



NWT ELECTIONS – IN 2023, VOTE WITH PURPOSE!

Candidates for 20th Legislative Assembly Territorial Elections 2023

Did you know that the NWT Disabilities Council approximates 9,000 people living with disability throughout the Territory and that another 1 in 9 are directly affected by disability as a family member, friend, or caregiver? This is approximately an additional 3,500 people. How can the Legislators keep sidelining this marginalized population?

The NWT Disabilities Council asked all candidates to commit to 10 steps that would assist in improving accessibility and inclusion across the territory.

Members of the Legislative Assembly Pledge 2023:

I pledge that, as a Member of the 20th Legislative Assembly, I will take these 10 practical action steps towards making my territory accessible, inclusive, fairer, and more equitable for ALL.

1. Ensure that all future housing and public building development incorporates universal design and is affordable. That all housing projects have a minimum standard of 20% accessible living units and that all common areas are accessible.
2. Advocate for increased program resources and funding for people with disabilities to make required renovations to accommodate their accessibility needs and remain in their home.
3. Ensure that public housing maintains properties to ensure safe habitability for people with disabilities and to engage in renovations to make a minimum 20% of their housing units, in each community, accessible for living.
4. To commit to repatriating people with disabilities, who are from the Northwest Territories, back to the territory and whenever possible their home communities/regions, who have been sent out of territory for care. To commit to working to increase the services and support available to people with disabilities in the NWT to ensure that all residents are able to live with their own families and within their own communities.
5. To withdraw the current Policy 49.07 and further engage disability organizations, specifically the NWT Disabilities Council, to review the policy and impacts with quantitative data associated with cost savings, cost of implementation and numbers of people impacted. Then to present a new draft for informed public consultation.
6. To ensure that the 20th Legislative Assembly works with Municipalities, Communities, Indigenous governments, and Disability NGOs to help build accessible transportation networks and infrastructure in regional centers and communities.
7. To ensure current levels of educational assistance for learning supports, for students with disabilities across the lifespan, are not reduced and consultation occur to required increases to ensure inclusive and accessible education across the territory.
8. To have government department representatives work with the NWT Disabilities Council, Disability NGOs, and Indigenous groups to review the Final Report for the 2018 Action Plan for Persons with Disabilities and to develop an action plan with a concrete evaluation plan so that moving forward the Action Plan reflects and addresses the needs of people with disabilities.
9. To recognize that Disability is its own distinct, marginalized minority and not a sub-category of other groups and must be considered and consulted as such. This will be done with on-going scheduled consultation between the Minister Responsible for Persons with Disabilities and the NWT Disabilities Council. In addition, the Standing Committee on Social Development engages with the NWT Disabilities Council, which did not occur during the 19th Legislative Assembly even after many requests by the NWT Disabilities Council.
10. That you will uphold The United Nations (UN) Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (the CRPD), the international treaty that was adopted in 2006 to help protect the rights of people with disabilities around the world. Canada and 183 other states parties have accepted the legal obligations contained in the CRPD, to which the Northwest Territories is committed.

I pledge that if elected I will take these 10 steps to help ensure that all persons living with disabilities have equal citizenship in the Northwest Territories.

The following candidates responded, by deadline, with their pledge to all ten steps as presented by the NWT Disabilities Council.

Three candidates, Caroline Wawzonek, Bruce Valpy, and Deanna Cornfield did not sign a pledge but provided supportive responses, with comments, to the steps as presented.

Frame Lake - Julian Morse, Stuart Wray, Deanna Cornfield (provided supportive comments to the steps in an email)

Great Slave - Stacie Smith, Kate Reid, Katrina Nokleby

Hay River North - Michael Wallington

Hay River South - Greg McMeekin (provided response with comments)

Kam Lake - Caitland Cleveland (acclaimed, and reached out for discussion on ensuring increased participation)

Range Lake - Kieran Testart, Nicole Sok

Yellowknife Centre - Robert Hawkins

Yellowknife North - Shauna Morgan, Jon Howe, Bruce Valpy (provided supportive comments to the steps in an email)

Yellowknife South - Caroline Wawzonek – (acclaimed, provided supportive response with comments)

If a candidate from your riding is not here in support , Ask **WHY NOT??**

Although these issues are prevalent across the territory, they are more impactful to those living with disabilities in the smaller communities - Why is there zero response from some ridings??

Ridings AND candidates with no response:

Dehcho - no response (Ronald Bonnetrouge, Richard Lafferty, Steven Vandell, Sheryl Yakeleya)

Inuvik Boot Lake - no response (Diane Archie, Denny Rodgers, Sallie Ross)

Inuvik Twin Lakes - (Lenora McLeod, Lesa Semmler)

Mackenzie Delta - no response (Frederick Blake Jr., George Nerysoo, Richard Ross Jr.)

Monfwi - no response (Jane Armstrong - acclaimed)

Nahendeh - no response (Sharon Allen, Joshua Campbell, Mavis Cli-Michaud, Hillary Deneron, Shane Thompson, Les Wright)

Nukaput - no response (Lucy Kuptana, Vince Teddy)

Sahtu - no response (Paulie Chinna, Daniel McNeely, Delphine Pierrot)

Thebacha - no response (Connie Benwell, Jay MacDonald, Frieda Martselos)

Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh - no response (Nadine Delorme, Richard Edjericon)

(full responses and all referenced material on our website www.nwtcdc.net)

The NWT Disabilities Council asks that every person consider the commitment to disability issues when honouring a candidate with your vote this November . Your vote can send the message that helping to create an Inclusive and Accessible Territory is a Priority.

VOTE WITH PURPOSE FOR TRUE DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION!