

**NORTHWEST TERRITORIES**  
**news/north**

Published Mondays

**YELLOWKNIFE OFFICE:**  
Box 2820, Yellowknife, NT, X1A 2R1  
Phone: (867) 873-4031  
Fax: (867) 873-8507  
Toll free: (855) 873-6675  
E-mail: [rnsi@nrsi.com](mailto:rnsi@nrsi.com)  
[editorial@nrsi.com](mailto:editorial@nrsi.com)  
[advertising@nrsi.com](mailto:advertising@nrsi.com)  
[circulation@nrsi.com](mailto:circulation@nrsi.com)  
[rnsiadmin@nrsi.com](mailto:rnsiadmin@nrsi.com)  
Website: [www.nrsi.com](http://www.nrsi.com)

**DEH CHO OFFICE, FORT SIMPSON:**  
April Hudson, Bureau Chief  
Phone: (867) 695-2914  
Fax: (867) 695-3766  
E-mail: [dehcho@nrsi.com](mailto:dehcho@nrsi.com)  
Website: [www.nrsi.com/dehcho](http://www.nrsi.com/dehcho)

**SOUTH SLAVE OFFICE, HAY RIVER:**  
Frida Dickford, Bureau Chief  
Phone: (867) 874-2802 Fax: (867) 874-2804  
E-mail: [editor@ssimicro.com](mailto:editor@ssimicro.com)

**MACKENZIE DELTA OFFICE, INUVIK:**  
Sarah Ladik  
Phone: (867) 777-4545 Fax: (867) 777-4412  
E-mail: [news@inuviknrsi.com](mailto:news@inuviknrsi.com)  
Website: [www.nrsi.com/inuvik](http://www.nrsi.com/inuvik)

**BAFFIN OFFICE, IQALUIT:**  
Phone: (867) 979-5990 Fax: (867) 979-6010  
E-mail: [editor@nunavutnews.com](mailto:editor@nunavutnews.com)  
Website: [www.nrsi.com/nunavut](http://www.nrsi.com/nunavut)

**KIVALLIQ OFFICE, RANKIN INLET:**  
Darrell Greer - Bureau Chief  
Phone: (867) 645-3223 Fax: (867) 645-3225  
E-mail: [kivalliq@nrsi.com](mailto:kivalliq@nrsi.com)  
Website: [www.nrsi.com/kivalliq](http://www.nrsi.com/kivalliq)

**PUBLISHER:** J.W. (Sig) Sigvaldason - [jsig@nrsi.com](mailto:jsig@nrsi.com)  
**GENERAL MANAGER:** Michael Scott - [miscott@nrsi.com](mailto:miscott@nrsi.com)  
**MANAGING EDITOR:** Bruce Valby - [valby@nrsi.com](mailto:valby@nrsi.com)

**ACCOUNTING:** [rnsiadmin@nrsi.com](mailto:rnsiadmin@nrsi.com)  
Judy Triffo • Florie Mariano • Saleesh Wagas  
Elain Asombrado

**Senior editor:** Mike W. Bryant  
**Assignment editor:** James O'Connor  
**Photo editor:** Walter Strong

**News editors**  
Mike W. Bryant • Karen McKinley  
Josh Long • Randi Beers  
James O'Connor

**Sports:** James McCarthy - [sports@nrsi.com](mailto:sports@nrsi.com)  
**Business:** Jessica Davey-Quarck - [business@nrsi.com](mailto:business@nrsi.com)  
**Arts:** [entertainment@nrsi.com](mailto:entertainment@nrsi.com)

**Reporters:** Kassina Ryder • John McFadden  
Shane Magee • Robin Grant • Kirsten Fenn

**Editorial board:**  
Bruce Valby • Josh Long • Mike W. Bryant  
James O'Connor

**Advertising production**  
**Production co-ordinator:** Jennifer Reyes  
B.J. Logsdon • Diana Mathisen • Zolena Kunderlik

**Customer service:**  
Holly Yestrau

**ADVERTISING**  
[advertising@nrsi.com](mailto:advertising@nrsi.com)  
**Advertising manager:** Petra Mermel  
**Representatives:** Terry Dobson • Dawn Janz  
Zerline Rodriguez • Barbara Krivda  
Marlee Currie • Bridget Mackay  
Katrina Delorey • Bradley Fillion  
Shelby Brothers

**Features manager:** Beau Stobbs

**CIRCULATION:**  
[circulation@nrsi.com](mailto:circulation@nrsi.com)  
David Hovey • Sy Huynh • Vanessa Prens

**Subscriptions:**  
One year mail \$90 • Two year mail \$125  
Online (entire content) \$50/year  
Individual subscriptions, multiple user rates on request

**NORTHERN NEWS SERVICES LIMITED**  
100% Northern owned and operated

**Publishers of:**  
Delti Cho Drum • Inuvik Drum  
Kivalliq News • Yellowknife • Hay River Hub  
NWT News/North • Nunavut News/North

**Member of:**  
Canadian Community Newspapers Association  
Ontario Community Newspapers Association  
Manitoba Community Newspapers Association  
Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association  
Alberta Weekly Newspapers Association  
Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta Press Councils  
Yellowknife Chamber of Commerce

**Member of the Ontario Press Council.** The Ontario Press Council was created to defend freedom of the press on behalf of the public and press alike, and to consider specific, unsatisfied complaints from readers about the conduct of the press in gathering and publishing news, opinion and advertising.

Complaints should go to:  
The Ontario Press Council, 2 Carlton St., Suite 1706 Toronto, Ont., M5E 1L3  
E-mail: [info@ontpress.com](mailto:info@ontpress.com) Fax: 1-416-340-8724  
[www.ontpress.com](http://www.ontpress.com)

**SEND US YOUR COMMENTS**

E-mail us at: [editorial@nrsi.com](mailto:editorial@nrsi.com) with the subject line "My opinion" or send mail to: News/North at Box 2820, Yellowknife X1A 2R1; or drop your letter off at our office at 5108-50 Street. All letters submitted must be signed with a return address and daytime telephone number. We will do our best to ensure that letters submitted by 3 p.m. on Thursday are printed in Monday's News/North.

# Editorial & Opinions

COMMENTS AND VIEWS FROM NEWS/NORTH AND LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## Taking from the poor; giving to the rich?

Critics have called the GNWT's latest adjustment of the Income Assistance program a callous clawback

Northern News Services

It's all about the bottom line.

Despite the hot air expended by politicians or how much rational sounding baffle-gab by various officials, the amount of money families on income assistance actually get to live on is all that matters.

So it's with some concern we watch another messy roll-out of a GNWT program in which we are left to either believe the minister in charge or the people lining up against him.

In the Oct. 31 edition of News/North (Perpetuating Poverty? Page 11), critics called changes to the income assistance program nothing more than clawbacks.

"It's just the opposite of Robin Hood," said David Poitras, former chief of the Salt River First Nation. "Robin Hood robbed from the rich and gave to the poor, but this way here, they're robbing from the poor and giving it to the government, I guess."

Poitras said he has had discussions with people afraid to voice their complaints.

However, Yellowknife Centre MLA Julie Green raised the issue in the legislative assembly and also with News/North.

It all started back in August when the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) eliminated the program's food and clothing allowance for children under the age of 18. The change was the result of increases to the federal Canada Child Benefit (CCB) program, according to the department.

The CCB program changes came into effect in July and replaced the

former Canada Child Tax Benefit, the national Child Benefit Supplement and the Universal Child Care Benefit.

Green said while the new CCB payments do increase overall household incomes, that doesn't mean low income families no longer need the income assistance food and clothing allowance.

"The rationale for the government to provide Canada Child Benefit was to alleviate poverty among children," she said. "So what has happened here is that those same children who live in poverty are not getting the full benefit of the federal money because the territorial government has reduced its funding to them. So the federal government gave with one hand and the GNWT took away with the other."

ECE Minister Alfred Moses countered Green's claims, stating the NWT hasn't reduced funding to families.

"When we restructured the program, the Federal Child Tax Benefit was included in the assessments. We took those assessments out ... the NWT's contribution, hasn't changed," Moses said according to Hansard.

"It does look like the funding went down for food and clothing, which, in fact,

it hasn't. Actually, more families are getting more money."

Not so, said Karen Wilson, housing director for the YWCA, who noted the elimination of the food and clothing allowance for children has already

had a devastating impact on NWT families.

"If the federal government deemed it fit to give extra to children for children's well being, why is the territorial government taking the food money out?" Wilson said.

Given the minister's

statement that it could look like the funding went down, he would be wise to get his staff to figure out why that perception is there.

But if the perception is a reality for those on assistance, then a reversal of this policy is called for.

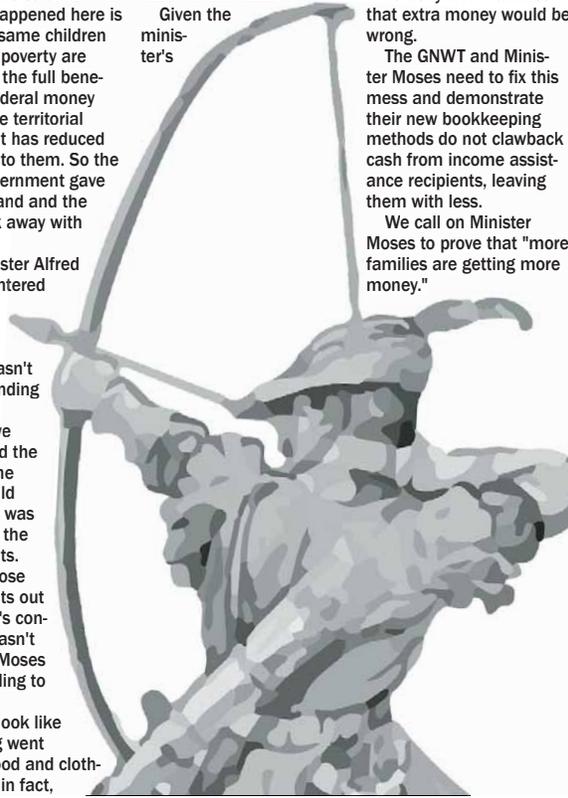
Because as of the writing of this editorial, we are left siding with the critics of the GNWT.

Most recipients of income assistance have nowhere else to turn. We remind the GNWT that the Trudeau Liberals were elected with a mandate to give more more to families with children.

To deny NWT families that extra money would be wrong.

The GNWT and Minister Moses need to fix this mess and demonstrate their new bookkeeping methods do not clawback cash from income assistance recipients, leaving them with less.

We call on Minister Moses to prove that "more families are getting more money."



CANADIAN COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER AWARD 2016



2016 CNIA BLUE RIBBON