

ON THE SHORE

Dear residents of Great Slave,

As the days grow shorter and colder, I hope that you and your loved ones can share a safe, warm and bright holiday season together. My very best wishes to you and yours for the holidays and a joyful new year in 2025!

IF YOU NEED HELP OVER THE HOLIDAYS

The holidays can be a challenging time for many of us. If you are feeling lonely, sad, or unsafe during this period, please consider these resources available to all residents:

811 Help Line

811 responders are registered nurses who can also assist you with concerns related to mental wellness and addictions recovery. They are trained in a variety of areas, including stress management, suicidal thoughts, abuse, sexual assault, depression, anxiety, grief, loss, and substance use. Call 8-1-1, or visit www.gov.nt.ca/811

Kids Help Phone

If you are 25 years old or younger and need someone to talk to, the Kids Help Phone is available 24/7. Texting and online chat options are also available. Call 1-800-668-6868, text the word CONNECT to 686868, or visit kidshelpphone.ca

Alison McAteer House Crisis Line

If you are experiencing abuse or violence at home and need help, contact the Alison McAteer House Crisis Line. It is available 24/7, and they can help if you need a safe place to stay, an Emergency Protection Order, or just someone to talk to. If you need help, call 1-866-223-7775

FREE HOLIDAY SEASON'S EVENTS

Winter Lights Across Canada

December 5, 4:45 PM, City Hall and the Legislative Assembly

YK Guild of Arts and Craft Sale

December 7-8, YK Guild's Building

Choral Society Holidays Concert

December 14, 2 and 7 PM, Legislative Assembly

AFCY presents "Contes du Solstice d'hiver"

December 17, 6:30 PM, Northern United Place

Yellowknife Youth Choir presents Songs for a Winter's Night

December 21, 7:30 PM, Calvary Church

Our Constituency Office will be closed from December 20 to January 2 inclusive. I will check emails regularly at kate_reid@ntassembly.ca and post information about key GNWT functions on my social media.



Gender Diversity in Politics



From left to right: Tasha Olekshy, MLA Reid, Nicole Bonnell and Jhillian Adams at the Equal Voices NWT Chapter launch event at the Legislative Assembly.

This fall, I happily joined forces with Mayor Rebecca Alty to organize the launch of the Equal Voice NWT Chapter. Over 50 people took part in the meet and greet at the Legislative

Assembly on October 30. Equal Voice is a national network of engaged citizens, empowering women and gender-diverse Canadians to take an active

role in democratic representation at all levels of elected office. Ensuring our legislatures, parliaments, city halls and other elected bodies have diverse gender representation is how we make these institutions more representative of the people that they serve.

If you didn't make it out on October 30, but are interested in participating, please feel free to reach out and we will keep you in the loop. To keep informed of the Equal Voice NWT Chapter activities, [leave your contact information and answer our survey](#) by scanning the QR code below.



Housing: A Multi-Faceted Concern

Before the start of the Fall session, I spent an afternoon with Premier Simpson and Housing NWT Minister Kuptana on a short constituency tour. No, I didn't show them the breathtaking views from René Fumoleau's bench on Tin Can Hill. Instead, I gave them a peek into the sad state of two of the riding's apartment buildings.

I wanted the Premier and the Minister to see for themselves what it really means when we talk about the housing crisis. Some of our residents are living in undignified situations. Maintenance and safety is a crucial concern for residents and landlords of several buildings in the riding, but policy and legislative change is not responsive enough to quickly to change the state of these



buildings. In many cases, the GNWT pays for these apartments as public housing units or through the Income Assistance program. I'm grateful for the constituents who welcomed the Premier, the Minister and I into their homes – they are brave single moms that are raising families in less than ideal conditions. I could see the impact that your stories of lived experience had on all of us, and I will continue

to look at ways to improve your situations and how we can do better overall for folks living in poor rental situations. Housing is a major issue in our community. The riding has seen it first-hand with the encampment on 51st Street. And although I am grateful that the GNWT is renovating the Aspen Apartments, and providing new opportunities for underhoused individuals based on what they themselves are asking for, we still need to be doing more. In discussion with the Premier and the Minister, I continue to advocate so that the new year will bring more actions from Cabinet on both public safety and housing to provide tangible, positive change for residents.

Four Decades on Stage

A major NWT arts institution located in the constituency of Great Slave is turning 40 this year. The Northern Arts and Cultural Centre (NACC) is celebrating four decades of entertainment on stage. The NACC opened its doors in 1984 and has since grown into the North's premier organization for all kinds of performing arts. More than just a theatre venue in Yellowknife, the NACC brings world-class entertainment into communities across the NWT and fosters talent through its outreach programs, mentorship initiatives, and creative offshoots such as the ATTI!

Indigenous Artists Collective. The NACC's Executive Director Marie Coderre notes the 52nd Avenue institution remains community-minded at its core. "NACC holds a huge place in the community's heart," she says, as local productions account for more than 60% of the venue's booking. For its big 40, the NACC has commissioned two of its most illustrious alumni, singer-songwriter Leela Gilday and playwright and director Reneltha Arluk, to curate [a one-night only birthday extravaganza](#) featuring some of the North's best performers on December 7. Happy birthday, NACC, and break a leg!



Dispatch From Down Under

From November 3rd to 8th, I took part in the [67th Commonwealth Parliamentary Conference](#) in Sydney, Australia. I was honoured to be part of a small delegation, composed of Speaker Shane Thompson, Legislative Assembly Clerk Glen Rutland and myself in my capacity as the NWT's Commonwealth Women Parliamentarian representative. I had the opportunity to present in a panel discussion on [Balancing Tradition and Innovation: Modernising the Westminster System in Small Jurisdictions](#). My presentation was on the cooperation between the GNWT, Indigenous Governments and the Legislative Assembly, and how they work collaboratively to develop, review and pass land and resource legislation. I attended many workshops and lectures, but my favourites were *Creating Inclusive Elections for Persons with Disabilities*, and *The Retention of Women in Parliaments: How to Keep Women in Politics*. I was also pleased to sit in during



the Speaker's attendance in his role as regional champion of the Regional Champions of the Commonwealth Parliamentarians with Disabilities network's annual governance meeting. I am humbled to have this experience and will be incorporating lessons learned into my work.



Youth in the Legislature

It is always an honour to greet and acknowledge pages from the riding of Great Slave – like Jack Lau pictured here – when they are working in the Legislature. [The Page Program](#) offers NWT youth an excellent introduction to the workings of our consensus-style parliamentary system. Each sitting day, six grade 7-8 students work as pages in the Legislature, including two from Yellowknife.

If your middle-schooler is interested in learning more about our unique democratic process, and wants to experience first-hand how policy and laws are decided in the Legislative Assembly, please contact the Official Languages and Public Outreach Coordinator at

La_PAC@ntassembly.ca or (867) 767-9130 ext. 12022.

[Youth Parliament](#) is another Legislative Assembly program that is dear to my heart. From April 27 to 29, 2025, 19 grade 9-10 students – one for each constituency – will take part in a mock legislative session. Through this process, Youth Parliamentarians get to prepare a member statement, ask questions in the House, and learn how a Bill becomes a law. It is a fun-filled week of hands-on leadership training. Who will get to represent Great Slave in the 2025 Youth Parliament? Now is the time to put your name forward by completing the form [on the Legislative Assembly's website](#).

Doodle-icious!

Have you noticed just how good this newsletter looks? I felt the first edition of *On The Shore* was a bit simple, so I contacted Yellowknife illustrator Alison McCreesh and asked her to infuse some of her joyfulness and magic into the newsletter. I'm so pleased with how it turned out! Alison did such a great job capturing the spirit of our community and the beauty Great Slave landmarks such as Tin Can Hill, Rat Lake and the School Draw neighbourhood – and all of our four-legged friends!

Alison is also an author. Earlier this year, she published the monumental graphic novel [Degrees of Separation](#) (Conundrum Press, 2024) which looks back at a decade of exploring and gazing at the circumpolar world with wit and heart. It is not just funny, informative and touching, it also features places and people that you might recognize, including one character that eerily resembles my Constituency Assistant Batiste.

Books by northern authors also make great gifts!



Celebrating Your Achievements

Celebrating the achievements of constituents is important to me. I can celebrate some in the Legislature, but the scope is limited in our rules. I want to create space in this newsletter to highlight residents' accomplishments. Do you know a neighbour who has just graduated? Who won an award? Who is welcoming a new family member? Who obtained their permanent residency or citizenship? A couple celebrating an important anniversary? A worker taking that well deserved retirement? Or someone who is just a great person overall? I want to know! Please, submit your big achievers to my CA at batiste_foisy@ntassembly.ca, including a short description of why you believe this person ought to be recognized.

In this issue we celebrate :

- The great Dene leader **George Erasmus** who just published his political memoirs. [Hèt'a! Enough! George Erasmus's Fifty-Year Battle for Indigenous Rights](#) was published by Dundurn Press in November.
- **Shaun Bourke-MacPherson** who won the Journeyperson Recognition in Carpentry at the 2024 Apprenticeship, Trade and Occupation Certification Awards.

Congratulations to them both!

How to Reach Us

The Great Slave Constituency Team is here to listen and help. Get in touch!

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