

# 'We are not a factory' says premier

Kirsten Fenn

Northern News Services

Wednesday, October 25, 2017

SOMBA K'E/YELLOWKNIFE

As the 18th Legislative Assembly headed into a three-and-a-half-month break Friday until its next sitting, one MLA was dismayed by what she called the "glacial pace" at which the government is bringing forth legislation.

As of last week, which marked the halfway point in the assembly's four-year term, 33 bills had been passed, said Yellowknife Centre MLA Julie Green.

That's compared to 52 bills the 17th legislative assembly had passed by the same point in its term, said Green.

"In my estimation, we have dealt with only five bills with any substance that were not mandatory money bills," she said. "It is impossible for us to complete all the legislative initiatives government is contemplating at the pace it is moving."

But Premier Bob McLeod said factors like the late election in 2015 and the development of the mandate contributed to the government getting off to a slow start.

"We are not a factory," said McLeod. "In year two, we are definitely picking up speed."

Green requested the premier consider convening an additional, short session in December to introduce more bills before the budget session begins in February, but he did not commit to doing so.

"I said that I would review the legislative agenda and we would take whatever actions would be required to make sure that we fulfilled our agenda," said McLeod. "That did not preclude meeting with caucus to review. We all know the process. The only one who can call or reconvene the legislative assembly would be the call of the speaker."