

Your Yellowknife South Newsletter

winter edition 2022



General Updates

Happy Holidays!

2022 has been a busy and still unusual year. We started off still very much in the height of the COVID-19 pandemic and accompanying restrictions. Come summer everyone was ready to rejoin festivals, markets, Canada Day parades and other activities. Now with fall cold and flu season, bringing with it another round of COVID-19, we are seeing a need to remain vigilant in vaccination, stay home when sick, and consider masking. Add to this the wider impacts of the pandemic on supply chains, inflation and labor markets, and it has been a volatile year. With the renewed opportunities to gather and admit seeing the stressors around us, I also want to acknowledge what an incredible community we are fortunate to live in. There are many acts of kindness, generosity and friendship happening every day in Yellowknife South and across Yellowknife. For all the little things that so many of you do just day to day, please give yourself a smile!



The Legislative Assembly was once again able to have local kindergarten students back this year for the annual tree decorating. I took the opportunity for a few visits to say hello and read to the littles.

At A Glance

What I will be working on in the new year:

- Budget 2023
- Mineral resource industry:
 - Mineral Resources Act Regulations
 - Critical mineral & metals
 - Build investor confidence through education on Environmental Social Governance
- Economic diversity:
 - Implement changes received from the Procurement Review
 - Accelerate tourism growth
 - Oversee Regional Economic Development Plans

Next constituency meeting: December 15 - 7 pm

The whole family is welcome to the Yellowknife South constituency meeting. Festival snacks, hot chocolate, and hot apple cider from Sundog Trading Post will be available. A craft corner for the littles will keep them entertained while you have the opportunity to discuss any issues or concerns you might have.

Stanton Suites Hotel Boardroom
476 Range Lake Road
Thursday, December 15 at 7 pm

Highlights

The capital plan process has been overhauled, with a cap on departmental spending with a focus on planning by maintaining the planning dollars for large projects as they ready for the capital dollars. This also entails establishing a peer review group and reestablishing the ADM capital planning committee.

Have begun the process of implementing plans in response to the Employee Engagement and Satisfaction Survey and have continued to implement the Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Framework towards a representative public service with each Department having published targets and individualized departmental plans to achieve them. The Affirmative Action Policy is also being reviewed.

Final Action Plan to respond to Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls has been tabled and now we will need to follow through on its implementation and annual reporting of progress.

Education Act

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment is re-engaging with Indigenous Governments and education bodies on proposed amendments to the Education Act, following up from discussions in 2021. ECE will be taking a phased approach to modernizing the Education Act.

Phase one will take place during the remainder of the 19th Assembly with making technical amendments that were identified by the Office of the Auditor General as well as the Education Renewal and Innovation evaluation.

Phase two will lay the foundation for a modern education system that will see overall structure and governance changes in the NWT change. This phase will come in once the 20th Assembly is elected.

Polytechnique

The GNWT released their master plan for the Polytechnic University this past summer. It outlined what the polytechnic university would look like, including proposals for the three campuses in Inuvik, Fort Smith, and Yellowknife, as well as a network of community learning centres.

Some of the highlights of the plan were that a new campus would be built in Yellowknife as the current site will no longer meet the needs of the students and would not allow for growth of the school. Enhancements will also be made to the Western Arctic Research Centre, and this project should be complete by Spring of 2024. The Fort Smith Campus will see the disposal of Breynat Hall, a former residential school hostel, which will be replaced with new single student housing units, and has been identified as a priority.

Airport

The Yellowknife Airport Master Plan went through public engagement this past summer, where Infrastructure asked NWT residents to provide their feedback on the two identified options for the future development of the Yellowknife Airport:

1. A new terminal building and airside development is proposed to be built on the west side of the airport on the Deh Cho Boulevard "Truck Route".
2. A new terminal building and associated airside development is proposed to be built at the junction of the airport's two runways.

They are currently reviewing the results of the survey and public engagement sessions and will be issuing a "What We Heard Report" shortly.

Minimum Wage

Beginning September 1, 2023, the minimum wage in the NWT will be adjusted annually using a formula based on the percentage change in the Consumer Price Index for Yellowknife and the percentage change in the average hourly wage in the NWT for the preceding calendar year. Using the CPI allows the minimum wage to keep up with the increasing costs for NWT residents and provide predictability to employers.



With Page Willem Jacobs of St. Patrick High School. Summer Session 2022.

Answer to question from last Constituency Meeting

At the last Yellowknife South Constituency meeting there was a discussion about what is done in regards to high performance academics in the NWT. I asked the Minister of ECE to provide some information so that I could include it in the newsletter.

ECE follows an inclusive schooling philosophy, which means they celebrate each student for who they are and meets them where they are so they can learn and develop.

While there is no separate departmental process for designating a student as "gifted" in the NWT, some schools may offer advanced programming for students where appropriate. Some high schools also offer advanced placement programs which allow students to obtain university credits for courses above and beyond the requirements for graduation.

There are three types of educational programs in the NWT: Regular Educational Program (with or without accommodations), Modified Education Program (significantly above or below grade level), and Individual Education Program (student-specific programming based on strengths and needs of the student).

Educators assess student learning on an ongoing basis throughout the school year. A student can be assessed as requiring accommodations in addition to, or programming different from, the regular Education Program at any time of the year. The educator who identifies exceptional strengths and needs refers the student to the School-based Support Team (SBST), who reviews the student's evidence of learning and prepares a recommendation of appropriate programming and/or supports required. The SBST would then set a meeting with the guardian of the student to discuss the recommendation and evidence of learning to assist the guardian to make an informed decision regarding any changes to their child's educational programming.

Schools, and guardians make the decision on how they go about providing programming interventions and supports, so long as it aligns with the NWT Ministerial Directive on Inclusive Schooling. Schools receive allocated funding for Inclusive Schooling and all exceptionalities are to be taken into consideration by the region/school when budgeting the spending of these funds. This would include supporting a student who has a demonstrated capacity to excel academically.

Guardians are encouraged to advocate their child's strengths and interests at the school and regional level, and where offered, connect them to programs and activities that their child is interested in.

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.

The GNWT recently launched their 811 service. It is a free and confidential telephone consultation service that puts you in contact with a healthcare navigator or registered nurse.

811 nurses evaluate your current health situation and give advice based on your current condition. They can answer your questions about your health, provide generalized health information, and direct you to the most appropriate resource.

Calling 811 often helps avoid going to a medical clinic or emergency room when there is an available option to manage symptoms from home.

The service is available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Anyone in the NWT can call 811 for themselves or a family member.

This line is not for emergencies, please dial 911 in case of emergency or go to the emergency room.



With pages Scarlett Anderson and Sylvia Isenor of William McDonald School. Fall Session 2022.

Have your say...

The GNWT has 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>



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
TERRITOIRES DU NORD-QUEST
ASSEMBLÉE LÉGISLATIVE