

# Your Yellowknife South Newsletter

May 2022 edition



Spring has sprung – I think? It is at least certainly very near. And with spring comes warmer temperatures and new growth. Speaking of growth, with the opening of our borders and further investment into the mineral sector, the NWT looking forward to growth not only in gardens but across sectors of the economy. During our 2022-23 Budget Session, we projected a \$131 million operating surplus, with revenue at \$2.3 billion and total expenditures at \$2.142 billion.

The COVID-19 related State of Emergency in the NWT was lifted, and as of April 1, 2022 COVID-19 restrictions have been removed. The lifting of restrictions brought relief and joy to some, but to others it brought with it another wave of anxieties. Our office has actioned answers to some of the questions that came as a result of the changes including: the availability of 4th booster shots, the prospective of further mask mandates, rules in schools and public places, COVID-19 case number accuracy. Sometimes the answers are a moving target because of the still changing nature of this pandemic and the global response to it. Please continue to engage my office with your concerns as the GNWT continues to face each new phase and stage of this pandemic.

One of the benefits many are feeling with restrictions lifting is that more community events have been taking place. I was pleased to have the opportunity to contribute funds to the Snow Castle, Ecology North's Earth Week, and the upcoming Warm The Rocks in Samba k'e park on July 15. If you are planning a free and public event for the community, please get in touch with my office and we will gladly see if your event qualifies under the Constituency Expense Allowance.

## At A Glance

What I will be working on through to the autumn:

- Continuing procurement policy reviews
- Development of a Critical Mineral and Metals Action Plan
- Development of Regional Economic Development Plans
- Improving the business support ecosystem
- Engagement on the MMIWG draft action plan

## Parks Are Open!

NWT Parks open for the season on May 15. I hope you get out to enjoy the parks in the North Slave area, or if you are feeling adventurous explore the rest of the NWT this summer. To find out more information on our parks and campgrounds: <https://www.nwtparks.ca/>



Youth Parliament took place May 9-12, with the final day having MLAs work as pages for the Youth Members of the Legislative Assembly who stood in the house and gave Member Statements. Here I am with Sara Morris (Range Lake MLA) and Aubrey Sluggett (Yellowknife South MLA).

## 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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## Budget Highlights

1. Budget 2022 proposes \$43 million of increased spending over Budget 2021, consisting of \$86 million for program enhancements, \$9 million in new spending for mandate priorities and \$2 million in amortization. This spending is offset by \$54 million in savings from programs that are ending.

2. Budget 2022 did not contain any new taxes, although property mill rates and some fees will be indexed to inflation to maintain financial management practices. The five year fee reviews underway in 2021-22 may result in further changes in fees. As part of the discussions with MLAs on the passing of the budget, it was agreed that the tobacco tax would be increased.

3. The carbon tax rate will increase to \$50 per carbon-equivalent tonne of greenhouse gas emissions on July 1, 2022. Carbon tax revenue will be returned to NWT businesses and residents through rebates and the Cost of Living Offset and also used for investments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

4. For a list of the spending highlights [https://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/sites/fin/files/resources/2022-23\\_budget\\_highlights-\\_final.pdf](https://www.fin.gov.nt.ca/sites/fin/files/resources/2022-23_budget_highlights-_final.pdf) I will also put this document on my website in the "Resources" section.

## Have Your Say

The GNWT launched an online portal where all current and upcoming public engagements are listed. This website provides further opportunity for residents to have their voices heard.

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

## Vaccines

Vaccines are still one of the best ways to protect yourself against COVID-19. Clinics and appointments are still available.

Residents of the NWT can book an appointment for a COVID-19 vaccination through the NTHSSA website.

To book a vaccination in Yellowknife, visit the online booking page <https://nthssabookings.simplybook.me/v2/> you can call public health at 767-9120.

## Next Constituency Meeting

Tuesday May 24, 2022

Stanton Suites Hotel Boardroom

7:00 PM

Barren Ground Coffee refreshments will be made available.

Have questions you would like to submit in advance? Please send them to:

[Sarah\\_Kalnay-Watson@ntassembly.ca](mailto:Sarah_Kalnay-Watson@ntassembly.ca)

## What We Heard

Once community engagement is complete a GNWT Department will often release a "What We Heard" report. These reports can be found in a multitude of locations; the Department's website, the GNWT Newsroom, and on the Have Your Say website where some of the actual engagement took place. I also share some of these reports on my personal website when multiple constituents have showed interest in a specific topic. Want to see specific ones up there? Let my office know.