

**Consideration in Committee of the Whole of Bills and Other Matters
Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019
(Revised)**

October 4, 2017

**COMMITTEE MOTION 113-18(2):
TABLED DOCUMENT 419-18(2): PROPOSED MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE
NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019, ADDITION OF TEXT REGARDING THE
KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY,
CARRIED**

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. If we could turn to page 11, I will introduce my first motion. I move that Tabled Document 419-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 (Revised), be amended on page 11 by adding the following words: "supporting the development and growth of post-secondary institutions and programs available in the NWT; researching the feasibility of creating a Northern centre of excellence to promote and support research, innovation, and use of traditional Indigenous knowledge, and foster partnerships with universities, governments, and other organizations." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. There is a motion on the floor. The motion has been distributed and is in order. To the motion. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this represents an expansion of this area to acknowledge that the knowledge economy is an important growth area for the NWT in terms of employment and that we would like to see those opportunities developed by introducing this amendment. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Next, Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. We had a vigorous round of discussion around this issue of a knowledge economy, and we, all the honourable Members, felt that this was an effective way to start addressing some of these issues.

The rule of thumb, I guess, in the world has been that manufacturing and industry follows low-cost labour, and we are seeing that trend reverse. The knowledge economies are becoming the driver of production in the world, and actually, highly-skilled workers are slowly returning manufacturing back to countries that are developing knowledge economies.

Canada is well-positioned to make use of that. The federal government has recognized this and is investing millions of dollars in developing knowledge economy and moving Canada away from its traditional bread-and-butter economic drivers being the resource industry. I have spoken about this in this Chamber before, and the City of Calgary is a perfect example of a local economy built on the strength of resource development that has diversified using its knowledge clusters, the university, centres for excellence and innovation, and now 40 per cent of its workforce is employed in the creative industry.

What does that mean for the North? We have other challenges. We have a significantly smaller population. We have limited access to post-secondary institutions and other centres of innovation and excellence. We have to start a plan to develop those so that we do not get outpaced when southern Canada starts shifting towards this as well. There is always going to be a place for the resource economy and resource development in the Northwest Territories. We need it to fuel these other innovations, but if we fail to diversify towards a knowledge

economy, we are missing the boat on where the direction of this country and the entire world is heading. We cannot be left out by this.

That means a complete rethinking of our labour market. It means investing in information and computer technology jobs and opportunities to grow them, and it means building a plan that will develop centres for excellence, identifying knowledge clusters, and developing those resources so that we can make use of where the knowledge economy is growing and how it works.

There is a lot of work to be done on this. It can be a complicated and often confusing issue. This motion puts in our mandate the foundation for building a knowledge economy plan that will grow over time so that we keep pace with these developments that are happening all over the world and in Canada. It will also better position us to access those federal funds that are flowing from Ottawa to support the growth of this industry. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I will keep this very short. This is one of the changes that I do support, and I am well on record in this House as supporting post-secondary education here in the Northwest Territories and how we do not have a university. There are no universities north of 60 degrees, no universities in northern Canada, and I have talked about how a community like Akureyri in Iceland, 19,000 people, has a university, and there are Canadian students there studying circumpolar matters because they cannot do it in Canada. I am well on record supporting the development of a knowledge economy and the need for a post-secondary education strategy for the Northwest Territories. Thank, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. All those in favour? All those opposed?

---Carried

The motion is carried. Thank you, committee. Anything further from committee? Ms. Green.

COMMITTEE MOTION 114-18(2):

TABLED DOCUMENT 419-18(2): PROPOSED MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019, ADDITION OF TEXT REGARDING POST-SECONDARY EDUCATION, TRADES-ORIENTED LEARNING AND NORTHERN EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, CARRIED

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that Tabled Document 419-18 (2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 (Revised), be amended on page 17 by adding the following words: "through Aurora College and other educational partners, we will develop and promote post-secondary programs designed to meet the Northwest Territories' needs in high-demand occupations identified in the Labour Market Forecast and Needs Assessment (2016)." Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. There is a motion on the floor. The motion has been distributed and is in order. To the motion. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, this follows on from the previous motion where we are trying to strengthen post-secondary education in the Northwest Territories to equip the

workforce for coming high-demand occupations. That has already been studied. We know what those occupations are. We just need to make sure that we are in a position to train people to fill them. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to request a recorded vote on this motion.

RECORDED VOTE

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. The Member has requested a recorded vote. All those in favour, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Ms. Green, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. Moses, Ms. Cochrane, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. McLeod - Yellowknife South, Mr. McLeod - Inuvik Twin lakes, Mr. Schumann, Mr. Sebert, Mr. Blake, Mr. McNeely, Mr. Vanthuyne, Mr. Testart, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Thompson, Mr. O'Reilly.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those opposed, please rise. All those abstaining, please rise. The results of the recorded vote are: 17 in favour; zero opposed; zero abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

Thank you, committee. Anything further? Ms. Green.

COMMITTEE MOTION 115-18(2):

TABLED DOCUMENT 419-18(2): PROPOSED MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES, 2016-2019, ADDITION OF TEXT REGARDING NORTHERN SOLUTIONS FOR HOUSING, CARRIED

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, I move that Tabled Document 419-18 (2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 (Revised), be amended on page 20 by inserting the words: "reduce the number of households and core housing need in the NWT by 250 households per year for the next three years; create a comprehensive and fully-costed plan to reduce core need; increase lobbying of the federal government to halt the continued reduction in CMHC operation and maintenance funding; prepare to take maximum advantage of federal housing funds when available." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. There is a motion on the floor. It has been distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the effect of this motion is to put the content of a motion that we passed in this House on June 2016 into this mandate. At that time, we voted unanimously to address the long-standing issue of the shortage of safe, affordable housing in the Northwest Territories. This was something that we did after the original mandate document was created. We are catching up now by putting this motion in.

What we know about core housing need in the NWT is that there are about 15,000 households in the NWT, and approximately 20 per cent of those households are in core housing need,

which means the houses are either unsuitable, inadequate, or unaffordable. Briefly, that means they are either not big enough, not in good enough repair, or they cost more than 30 per cent of a family's net income.

The thrust of this amendment is to provide a tangible goal to work towards in terms of reducing core need across the NWT in the life of this assembly. Thank you.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. To the motion. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to request a recorded vote.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. Testart. To the motion. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. I just would like to get some clarity on this. It is 250 households per year for the next three years. That sort of gets over into the next Assembly, which is fine by me, but does anybody want to clarify that? Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): To the motion. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, the effect of this motion is that the spending will happen by the end of the fiscal year 2019-2020. That is a budget that we will pass in this assembly before we go back to the electorate. Thank you.

RECORDED VOTE

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Question has been called. The Member has requested a recorded vote. All those in favour, please stand.

CLERK OF THE HOUSE (Mr. Mercer): Ms. Green, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. Moses, Ms. Cochrane, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. McLeod - Yellowknife South, Mr. McLeod - Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Schumann, Mr. Sebert, Mr. Blake, Mr. McNeely, Mr. Vanthuyne, Mr. Testart, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Thompson, Mr. O'Reilly.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All opposed, please stand. All abstaining, please stand. Thank you, committee. The results of the recorded vote are: 17 in favour; 0 opposed; 0 abstentions. The motion is carried.

---Carried

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Ms. Green.

COMMITTEE MOTION 116-18(2): ADDITION OF TEXT REGARDING MAKING CHILDCARE ACCESSIBLE AND AFFORDABLE, CARRIED

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, we are still in the cost of living section. I move that Tabled Document 419-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 (Revised) be amended on page 23 by inserting the words "creating an action plan for a phased-in approach to making childcare more accessible and affordable." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. There is a motion on the floor and has been distributed. The motion is in order. Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Mr. Chair, our original mandate document called on the government to create a plan to provide for universal child care in the Northwest Territories. The intention there was not necessarily to look for the funding to implement universal child care within the life of this Assembly, but to ensure that there was a plan in place in the event that there was money available to implement universal child care. As it turns out, the new federal government does have money to create 40,000 new spaces for child care in Canada over the next ten years. What we need is a plan so that when the bilateral negotiations finish, and this money begins to flow, we have a solid understanding of where we need to improve accessibility and affordability of child care by creating this plan. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. Mr. O'Reilly.

MR. O'REILLY: Thanks, Mr. Chair. Earlier in general comments, I said how, I neglected to say that I actually support most of the changes that are going to come forward. This is one, though, that I think the public deserves to know more about. This is a fundamental change in the document, in the mandate, that was tailored by Cabinet about what we are going to do about child care. The original mandate document reads "implementing universal and affordable child care." The version that has been tabled by Cabinet reads "making child care available and affordable." The words "universal" have been taken out. All along, I have objected to this change, and certainly back in December of 2015, when we were collectively putting forward our own individual priorities, I said that children, and more specifically child care, was one of the three priorities that I felt that we should be working together on.

Where that arose from was the work of the 17th Assembly. In December of 2013, there was a motion that was passed unanimously in the House that called for a feasibility study to be done on child care. That work was done by the University of Toronto. It was a well-researched document, and it said that if we were to implement universal child care here in the Northwest Territories along the lines of a Quebec model, it would cost us \$20 million a year. There are additional benefits as well that would result in increased GDP of \$16 million or more, increased labour income in excess of \$15 million. It would create about 200 new jobs, increase female participation in the work force, increase tax revenue, and decrease social assistance. That is kind of the benefits we could get with universal child care. We are moving away from that, and I think the public deserves to know this, and we should be transparent and open about it.

I will support the motion that is here because at least we will end up with an action plan. It is not clear to me, though, how we would actually ever measure something like making child care more accessible and affordable. What does that really mean? I guess I have been on record saying, I believe this is a broken promise on the part of our government, something that I do not support, a moving away from universal child care. I would like to know from my Cabinet colleagues, why they are backing away from this commitment for universal child care? Is it too expensive? Are there other commitments that are a higher priority? I would like to start with that, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Mr. O'Reilly. To the motion. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to ask for a recorded vote. Thank you.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Testart. To the motion.

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand.

COMMITTEE CLERK (Ms. Franki-Smith): Ms. Green, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. Moses, Ms. Cochrane, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. McLeod Yellowknife South, Mr. McLeod Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Schumann, Mr. Sebert, Mr. Blake, Mr. McNeely, Mr. Vanthuyne, Mr. Testart, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. O'Reilly.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand.

The results of the recorded vote are 17 in favour; zero opposed; zero abstentions.

---Carried

Ms. Green.

**COMMITTEE MOTION 117-18(2):
REPLACEMENT OF TEXT REGARDING WORKING COLLABORATIVELY TO REDUCE
POVERTY,
CARRIED**

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. Our final amendment is on page 27 in the section Community Wellness and Safety. I move that Tabled Document 419-18(2), Proposed Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 (Revised), be amended on page 27 by deleting the words "We will continue to work collaboratively to reduce poverty in the NWT by funding community-based partners, convening meetings of stakeholders, finalizing indicators that allow performance to be assessed, and developing additional options for action" and inserting the words "we will continue to work collaboratively to reduce poverty in the NWT by funding community-based partners, convening meetings of stakeholders, finalizing indicators that allow performance to be assessed, collecting information from these indicators into an annual report, developing additional options for action, and ensuring continuous quality improvement to the administration of the anti-poverty fund based on evaluation results." Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. There is a motion on the floor. The motion has been distributed. The motion is in order. To the motion? Ms. Green.

MS. GREEN: Thank you, Mr. Chair. The effect of this motion is to make the wording in this particular bullet more specific since the mandate was passed in March of last year. There have been two roundtables convened, and there has been some progress in identifying performance measures for reducing poverty. It is my understanding that at the next roundtable in November, there will be a type of report available to participants that will show what progress has been made on these indicators. This is one area where fighting poverty is something that we all aspire to, but making progress is something that we need to measure. The government has invested significant money into this area in a number of different ways. It is not only in the anti-poverty fund, but in the child tax credit, and the increase to the seniors' benefit.

We need to know whether this is making progress on people who are living on low income, and by selecting and reporting on indicators, we will be able to do that. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): Thank you, Ms. Green. To the motion. Mr. Testart.

MR. TESTART: Thank you, Mr. Chair. I would like to request for a recorded vote. Thank you.

RECORDED VOTE

MR. SPEAKER: Thank you, Mr. Testart. To the motion?

SOME HON. MEMBERS: Question.

MR. SPEAKER: Question has been called. A recorded vote has been requested. All those in favour, please stand.

COMMITTEE CLERK (Ms. Franki-Smith): Ms. Green, Mr. Nadli, Mr. Nakimayak, Mr. Moses, Ms. Cochrane, Mr. Abernethy, Mr. McLeod Yellowknife South, Mr. McLeod Inuvik Twin Lakes, Mr. Schumann, Mr. Sebert, Mr. Blake, Mr. McNeely, Mr. Vanthuyne, Mr. Testart, Mr. Beaulieu, Mr. Thompson, and Mr. O'Reilly.

CHAIRPERSON (Mr. Simpson): All those opposed, please stand. All those abstaining, please stand.

The results of the recorded vote are 17 in favour; zero opposed; zero abstentions.