our neighbourhood
- Budget cycle for 2023, capital plan comes out in the fall
- ITI focus on fish, film projects, momentum is there as people are starting to come back
- Immigration, ITI and ECE share it and while it was not in the mandate there is some interest there to help our population grow.
- With regards to Ukraine:
  - Fort Providence does have one person that came there as they had family in the community.
  - Folks have been talking about the need to bring skilled workers here
  - Housing an issue
  - Messaging did go out to the Chamber on how businesses could get involved with hiring folks from the Ukraine, and how they can get in through the Job Bank. They also discussed family reunification.
  - Having a job for a person is the fastest way in.
- Hopefully we will see BDIC be a little more user friendly. Would be good to update How to Start a Business in the NWT, as a lot of folks in the North have lots of ideas on business.
  - Constituents comment that things should be more centralized and that people should not have to go to so many different departments when trying to sort out business stuff - CanNor, BIP, BDIC, MACA, ITI.. etc.
  - Need a better Business Ecosystem
  - Constituent comment that for BIP it should change to if you don't make it you can't sell it under BIP, as they feel many folks are just buying stuff from the south and selling it in the North
  - Constituent comment that folks are writing contracts creatively, and that folks are reselling items that they can't even service themselves - example as given of a business where the owner is no longer here but their business is registered here.
  - Example given by constituent that there are contractors that are selling items to the GNWT for 95 dollars for a cord that can be purchased online for 15 from Amazon. There should be some sort of accountability for businesses charging

**Topics and discussion from constituents:**

- **9-1-1 and Public Safety**  
Concerns surrounding 911 and the conflicts that the City has been having with it. The City and 911 both serve the people of Yellowknife. People feel it should just be the one but the way that the Act was written the City is still able to keep their number. If you call

the city line it is first come first served, whereas if you call 911 you are triaged and they can help you over the phone with medical emergencies, whereas the dispatchers for the City can not.

Once concern is that with 911 they can trace calls, the City cannot. If someone prank calls 911 they can be found easier to be charged than if calling the City. Multiple fake calls are made to the City with no way of tracing the calls.

The Medical Director issued a report on Safety Issues.

Some folks feel that 911 is underfunded.

911 can load a defibrillator map into their system so people can access them in an emergency and they can talk folks through how to use them (*this is something that the Yellowknife South office has been talking about doing*)

- **Education and High Performance Students**

What is available at schools?

We have high performance programs for athletes, but it does not appear that there are any high performance programs for students (Sarah to follow up with ECE to see if there are programs in place for high performance academics/gifted students).

Some parents feel that the NWT does not strive for academic excellence, they understand that there is a need for basic education in a lot of the territory, but that there is no real movement to strive for excellence.

It was mentioned that for high performance athlete programs these are almost all run by volunteer parents. Academics may need to go that route as well.

Have noticed a lot of National Boards don't come to the NWT for academics.

People are still talking about social passing and are not happy with it.

*CW: Education Act is being looked at, made mention that the BC curriculum has been adopted and will be starting this 2022-23 school year.*

*CW: The Education Act does not mention high academic performance, but it does determine funding formulas to which these programs would come from.*

- **Difference between Territories and Provinces?**

Is there a benefit to us becoming a province? Will this help our economic needs?

CW:

- This would require a constitutional change
- There is an NWT Act
- Most of the powers of a province were drawn down to the NWT during the devolution process. Day-to-Day we are pretty similar to provinces in function.
- Equalization Payments (provinces) versus Territorial formula financing (territories have it way better as we cannot generate revenue like the provinces). Fastest way to get more money for the NWT is moving people here.
- Difference comes with Feds being able to make some decisions for the NWT, example with the Offshore Moratorium. Trudeau and Obama said that there will be no oil in the Arctic and we had no role.
- Regulatory changes and applications prior to devolution would go to Ottawa, but now they come to the GNWT. While with devolution the regulatory systems were to become one (currently dual system) the move has been slow.
- Have a dual system/mirroring legislation (Mineral for example)
- IRC child family services have their jurisdiction, and they are leading the pack on that one. GNWT administers the federal legislation.

- NIHB, Metis Benefits are also done through the GNWT not the Feds.
  
- **\$10/day Daycare Introduction**
  - Feel that the daycare changes did not launch successfully. The Feds didn't give a lot of time; sign up or don't.
  - CW: NWT did negotiate a different set up than others. We heard concerns against imposing of caps, others in favor. Some parents were told that they needed to start paying more money for services already rendered in January but were being told this in March.
  - Now that it is more individual now. Things appear to be going smoother. It is not a hard line for capped rates, but rather trying to figure out what supports were needed.
  - ECE noted that this money needs to get to parents.
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- **Slow on getting items for the jail**
  - Trying to get new mobiles - 75k for a new mobile at the jail, still don't have it. No one replies to the tenders.
  - Minister has approved sole sourcing for a Van at the jail and we still don't have it. We really need to have our vehicles replaced.
  - New Corrections Act came out 3 years ago and we still don't have our new orders. It is creating a safety issue as we don't have directives, they have been sitting in draft form for 2 years.
  - Slash vests have been approved and we still don't have them either. Were delayed even further because the Department did use the right forms.