

MEMBER STATEMENT—JULIE GREEN, MLA YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

INCLUSION NWT VOLUNTEER AWARD

March 9, 2021

HON. JULIE GREEN: Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Board of Directors of Inclusion NWT, the 2020 Outstanding Volunteer Award recipients in the Group Category.

Inclusion NWT is located in my riding, but we all know and recognize their clients, workers and staff from their presence in the community for many years. At any given time, Inclusion NWT is serving 100 to 150 clients and families throughout Yellowknife with services including supported and independent living; employment services; literacy classes; family, children and teen activities; advocacy; respite services; skills development; and an FASD support service. You'll see the Odd Job Squad everywhere, including here at the Legislative Assembly, hired by the upwards of 200 clients a month. And that's just one high visibility program.

This impressive list of services is overseen by the nine-member board.

In this year of COVID challenges, continued delivery of programming and services has required extra flexibility and adaptation. President Ben Russo and his board hunkered down to make sure all of the clients have been taken care of. While thankful for the award, Mr. Russo has said he'd like to give it to the staff as well, led by executive director Lynn Elkin.

This group award goes to the board, whose members each deserve special recognition, and I'll name them all. Serving with President Ben Russo are Vice President Pooja Chugh, Secretary Catherine Fairbairn, Treasurer Chris Cahoon and Directors Tony Florio, Esther Rowe, Karen Lajoie, Bri Krekoski and Pamela Weeks-Beaton.

Please join me in congratulating the Board of Inclusion NWT for their service, guidance and commitment to serve clients through the ethic of people helping people. And I salute the organization for its incredible contribution to our community. It truly is "Inclusion NWT".