

YOUR Kam Lake

www.mla-kamlake.ca

Winter 2021

COVID-19 UPDATES

Follow along for COVID-19 updates on my Facebook page @CaitlinClevelandMLA or my website www.mla-kamlake.ca

MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORTS

NWT Help Line 24/7
1 800 661 0844

Kids Help Phone 24/7
1 800 668 6868 or Text "CONNECT" to 686868

NWT Family Violence 24/7 Crisis Line
1 866 223 7775 or call 911

NWT Disabilities Council
(867) 873 8230

YK Women's Society
(867) 873 2339

Salvation Army Men's Shelter
(867) 920 4673

Rainbow Coalition 2SLGBTQQIPAA+
(867) 444 7295

Seniors Help Line
1 800 661 0878

Hope for Wellness (Indigenous Peoples)
1 855 242 3310

Community Counsellor Program
(867) 767 9110 (YK) *free, same day mental health care

Residential School Survivor Crisis Line
1 866 925 4419



2021. New Year. New Hope.

None of us could have predicted how 2020 would roll out, a worldwide pandemic is anything but expected or ordinary. But while COVID-19 changed our normal, it also brought us together. Many Kam Lake residents reached out and together we navigated vital government services and brainstormed solutions to improve government services.

Adaptability has become an important skill as we have had to adjust to the new realities 2020 presented. This was evident as we watched our business community pivot, finding innovative and resilient ways to stay open.

The health and safety of constituents has been our top priority, ensuring that information was distributed quickly and supports were in place to help those who needed it. I asked for and will continue to ask for supports for individuals and businesses that need to be fluid and responsive to the needs of northerners.

2021 is a year of hope and a time to capitalize on opportunity. Covid has most definitely highlighted our insecurities as a territory but has also created opportunity through challenges we share with many northern jurisdictions. Digital infrastructure and housing are two of these focuses that are commanding the attention of the federal government and I want to make sure we capitalize on that.

Thank you to the Chief Public Health Officer and the vaccine team for their hard work. Fast action at the onset of the pandemic and difficult decisions prevented the community spread of COVID-19 throughout our territory. While southern Canada is seeing an influx of Covid spread, the NWT vaccine team has successfully vaccinated 25% of our population. I am hopeful for a healthy year with great potential for growth, but we need to remain diligent: practice physical distancing, wash your hands, keep your social circle small and wear a mask for added protection.

We are all finding our footing in an extraordinarily abnormal world and our needs and experiences will all be different. If you find yourself struggling, please don't hesitate to reach out.



| BELIEVE IN OUR NORTH.

All Things COVID-19

VACCINE ROLL-OUT

As of February 1st 12,241 NWT residents have received the Moderna vaccine.

Our health care teams have been able to vaccinate residents (first round) in all 33 communities.

As a result of a recent Federal government announcement, the GNWT is expecting a reduced shipment of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. 4,700 doses will be delivered the first week in February instead of the anticipated 7,200 doses. The shipment scheduled for the third week of February will also be impacted, but we are still waiting for exact details from Moderna.

Updated guidance from the National Advisory Committee on Immunization recommends the second dose be given between 28 and 42 days after the first dose. The Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is reported to be 92% efficacious after the first dose.

Over the next week, the GNWT will continue delivering second doses to long-term care residents and staff using existing vaccine from the first and second shipments.

The GNWT still expects to be able to meet its goal of vaccinating 75% of the adult population by the end of March.

Students will be vaccinated when they return in the Spring.

I will continue to post updates to the vaccine schedule as they come out.

For more information about the COVID-19 vaccine, visit www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19.

The priority groups are established by the CPHO based on the risk of contracting COVID-19. They are not political decisions.

The CPHO is considering people who want to be placed in priority. You can send an email to cpho@gov.nt.ca. A triage committee meets weekly to consider these requests.

Statistics Canada is now working in partnership with the GNWT to help the COVID Secretariat do symptom checks for those who are self-isolating. If you have travelled out of the NWT, you are required to complete symptom checks on Days 2, 6, 10 and 14. Your information remains confidential. This initiative is fully funded by the Federal government as part of a broader Canada-wide partnership between Statistics Canada and provinces and territories.

If you see someone not following CPHO Health Orders, you are encouraged to email ProtectNWT@gov.nt.ca or call 811, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

If you are experiencing any issues accessing **ProtectNWT or 811**, residents can call The Covid Secretariat at **767-9488 extension 61000** to identify the issue.

did **you** know?

I have Masks

I have adult and kids masks (3 layers), if you would like one, email leslie_straker@ntassembly.ca



UPCOMING SESSION STARTING FEB. 3

During session I always start with a comprehensive plan, but even the best laid plans need to be fluid. This upcoming session, I plan to discuss the Emerge Stronger economic recovery plan, staffing at the North Slave Corrections Centre, digital infrastructure, accessing GNWT programs and services, mental health and addictions, trades development and as always housing.

Budget Session – Feb. 3 – March 31

Monday – Thursday 1:30 pm
Friday 10:00 am

Bills going forward:

Bill 12: An Act to Amend the *Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupation Certification Act*

Public clause-by-clause meetings
on February 10 at 7:00 PM

Makes amendments to allow for the issuance of other prescribed certificates, which would allow the Department of Education, Culture and Employment to issue a Certificate of Achievement in Business Competency to NWT journeypersons, commonly known as a Blue Seal Certificate.

Bill 13: An Act to Amend the *Interpretation Act*

Public clause-by-clause review
on February 9 at 12:00 PM

The proposed change to the Act permits the GNWT to have sole discretion in enacting the standard time for the Territory. The Act does not change the time zone of the NWT, but does grant the discretionary powers to the GNWT to make a decision in the future on whether or not to retain Daylight Saving Time.

You can watch the live stream on ntassembly.ca, or on the Legislative Assembly's Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter accounts.

Bill 14: An Act to Amend the *Securities Act*

Public clause-by-clause review
on February 11 at 12 PM

Provides a framework for the designation and regulation of benchmarks and benchmark administrators. The amendments would support the more detailed national rules and standards that have been developed by the Canadian Securities Administrators, ensuring NWT securities legislation remains harmonized with other jurisdictions.

Bill 20: An Act to Amend the *Employment Standards Act*

Public clause-by-clause
meetings on February 10 at
7:00 PM

Includes two provisions that will a) provide protection to NWT workers and b) provide flexibility to employers during the COVID-19 pandemic and any future emergency.

Review of Government Procurement Launched

The GNWT has launched an independent review of its procurement policies and practices. Through interviews, written submissions, targeted engagement opportunities and online surveys, Indigenous Governments and Organizations, elected leaders, the business community, stakeholders and residents will all have an opportunity to share their perspectives and ideas in support of the GNWT's mandated priority to: Ensure government procurement and contracting maximizes benefits to residents and businesses. **It is important that Kam Lake businesses ensure their voices are reflected in the recommendations and reflected in the changes to government procurement.**

The review will take place over the next four months with recommendations to strengthen the GNWT procurement policies and practices delivered this summer.

I will post updates/public engagement on my FB page. If you would like email updates please let my office know at leslie_straker@ntassembly.ca

City of YK Access for All Program

Provides free access to:

- Yellowknife Transit and Yellowknife Accessible Transit Service (YATS)
- All public and family activities at the:
 - » Ruth Inch Memorial Pool
 - » Multiplex
 - » Fieldhouse
 - » All drop-in programs (i.e. play together and drop-in sports)

For more information, including eligibility email AccessForAll@yellowknife.ca or call **920-5685** or visit www.yellowknife.ca/en/living-here/Access-for-All.asp

Available Funding

NEW Labour Market Recovery Program

Labour Market Recovery Wage Subsidy is intended to support employers in recovering from the impact of COVID-19 pandemic, by providing a wage subsidy to support the hiring and retention of staff.

The subsidy is available immediately and is retroactive from April 1, 2020.

Labour Market Recovery Project Fund is intended for employers, organizations and community partners looking to implement projects that will have an impact on the recovery of the NWT labour market. Eligible projects could include:

- Capacity building initiatives
- Development of training programs
- Employment creation
- Industry transition support
- Extension of service delivery
- Initiatives to fill gaps in service or to help individuals find work

Labour Market Community Support is funding which can be used to hire local residents to address pandemic-related needs and support labour market recovery. ECE will be connecting with all 33 communities to provide this funding.

To apply or for more information, please contact or visit:

North Slave ECE Service Centre
Yellowknife
Main Floor, Nova Plaza
5019 – 52nd Street

Call 767-9356

SEED Update: Book Keeping Grant

Businesses in the NWT can now apply for grants of up to \$7,500 to pay for bookkeeping to get their books up to date. Applications will be considered retroactive to April 1, 2020.

CRITERIA:

- There is a 10% minimum equity requirement
- Runs until March 31 of this year
- Businesses who have already received Federal funding for bookkeeping are not eligible

Call 767-9212

The Transitional Rent Subsidy Program (TRSP)

The Transitional Rent Subsidy Program (TRSP) will become the Canadian Housing Benefit as of April 1, 2021 – NWTHC is anticipating a smooth transition but we want people to be aware of the transition and to watch for it.

1-833-966-2281 or NWTHC_TRSP@gov.nt.ca

Canadian English Language Proficiency Index Program (CELPIP) language tests in Yellowknife

At the end of 2020 the Department of Education, Culture and Employment signed a contribution agreement with Collège Nordique Francophone (CNF) to deliver CELPIP language tests in Yellowknife, in collaboration with Paragon Testing.

The funding provided to CNF goes towards six test offerings per fiscal year, which allows for a total of 72 individuals to get tested every year.



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YOU CAN WATCH SESSION on ntassembly.ca, or the Legislative Assembly's Facebook, YouTube, or Twitter accounts and Northwestel, Bell and Shaw <https://www.ntassembly.ca/documents-proceedings/broadcasting>

REACH OUT

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