

Your Yellowknife South Newsletter

final edition of the 19th Assembly
Spring 2023



Thank You

For my final Yellowknife South Newsletter of the 19th Assembly, I want to start with a very sincere thank you to all of you! I am proud to have had the privilege to serve this riding over the last four years.

The community of Yellowknife South has shared a wide range of issues, concerns and ideas with Sarah and I over the last four years. You have kept me connected to what is happening in your lives, homes, families, businesses and jobs which is essential for me to be able to effectively do my job. I also want to acknowledge that it can be difficult to reach out, especially if you don't know Sarah or I, during a time when you may already be frustrated or struggling and Sarah and I are grateful for all the folks who put their trust in us. Importantly, all of your feedback, questions and discussions have reinforced that positive political discourse is very much alive and well!

It is hard to believe that I only have 90 days left as your MLA, but I want to assure you that I am going to squeeze every last drop from that time to ensure that your concerns and needs are being responded to and that work I committed to is advanced.

We are currently in Session, and will be having the final Session of the 19th Assembly in August. If you haven't made it out to watch the 19th in action, the Summer Session will be a good one as we aim to pass remaining Bills that we have worked on during this Assembly as well as the capital plan for 2024-25.



Special Thanks

A tremendous thank you to a deeply caring, tireless, and very diligent constituency assistant, Sarah Kalnay-Watson. As Minister, I am arguably much more dependednt on a good CA because 1) my schedule is pretty challenging so Sarah's consistent monitoring of our many contact points is indispensable; 2) there are times where I need her to be the primary contact point with a constituent so that I can avoid conflicts while keeping my "Minister's Hat" on to work through an issue from the Department side and she has shown over and over her skill in this role; and 3) she monitors social media. I try to keep an eye, but her monitoring is next level and indispensable.

The Legislative Assembly played host to youth from across the NWT in April for the Annual Youth Parliament. Yellowknife South was represented by constituent Nico Morin. Nico did a wonderful job representing us, our future is in good hands.

At a Glance

I recently welcomed Minister Marci Ien, Minister of Women and Gender Equality and Youth of Canada. She was here to announce funding for crisis lines to be available via the NWT shelter network.

At the end of May, at my invitation, I hosted a PNWER (Pacific NorthWest Economic Region) executive visit. This visit included meetings with Senator Chuck Winder (Idaho), as well as the Vice-President, MLA Rick Glumac (British Columbia), and the CEO/Executive Director of PNWER, Matt Morrison. The purpose of this visit was to discuss various issues including critical minerals, broadband internet access, infrastructure investment, and Indigenous business in the Northwest Territories.

June 19-22, the Department of Finance's NWT Geomatics will be hosting the 44th Annual Canadian Symposium on Remote Sensing in Yellowknife. I'm excited to be doing the opening remarks at this event that will include presentations from the Canadian Space Agency.



GNWT Priorities

GNWT priorities I am continuing to oversee, review and press forward include:

- preparation of the public response to the procurement review which will also summarize the changes that have been made and others still anticipated such as an Indigenous Procurement Policy;
- a variety of new Human Resources materials including a strategic plan, implementation of the IRRF and EESS as well as revisions to the Affirmative Action Policy;
- the final stretches of the Mineral Resources Act Regulations to bring the new Act into force; and
- the new fish plant will open and we need to work diligently to ensure a clear path towards having all fish priced at their best possible market value;
- Minister Archie and I will be attending a meeting of the Taltson expansion Steering Committee with the other Indigenous Government signatories to our MOU with a view to advancing the project to be ready for environmental permitting.

Next Constituency Meeting

As my calendar is constantly changing, I can confirm that I will be hosting one more constituency meeting in August 2023 but am not quite yet able to say when! Please follow on Facebook or Instagram for further information on location and time. Or email my office to be put on a notification list:

Sarah_Kalnay-Watson@ntassembly.ca

On March 7, I, along with other representatives from the Canadian Mining Sector, got to open the Toronto Stock Exchange. After we opened the market, I took the opportunity to have my picture taken with Jhillian Adams and Pam Strand who were also at the Prospectors and Developers Association of Canada 2023 Convention with the GNWT contingent.

Under Review

These final two Sessions will be a busy time for final discussions and passing of Bills. I am also responsible for several Bills that are on the House agenda:

- Business Development and Investment Corporations Act;
- Liquor Act; and
- Council for Women and Gender Diversity Act.

Other Bills that may be of interest:

- United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples' Act;
- Builder's Lien Act;
- Forest Act;
- Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act; and
- Nursing Profession Act.



I presented Chelsey Makaro with a NWT flag to take with her as she represents Canada (and Yellowknife South!) as part of their swim team at the Special Olympics this summer.

Looking forward to following her at the games!

The Affirmative Action Policy is currently under review in hopes that we can bring the GNWT into the modern legal age, to be more inclusive and not colonialist in our application of borders and respect the need to be a representative and diverse public service. The public engagements and Have Your Say survey was open until April 28, 2023. That feedback is being used to inform the final Indigenous Employment Policy and Employment Equity Policy. The What We Heard Report is expected to be released this Summer.

My departments are also involved in two projects that are important for the future social and economic advancement of the NWT; Regional Energy and Resource Tables (RERT) organized by the Federal government and the Regional Strategic Environmental Assessment (RSEA). The RERT is a joint partnership with provinces, territories, and Indigenous partners, that identifies and accelerates opportunities for the existing and emerging Canadian resource industries. An RSEA is a process that helps to assess the potential environmental situation of a region.



I was able to bring my kids with me on a work trip to Inuvik in April.

Getting in touch:

Our lines of communication are always open, to listen, support, and collaborate on your ideas for a prosperous and healthy NWT.



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**Not feeling well?
Want to speak
to a nurse?**



Call **811** or 1-844-259-1793 toll-free for health advice 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

Have your say...

The GNWT has a website dedicated to engaging with residents on the decisions being made across government departments. The public is encouraged to participate in the public engagements and online surveys to help contribute to the decision making process. By doing this, you bring your voice to the table and help bring a diverse perspective to the decision makers.

To keep up to date on which programs, services, and government operations are looking for feedback, please visit:



<https://haveyoursay.nwt-tno.ca>

Upcoming events

The spring and summer are always a busy season in Yellowknife! If you know of an upcoming community event that is not included below, please send me a message and I would be happy to help promote it on social media.

JUNE

The return of the Yellowknife Farmers Market: June 6

The inaugural Pride parade: June 18

Indigenous People's Day: June 21

JULY

Canada Day parade: July 1

Midnight Sun Fly In: July 6-9

Folk on the Rocks: July 14-16

Farm Fish Forage Feast Culinary Festival: July 27-30

AUGUST

Old Town Ramble and Ride: August 5-7



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