

Great Slave Constituency Meeting

May 21, 2024

Fraser Tower

Meeting opens at 6:37 PM

In attendance:

- Kate Reid, MLA Great Slave
- Batiste Foisy, Constituency Assistant to MLA Reid
- Joel Holder, Director of Economic Diversification, ITI
- 12 constituents

1) Introduction by MLA Reid

MLA Reid welcomes attendees and introduces ITI's Joel Holder.

2) ITI Presentation: Work at the Robertson Drive Dock

ITI's Joel Holder gives a detailed presentation on planned improvement work at the Robertson Drive Dock

- The boat launch is under the purview of ITI
- Signage has been posted at the boat launch last year and updated recently
- Tender for the design of the improved dock will go out shortly and consultation will be held with residents and fishing industry
- Work at the dock is expected in the Summer of 2025. During that time access to the boat launch will be restricted
- Work is expected to be completed in 2026
- Consideration of this site by DFO for a Small Craft Harbour is inconclusive

Some constituents note a history of vandalism and vagrancy at this location.

Some constituents note that a seemingly abandoned houseboat has been moored at this location for several years.

Mr. Holder attests to being aware of these issues and expects that the dock improvement work will contribute to fixing these concerns. Signage to deter people from free-camping on-site will be added.

3) Spill near Rat Lake

MLA Reid gives the latest update from ECC concerning the fuel spill that occurred on Rycon Drive in April 2024.

- Between 120 to 200 litre of heating fuel is estimated to have been spilled.
- Remediation has been undertaken.

Some constituents note that the spill appears to have been dealt with appropriately.

4) Tin Can Hill

MLA Reid gives an update on the Tin Can Hill issue.

- Discussions have been initiated with the Minister of ITI and the Mayor regarding avenues to make Tin Can Hill a territorial park or a protected area. This is not something that is currently contemplated by NWT Parks or the City.
- Parts of the Tin Can Hill area are under City management while the southern section is Commissioner's Land. This land is also subject to negotiations of outstanding Indigenous land claims. Miramar Mining Corporation meanwhile is responsible for the remediation and decontamination of the southern end of Tin Can Hill.
- The possibility of the portion of Tin Can Hill under municipal management being developed as a Yellowknife Campus is dependent on the results of an Environmental Site Assessment (ESA).
- The ESA was expected to be released in March 2024. It is currently being reviewed by the Department of Infrastructure, it will then be reviewed by ECE.
- MLA Reid hopes to see the ESA herself this summer.
- MLA Reid hopes to host a joint town hall meeting with the Minister of ECE and the Mayor once the ESA is out, possibly this fall.

Some constituents express gratitude for the updates. They are looking forward to further discussion on this matter.

5) Budget

MLA Reid says she can't get into the details of the Budget before the address but says not to expect major investments and that Cabinet has been warning of a tight financial situation.

Some constituents express concern with the state of the economy in the context of diamond mining decline.

Some constituents express concerns with the cost of housing. Some report facing steep rent increases.

Some constituents broach the topic of wildfires and the review of the historic 2023 wildfire season.

MLA Reid mentions the debate surrounding the review, mentioning she and her regular members colleagues had voted in favor of motion calling for a public inquiry. Meanwhile the government had engaged in an expanded after-action review process that is underway.

Some constituents broach the topic of public service collective bargaining.

6) Public Service Collective Bargaining

MLA Reid notes her support for the civil service, mentioning her past involvement with the UNW.

Some constituents express dismay at how the current collective agreement is already over a year past its end and we are still in negotiations.

MLA Reid tempers that it is the habitual pace of such negotiations.

Some constituents express frustration with the practice of hiring agency nurses arguing it disincentivizes health workers to choose a career in the NWT public sector.

Meeting ends at 7:32 PM