

ALL CANDIDATES TERRITORIAL ELECTION FORUM ANSWERS

Prepared by: NWT Chamber of Commerce
and NWT & NU Chamber of Mines

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September 19, 2019

The NWT is about to enter into two very pivotal elections in October and we want to make sure that we are putting the most pressing business related issues to all Territorial candidates. Both the NWT Chamber of Commerce and NWT & NU Chamber of Mines sent out a survey to our collective memberships of 500+ businesses and/or individuals asking them: "The NWT is about to enter into two pivotal elections in October and we want to make sure that we are putting the most pressing business related issues to all Territorial and Federal candidates. Below please rank in order of importance to you and/or your business..." The top 5 issues were Red Tape/Barriers to Entry; Cost of Living; Over Regulation; Mineral Industry and Housing.

The resulting questions are as follows:

1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?
2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWT's economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?
3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

Deh Cho

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No response



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No response



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- 1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?**

Tourism is booming in Yellowknife but we are not getting the most out of this. We need to reopen a visitor centre that lets tourists know what local tour companies are offering. It could be a great place for local artists to showcase and sell their work. Investing in a visitor centre needs to be done with the City of Yellowknife as it develops a hotel tax and destination marketing. We also need longer runways at the Yellowknife airport to allow us to get direct flights from Asia, as Whitehorse has done for its European market.

Focusing on renewable energy is also a good job creation approach. Our energy needs are split three ways: community home heating and electricity, transportation, and industrial use. We could certainly become 100% self-sufficient with better insulated homes and use of wood pellets and chips. We would lower power costs and save on shipping of fossil fuels. We converted to a wood pellet boiler in our home and our heating costs were significantly reduced.

We could also harvest more solar, wind and hydro power to become more self-reliant instead of importing 80% of our energy sources. There are many innovations in transportation that would make a big difference such as biofuel and electric vehicles, especially in the South Slave with its excess power from Taltson. Improving existing housing stock and building new homes, will create jobs in all of our communities, lower the cost of living, and reduce greenhouse gas emissions. A win-win situation all around.

In the last Assembly, an Arts Strategy was created to help this small but important part of our economy that continues to grow. An action plan is under development and should help guide further investment. There are some tremendous opportunities for partnerships with the federal government in this sector. We have a vibrant film industry, great performing artists and world class Indigenous crafts that can continue to grow. This brings me to the development of an NWT Polytechnic University with a Yellowknife campus. We can and should become a place with more cold weather technology and design better systems for energy efficiency. We should also become a world leader in environmental remediation, whether it is at Giant

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Mine, Norman Wells or other contaminated sites. We also need to make sure that more of the benefits from remediation at Giant Mine stay in the north.

GNWT's own economic multipliers show that more jobs are created per dollar of investment in almost any other sector compared to mining and petroleum. Investment in forestry, agriculture and the fisheries, creates more jobs for the same spending. We need to invest our tax dollars and revenues in ways that will create the most employment in sustainable and innovative jobs.

- 2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWTs economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?**

Mining exploration investment has not returned because the markets and commodity prices do not support its recovery. It's not because we did not welcome the industry. Mining was very well represented in the last Assembly. I can't imagine how Premier McLeod could have done more to promote mining. We had our entire Cabinet go to Vancouver to promote mining in the NWT for each of the last four years.

The best diamonds are gone and those mines will close. Yes, there are other projects that are quite advanced but the obstacles are financial and market-driven, something we have little control over. We can consider public subsidies for roads and power grids to make more mines economically feasible. If this is to happen, there needs to be robust and independent analysis coupled with public debate around value for money. That work and debate has yet to happen. Some of that effort may even be better directed toward Giant Mine remediation with overall expenditures that will exceed a billion dollars. It is the largest project ever for Yellowknife. We need to make sure we maximize local benefits with jobs, training and contracts for northerners and our businesses.

We can control how we promote ourselves as a great place to live, work and do business. We have an environmental management system that is different by design, where local people get an important say. We have a world class environmental and resource management system. There are no mines in the Ring of Fire region of northern Ontario because of the uncertainty over land rights and management. We need to progress with the remaining NWT land rights negotiations. This should be a priority for the next Assembly.

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I fought very hard to create a better *Mineral Resources Act*, where benefits would be clearly laid out and rules in various zones would be consistent and accountable. The mining industry also pushed for a well-defined appeal process to be directed by experts. I supported this approach. A lot more work is required to fully develop and implement a new system for mining rights. I pushed for a defined, inclusive process that would ensure participation by Indigenous governments, industry and other stakeholders. I have the experience and skills to help with the further development of this system and look forward to serving in the next Assembly.

- 3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?**

For the record, I opposed the airport improvement fee and the carbon tax developed by Cabinet because of the lack of accountability in the legislation. There should have been a legislated advisory committee for the airport improvement fees as there is for recycling fees. I believe in a carbon tax as a critical tool for addressing the climate crisis but Cabinet's approach leaves all the rebates and grants to the discretion of future Finance Ministers with no public reporting. We could have had a system like the Yukon with rebates and grants for municipal and Indigenous governments and revenue-sharing as well.

On to how we can lower the cost of living. Investing in renewable energy and developing local sources of power could dramatically reduce our electricity and heating costs. If we used wood sources for heating and developed more district heating systems, that would bring cost savings. The use of hydro power could play a role, particularly for remote communities with small hydro potential such as Whati, Gameti, Wekweti and Lutsel K'e. When we get these communities off diesel, we will all save on power bills. This will take reorientation of the NWT Power Corp away from big grids and big projects to energy self-sufficiency for our communities and households. Large hydro projects such as Taltson expansion where there are no confirmed markets or business case, will lead to problems. One needs to look no further than Muskrat Falls in Labrador, Site C or many other large hydro projects that turned out to be too costly and ineffective. Taltson should be made to provide more power for the South Slave.

A retrofit program that allowed home owners to get a loan to do renovations to increase the energy efficiency of their homes would help cut heating costs as well. We could create a revolving fund where home owners could borrow and pay back the loan based on savings in heating costs. Funds from the

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carbon tax could help start this revolving fund. Arctic Energy Alliance programs should also be made more accessible and provide greater incentives towards energy self-sufficiency.

Food costs have also risen and so promoting and supporting local food production would help to provide fresher food and decrease the transportation required. The proposed fish plant in Hay River will help to build the fishing industry and promote a great northern resource that can help put food on our tables.

A few other ideas. We still need the Northern Resident Tax Deduction to be indexed to inflation. An improved Nutrition North program also needs to account for harvester support and inter-settlement trade of food products.

While I have focused on lowering the cost of living, we also have to make sure our Northern workers get fair wages and benefits. We need to more regularly review our minimum wage and move it towards a true living wage where individuals and families can make ends meet more easily here in the north. We also should consider a pilot project on a guaranteed basic income to look at how we can redesign our income support programs to become more empowering and efficient.

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- 1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?**

The NWT always ranks near the top when it comes to resource opportunities, but we continue to see our overall investment in exploration trail behind the Yukon and Nunavut. We need to aggressively pursue the mining agenda. We can start by repositioning ourselves as a jurisdiction interested in being a player in the clean energy economy. We can help fight climate change by developing our resources that will go into batteries, wind turbines, solar panels and other new technologies. We have the largest deposit of rare earth minerals outside of China located 60kms SE of Yellowknife, and a large cobalt opportunity at Fortune's Nico project near Wha Ti. We need to invest in infrastructure that will assist in the responsible mining of these resources. Aside from resource development we can diversify our economy by setting up commercial fishing in Yellowknife, promote and market tourism to attract more visitors, pursue big companies to cold weather test their equipment in the NWT, pursue hydro developments, develop the knowledge based economy and post secondary opportunities in Yellowknife.

- 2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWTs economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?**

The settlement of the 2 large outstanding land claims (Deh Cho and Akaitcho) will certainly help bring some surety to investors and exploration companies. Infrastructure needs to be put in place to allow for the exploration and potential development of new mines. Roads, bridges and power are critical to us reaching our potential. I am very supportive of the Slave Province road and opening up the opportunities for base metals and diamonds in the Slave Province. A move to map staking may also encourage more exploration. We need to look at other incentives to attract junior mining companies, we can't afford to wait. I would

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support the near term mining projects in the NWT including Terra X, Fortune Minerals Nico project, Osisko's Pine Point project, Nor Zinc's Prairie Creek Mine, and the advancement of the MacTung property.

- 3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?**

I am not in favour of any increased tax burden for NWT residents. I would lobby the federal government to take the GST off of home heating fuel. I would support Universal child care for residents, this would greatly reduce the cost of living for families, it would help us retain and attract people to the NWT and families may even grow in size. We need competition in telecoms. Families are feeling like they are being taken advantage of by the price of internet and cable. Why are we one of the only places in Canada where you can not get unlimited data for a fixed price?

Great Slave

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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

With the diamond mines set to close in the next decade we need to expand the life of the existing mines while stimulating our exploration sector through key infrastructure projects such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the Slave Geologic Road, and the Talston expansion. We need to leverage the Giant Mine Remediation Project to build Indigenous businesses in the emerging reclamation and remediation fields to provide transferrable skills to locals and northerners. This will also ensure that dollars spent cleaning up existing mines remain in the north while we wait for the exploration sector to rebound.

Expansion of our all-weather road system and green energy projects would inject money into the NWT construction sector as well as reduce the cost of doing business in the NWT.

A Polytechnic University would be a great way to attract new people to the territory. We have amazing talent in the NWT and could become a world class leader in climate change and permafrost research. Upon graduation it's likely many of these students would stay in the territory and continue with their research and work, increasing the number of transfer payments from the federal government. Students from the University would be a potential labour pool to work lower paying, service sector jobs that are currently experiencing a staffing shortage.

At the same time, we need to start building a parallel, sustainable economy for the children of the Northwest Territories and future generations. We must improve the efficiency with how we operate the government and solicit feedback from end-users and experts when making decisions that affect their lives and work. We need to increase investor certainty by settling land claims and increasing the cohesiveness of our government. We also need to build local capacity and employment through the utilization of successful Indigenous businesses such as Det'on Cho Corporation, Denesoline, and the Tlicho Group of Companies.

2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWTs economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

Mining is over 30% of our GDP and with the diamond mines set to close within the decade we need to act now to stimulate exploration. When speaking with exploration companies I hear mining companies are not interested in the NWT because they have sustainability mandates for their mines to be powered with cleaner energy. When all we have to offer is diesel operations, exploration companies can't sell their finds. We must remember we are competing for mining dollars in a global economy and must make investment here enticing.

The factors I believe are key to a revitalizing our mining industry are:

- a. The construction of infrastructure, as the cost of power and production in the north is prohibitive. We need to expand our all-weather road system to reduce climate uncertainty on our transportation systems and implement affordable green energy solutions. We should work towards creating all-weather roads to market including accessing future ports in Nunavut.
- b. We must continue to refresh our regulatory system. We have one of the strongest regulatory regimes in the world however regular reviews should be conducted to ensure we're staying current and to reduce any unnecessary barriers to staying competitive in the global market.
- c. We need to reduce uncertainty in the territory. Instability or lack of cohesion within the GNWT can cause us to lose out on federal funding while unsettled land claims prevent Indigenous groups from being full participants at the table. This makes investors hesitant to do business in the NWT.

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We need to work on building our economy and implementing more efficient energy systems so that we can reduce the cost of living and power for citizens. We should increase funding for greenhouses, agriculture, and country food programs to deal with food security issues. We should also incentivize home ownership by offering grants or subsidies to first time homeowners and increase funding to organizations such as Arctic Energy Alliance that aid homeowners in retrofitting their homes to operate more efficiently.

The riding of Great Slave has a number of low-income residents who are hit particularly hard by the higher cost of living in the NWT. Many of these residents are new immigrants to Canada who likely face language and other barriers when trying to obtain higher paying jobs. I would support increased funding to programs that aid people new to Canada, and other low-income workers, in obtaining the skills necessary to be successful.

As I speak with more residents of Great Slave, I realize that the prohibitive cost of daycare is a huge issue in my riding. I would be in support of further daycare subsidies for low-income families as well as exploring the possibility of increasing daycare spaces in Yellowknife.

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Patrick Scott

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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

When you look at the slow housing market over the summer, it may be fair to say the economic slump is upon us. Economic diversification and collaboration are two of the tools we must use to grow the economy.

Collaboration - I see it being needed at two levels. GNWT needs to collaborate more effectively when dealing with Indigenous governments to create stability, certainty and more efficiencies. The continuing cycle of ongoing negotiations with the Akaitcho and the Dehcho must come to an end with Agreements. That requires collaboration not confrontation. The devolution intergovernmental forum could be opened up with the full participation all Indigenous governments to other matters beside devolution. Let's expand on their achievements.

Diversification - We can begin by tackling a few immediate problems - the cost of living and promoting the quality of life. Too many mine workers live in the south. We need to specifically target new employees with information about the quality of life in the North and have resource companies operate with employees who live in the North. We lose too many tax dollars and local spending activity that could be recaptured by bringing mine employees into the North. In reaching out we also need to address the cost of living. Power rates and utility costs are essential services. Government needs to take another look at the delivery of power and the rate structures. GNWT could consider a rebate on home heating expenditures.

I fully support the development of an independent Poly Technic University with its main campus in Yellowknife. It will bring new revenues into the community and improve the equality of life for Yellowknife and all Northerners. Sudbury is a good example of a mining town that has benefited from becoming a University town. I would also call for free tuition at the college for Northern students.

The extraction industry has slowed in the NWT. There is a lack of certainty because of the outstanding claims. That cannot go on. Mining projects need to take a strong collaborative approach with Indigenous governments, continuing to build on the partnerships and training that has been developed. They also need to be respectful and proactive in willingly meeting the environmental requirements. We must protect the long term interests, as well as addressing the short term immediate ones. This upcoming Assembly

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must ensure the Mining regulations that will define the implementation of the Mining Act reflect that interests of Northerners and are completed quickly.

I haven't yet touched on the potential of the renewable resources sector to help diversify and build our economy. New initiatives in solar and wind generation are overdue. There is a potential for smaller community sized run of the river generators, blameless windmills and retrofitting homes. A transportation subsidy on building materials would lower the costs and also stimulate new home construction and retrofitting.

2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWTs economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

To begin with, I believe we need to recover many of the existing jobs. We must bring back jobs by putting strong measures to have existing and future mining operations like the Fortune Mineral project require employees to live in the North. More effort must be made to train Northerners to work in the industry. When the government hires someone they expect to live where the positions located. We lose too many tax dollars and spending revenue to other jurisdictions. We could be doing a better job tracking Northern students after they graduate from college and provide encouragement and opportunities for them to return. As previously stated completing the mining regulations will set the stage for developers so they have clarity on the requirements for operating. As well the two outstanding land claims must be completed. This should be a priority so that certainty is created for all parties.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

I will call for a review of power rates. I would like to see commercial and domestic rates equalized. Power cost for small businesses need some breaks. Fees like the airport improvement fee bring external revenue

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into the general revenues of the NWT and are common way across the country to raise revenues to maintain and develop airport infrastructure. However, the discrepancies in charging parking fees at airports leaves Yellowknifers paying more than others. I would seek to have parking fees discontinued at the Yellowknife airport. I don't like the carbon tax but I understand its value. We should establish A 100% rebate for middle and lower income families whose finances are stretched. A transportation subsidy, on home building materials could assist in lowering the cost of homes and stimulate the home construction market. There is a substantial need for both affordable and accessible day care and after school care. I support universal daycare and more accessible training for day home operators. Finally as previously stated a carbon tax rebate on home heating fuel would help reduce the cost of maintaining a home.

Hay River North

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No response

Hay River South

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No response



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No response



Kam Lake

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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

The economy does best when governments invest in Northerners and their communities. I have long shared this perspective and have advocated for economic stimulus during the 18th Assembly in the form of strategic spending that creates jobs and growth in local economies. Though I remain supportive of long-term strategic infrastructure investments, such as the Mackenzie Valley Highway, what our economy needs today is short to medium term growth to prevent a projected recession starting over the next four years. My plan is based on three primary areas of investment: cost of living offsets, Northern business development and local economic investment. My platform calls for the creation of new tax credits and benefits that will promote new growth and lower the cost of living and doing business in the North. Perhaps most important to municipalities is my commitment to close the municipal funding gap and transfer all uncontested land with municipal boundaries to local governments. These actions will invest millions of infrastructure spending into our communities, create more than 200 jobs and drive new economic growth in larger centres like Yellowknife, while opening up new markets in smaller communities. Small business are the economic engine of our communities, creating jobs and opportunities for countless Northerners. My platform calls for the elimination of the NWT Small Business Tax that will ensure the NWT is the most tax competitive jurisdiction in Canada's North. This will inject \$2.4 million into the economy and combined with new business and industry focused tax credits, encourage business owners and entrepreneurs to reinvest in their operations, strengthening their capacity and creating new jobs and opportunities. The health of our economy is the most important election issue for me and I have the policies, experience and connections to get real results and get the economy moving forward.

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2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWT's economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

Natural resources are the foundation of the NWT economy. Our comparatively small population and reliance on federal transfer funding means that natural resources and the minerals industry in particular, do the heavy lifting to create prosperity and opportunity for the NWT and Northerners. The NWT diamond mines are maturing and mineral exploration has been on a steady decline for more than a decade despite the efforts of past governments to make a difference in boosting mining investment. The next government must do things differently and offer greater incentives for mining and create regulatory certainty that creates investor confidence for the NWT economy. In 2015 I ran on a commitment to increase the Mining Incentive Program by \$600,000 and I kept that promise within the first two budgets of the 18th Legislative Assembly. The Mining Incentive Program is still oversubscribed even with the additional funding and my 2019 platform commits to double the program's funding and bring about additional improvements to allow for more logistics costs, such as helicopter surveying, being eligible expenses for reimbursement. I am also committed to provide additional funding for advanced project development incentives that will help mining projects get up and running faster. Though the NWT has world class co-management regulatory regime that ensures social licence for minerals projects, there is still a need to create greater clarity in those regulations to provide certainty to investors. My platform calls for the devolution of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act to the NWT so Northerners have full control over all regulatory decisions and can deliver on much needed regulatory improvements, such as addressing concerns over environmental assessment requirements. These improvements can be addressed directly by the 19th Assembly and future governments instead of waiting for Ottawa to make the changes the North desperately needs. There is also a need to revisit the new Mineral Resources Act passed in the final days of the 18th Assembly, to provide legislative clarity on new concepts, such as legislated benefit agreements, and political direction to ensure that all parties, including Indigenous Governments, industry and the public have a seat at the table in developing the new regulatory regime. I am confident my platform will create the certainty and cost-cutting benefits that will attract new investment and make the NWT more competitive for the minerals industry.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

The cost of living remains the number one concerns of all Northerners, no matter what community they call home. Politicians all seem to run on promises to lower the cost of living but have failed to deliver and affordability remains a challenge for many hard-working Northerners and their families. My platform takes a new approach to address the high cost of living through the creation of a Northern Living Tax Benefit, a tax benefit that will put cash back into the pockets of Northerners as a monthly or quarterly benefit. 97% of Northerners file their taxes, which means that this benefit will reach nearly every household in the NWT and provide real economic relief to middle class families and those living in poverty, reducing the cost of living and injecting new spending into local economies. My platform also offers a commitment to fast-track the Taltson hydro expansion through private sector partnerships that can connect the NWT to Southern energy markets faster than the current approach. This will allow for the sale of power in the short term, taking the pressure of NWT ratepayers and lowering the cost of power, while building the foundation for a clean energy future that will drive transmission lines farther North to Yellowknife and eventually into the mineral rich Slave Geological Province. The NWT has vast hydroelectric potential and could develop this opportunity to become a net exporter for clean energy for Western Canada, bring revenue to the GNWT and lower costs to all residents. I don't want governments to keep talking about the "high cost of living", I want governments to offer meaningful solutions that work for our communities and I believe my platform will deliver real results to lower the cost of living.



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1. **The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?**

There are two main ways the GNWT can support economic growth in the coming years. First we need to **make the NWT an attractive place to do business through** inclusion by bringing the right players to the table to remove our economic barriers. That means connecting government and regulatory boards to entrepreneurs and industrial partners for the purpose of socially and environmentally responsible development. And, second we need to prioritize settling Land Claims with integrity and respect.

The second way the GNWT can support economic growth is reducing the cost of doing business in the NWT through strategic infrastructure investments by diversifying our economy through made in the North public-private partnerships with northern businesses to address our insecurities and increase our resilience in the following five infrastructures:

- Energy;
- Agriculture;
- Communication;
- Education; and,
- Transportation.

Transportation infrastructure not only includes the Slave Geological Province all-season access road but also a need to evaluate the opportunity of an Arctic Deep Water Port. Russia, China and the United States have all positioned themselves as major players in the Arctic and are already at the table. We, the NWT, need to take a seat at this table to support and encourage socially and environmentally responsible activity through the Northwest Passage to ensure our economic opportunities in the Arctic are protected. As the Northwest Passage becomes more accessible a deep sea port would provide multiple economic and social gains for our territory:

- Lowering the cost of sea lift;
- search and rescue capabilities for international shipping;
- access to sustainable harvest of valuable arctic fisheries;
- protection of national sovereignty;

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- tourism; and
- research.

2. **Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWTs economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?**

Mining is a historic and valued driver of the NWT economy. The current decline in mining is very concerning. It has many contributing factors, including global market trends and commodity prices. Nonetheless, I believe the GNWT can and should actively support and encourage responsible mineral resource development in a few key ways:

- By making strategic infrastructure investments that reduce the cost of energy;
- By facilitating access to mineral deposits through an all-season access road to the Slave Geological Province;
- By ensuring that GNWT policies and processes are modern, fair, transparent and accessible;
- By settling land claims with respect and integrity, streamlining regulatory processes and clarifying measurable objectives to provide certainty for business and the environment;
- By supporting local and Indigenous business development; and
- By strengthening the NWT skilled labour pool.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

As a territory we receive our greatest income from our population size through Federal Transfer Payments. This means that the more people that live in the NWT, the more income we earn as a territory. Therefore, investing in marketing and incentive programs that encourage people to return or move to the North would be of great benefit.

In addition, we need to continue to invest in our infrastructure insecurities. This means investing in:

- Energy infrastructure to reduce the cost of energy and the reliance of our communities on diesel fuel;
- Transportation infrastructure through all-season roads;
- Communication infrastructure to increase broadband redundancy and our resilience to infrastructure failure;
- Agriculture infrastructure to create a means for the North to grow its own food; and
- Education infrastructure to grow, train, and retain skilled northerners.

To do this we can start by:

1. Increase incentives to support northern businesses involved in infrastructure growth.
2. Reduce redundancy and cost of program delivery by empowering Indigenous and community governments to administer programs and services.
3. Design a phased plan to close the funding gap between the City of Yellowknife and the GNWT.



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No response
Link to video of forum <https://www.facebook.com/nwt.chamber>



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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

I recognize that mining is very important to the NWT economy, including its indirect and spinoff effects in the other sectors such as manufacturing, construction, and the service industry. Diamond mining alone represented over 20% of the NWT's 2018 GDP. I will prioritize investments that involve our local businesses and attract resource development.

One piece that could help temper the effect of an economic slump on the government's ability to deliver programs and services would be population growth, due to the roughly \$35,000 per resident that the GNWT receives from the federal government through the territorial financing formula. Programs to support immigration and to keep residents here, including lowering the cost of living and doing business, can help with this.

We can grow the population by attracting qualified individuals from other places to fill labour shortages in many sectors through the Immigration and Nominee Program. In addition, those who are already in the territories must be given good retention packages so they do not choose to leave.

Keep the cost of living affordable so people and businesses can thrive and survive. The more people and businesses in the territories, the better for the economy.

2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWT's economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

One of the changes from the last Legislative Assembly that I was happy to see was the decision to increase funding for the Mining Incentive Policy to up to \$1,000,000 per year. The Program is intended to stimulate and sustain mineral exploration activities throughout the NWT and reduce the risk associated with grass roots mineral exploration - exploration that is vital to a healthy, sustained, and productive mining industry.

Infrastructure investments, such as the road through the Slave Geologic Province, are also being made. Boom and bust is the nature of a resource-based economy. During these slumps, we have to maintain focus and keep our investments up, aiming toward the next boom.

We also need to address the cost of power. Expanding out hydro-electric capacity could make the NWT a more attractive location for future mining projects.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

We need to pursue a solution to the high cost of power. We pay approximately 3 times the amount of the Canadian average. The first step to this would be linking NWT power grids where possible to achieve an economy of scale, such as linking the North Slave and South Slave grids. I am in favour of the Talston hydro-electric expansion, or any other project that will give us a cheaper, greener source of power. We can't tax ourselves into prosperity. We need to look at other options to maintain and deliver programs and services, such as through growing our population (and the associated revenue of the territorial financing formula).

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- 1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the conference Board of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?**

Mining is our economic driver with thousands of workers employed directly or indirectly within the territory and numerous businesses that support the industry. To ensure mining remains in our future, while also using the skills and capacity already available in the North, the number one priority to grow our economy must be to invest in large-scale infrastructure projects.

Diversification through Infrastructure

The Slave Geological Province access corridor, the Tlicho all season road, and the Talston Hydroelectric project, all provide employment to Northerners and keep northern businesses running. As our diamond mines begin to close, the workers and businesses that rely on that industry now, can be redirected to infrastructure projects keeping our residents working and our businesses in operation.

Exploration

Mines take a long time to come into production but if we invest in exploration, while focusing on building strategic infrastructure, we may create the opportunity to see more mines come online. I'll address this more in the next question, but it is an important piece of the economic puzzle and should be mentioned.

Economic Strategy

With the current national and international focus on the North, we would be remiss to not capitalize on that interest and momentum. A long-term economic strategy for the territory that lays out our priorities and needs will allow us to advocate for federal investment dollars while they are available. The reality is that we cannot afford to pay for large infrastructure projects ourselves, but we can access funding if we are prepared.

An economic strategy would also lay out the importance of secondary industries and other large economic drivers – manufacturing, tourism, construction and retrofitting, and the knowledge economy through the polytechnic university.

2. **Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWT's economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?**

We still have a lot of potential for mining in the North, but we need to decide as a territory that mining is in our future and put our money where our mouth is. If we believe, and many of us do, that mining is an essential part of our future then the first step is to settle land issues to allow for proper planning of infrastructure and development. With land settled and a clear economic strategy, we can pursue federal and industry investment to develop infrastructure projects and exploration.

The access corridor through the Slave geological province is expected to cost a billion dollars but that investment now creates diversity in the types of mining we can pursue. Base metals that require roads to ship become a real possibility when we have the infrastructure in place to entice development. With a focus on climate action and an emerging industry built around greening our lifestyles, suddenly rare earth elements will become more attractive. The North has an abundance of mineral potential to pursue but we need the infrastructure in place and an investment in exploration to see the economic benefits become a reality.

I think for most people it's hard to really quantify the impact that mining has on our economy. With so many businesses and secondary industries that support mining, many of us are employed because of it and many of our businesses exist because of it. By taking action now, before our diamond mines close, we can avoid the fall-out impact of losing our biggest industry.

3. **The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was the Cost of Living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?**

Addressing the cost of living is a long-term game. I see five actions we can take now that will help address this issue:

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1. Focus on increasing the population and having the infrastructure to support them so that we can increase the tax base rather than increase the taxes on our small population.
A higher population means higher revenues for the GNWT. The money we use to pay for government programs and services, investments and infrastructure, is a direct result of the number of people who live here. Out of this year's \$1.9 billion in revenues, \$1.4 billion (about three-quarters) comes from federal transfer payments based on population. For every 35 people we entice to live here, our revenue increases by over a million dollars per year.
2. Explore alternative energy options and advocate for federal investments to support energy infrastructure, like the Taltson hydroelectric project, to bring down the direct costs of utilities.
3. Settle land issues territorially and open land for business and residential development in Yellowknife as well as in the communities.
4. Increase the housing stock available for middle-income earners, rather than just focusing on social housing. Government or social housing, while necessary, is a band-aid and does nothing to reduce the cost of living. We can accomplish this by opening land for residential development and encouraging businesses to develop affordable housing through incentives and reduced red tape.
5. Provide affordable and accessible childcare to relieve the financial burden on families, allow more parents to enter or remain in the workforce, and provide better educational outcomes for children. For every dollar spent to provide childcare, \$1.85 is returned to the economy. A comprehensive strategy must include the development of more childcare spaces, especially in the 11 communities that currently have none; training for more early childhood educators; and reduced costs through subsidies for childcare centre operators.

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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

I would have the Finance Minister reach out to Northerners to hear their concerns and their ideas on how to improve the GNWT's economy and how to utilize the budget as best we can. This will allow us to develop creativity in spending the 1.8-billion-dollar budget. Departments need to do zero-based budgeting to eliminate redundancy and duplication of services in the system. The 19 members of the Legislative Assembly need to implement a take a "Can-do" approach with the understanding that we are working for the residents of the Northwest Territories. In true consensus Government, it is about working together for the betterment of our residents.

I feel the Indigenous Governments' processes need to be completed which creates certainty for industry and investment in the North.

I believe contracts need to be awarded to Northern contractors for the economy to grow and flourish in the North. Northern contractors provide employment for Northerners and skills development. These contractors are invested not only in the local economy but in our communities as a whole, as many of the contractors are residents themselves. In other words fix the Business Incentive Policy (BIP). The program used to be used on all size contracts, but someone decided it was to be capped. We see large contracts going south with limited benefit to northerners.

We need creative ways to enhance tourism outside of the larger centers. Northerners offer a rich and diverse cultural and traditional perspective and experience, coupled with the incredible untouched landscape that few people have the pleasure of enjoying. Unfortunately, the larger centers are the only places many of our tourists visit due to the undeveloped Northern tourism industry.

I believe the utilization of green energy products would enhance the local economy. If you look at geothermal, not only does it operate the power plant but the heat can be used to heat buildings and greenhouses we build that will allow us to grow our own food. This would create more employment opportunities, careers, lower the cost of living in the community and make the community more self-sufficient.

2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWTs economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

First, I feel the Indigenous Governments' processes need to be completed which creates certainty for industry and investment in the North.

Second, industry must be willing to work with the Indigenous Governments and Municipalities to develop a plan and ensure northerners see maximum opportunities and capacity building for our residents. I look at the work being done in the Nahendeh Riding with Norzinc and the three communities being impact with the proposed mine.

Third, continue to enhance our conference which will bring everyone together to discuss the opportunities in the north.

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3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living.

During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes.

To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

First I did not support the NTPC power rate increase, the airport improvement fee and the increase in land lease taxes. You are able to see in the record vote how I did not support these initiatives by the Executive Council. As for the carbon tax, it was a choice between a federal plan and a territorial plan. The territorial was better than what was being offered by the feds.

Moving forward, I would like to see the GNWT develop more green projects, such as geothermal, LNG, solar and other creative ways to reduce the demand on diesel. It is essentially about working with the communities to come up with a plan that meets their needs as well as using modern technology to enhance existing systems we currently have in place. We have a perfect example in the community of Fort Providence where SSI Energy has developed a system using modern technology to reduce the use of diesel fuel and utilize the waste heat for their business. This idea has reduce their costs.

Making homes more energy efficient which includes increased funding to the Arctic Energy Alliance. The 18th Assembly has increased their budget to enhance the work they are currently doing. I look at the success they have had in the small community of Jean Marie River, where they helped the Band and homeowners become more energy efficient. This needs to be done for all communities.

I realize we still require fuel to go hunting and fishing and trapping, however, we need to develop a plan whereby, there is a rebate at the pumps for residents, so they can continue a traditional lifestyle. Similar to the heating fuel rebate we currently have in place. This means working with the Federal Government to set up this plan.

Work with Nutrition North to allow five of the communities access the program to reduce the cost of food in the region.

Continue to work with ECE to fix the senior heating fuel issue. With the new changes we have seen higher costs to the seniors with less subsidy.

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Mike Drake

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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

We need to create an environment where the future has some certainty. I believe we need to concentrate on resolving outstanding Land Claims in the NWT. The lack of certainty is giving industry no choice but to set up shop elsewhere. Other jurisdictions are well ahead of the NWT in this area and it shows.

2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWT's economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

The biggest hindrance to economic growth in the Nahendeh Region has been the lack of a final Land Claim with Dehcho First Nations. The GNWT needs to take this issue far more seriously and provide First Nations negotiating a deal with the best possible Land Claim. We are missing out on opportunities.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

The NWT needs to be able to grow an economic base that will also increase GNWT revenue. We should be trying to attract industry where we can, this will help to improve revenue.



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We really need to eliminate our dependency on Diesel Generated power and consider alternatives like Hydro where feasible. It's cheaper and cleaner.



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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

Everyone knows we need to diversify the economy and capitalize on revenue we can bring into the north from different sectors. We have untapped opportunities that need to be promoted and supported. For example, we have over 100,000 tourists coming through Yellowknife every year. The GNWT needs to put a stronger emphasis on promoting and supporting our small businesses and the arts sector, to take advantage of this opportunity. The GNWT cannot do this alone however so we need to work closely with our business community/associations and all levels of government, to capitalize on existing, and potential, opportunities in this market.

I also believe the GNWT needs to advance the Polytechnic University. Investing in education is critical to expanding opportunities, trades-oriented learning, and fostering the knowledge economy, so northerners have the qualifications to access the opportunities that will be available. The GNWT has now implemented an advisory committee from polytechnics/universities across Canada to oversee our administrative policy work to ensure quality education. This fall the GNWT is scheduled to seek input from all stakeholders on areas of specialization. This will be a critical component on how we move forward and again we need to work closely with the all stakeholders as we develop this work.

These areas are important and have potential to increase economic growth. However, the mineral resources sector still contributes about 40% of our direct and indirect GDP, and supports many families and businesses not only in my riding but across the north. Many of us, including my own family rely on this industry. Our largest mines are closing but we still have lots of untapped potential. We have gold, silver, diamonds, lead, zinc, uranium, tungsten, nickel, copper, iron...and the list goes on. We have resources in the north we are still finding as many areas are under mapped and under explored.

Critical to the work in growing our economy is the development, and constant review, of a long term strategic economic plan. I don't believe the GNWT has all the answers, but I do believe that by working

with all stakeholders we can develop comprehensive list of short, mid, and long-term goals with measurable outcomes and concrete actions.

2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWTs economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post- Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

As stated before it is critical that we all work closely together to boost our economy. We will need support, and input, from all stakeholders including every level of government as well as business/mining organizations, the general public, and various boards and regulators.

Canada is known for our large number of junior companies and because these are usually small and face more risk, we need to ensure we provide a regulatory regime where they know exactly what they are coming into. The 18th assembly brought in *The Mineral Resources Act* and the 19th assembly must move forward and develop regulations to streamline the process and clarify all requirements under the act. This work is critical for both junior companies and larger companies and it is imperative we work closely with all stakeholders to get this work completed as soon as possible.

As well, the GNWT needs to:

- Prioritize land claims with indigenous governments both for their own prosperity and to ensure clarity for potential investors. This will mean ensuring we have the appropriate staffing to get the work done, prioritizing the continued progression through the stages of the process, and focus on building respectful relationships and having meaningful conversations with all stakeholders. We need clarity in land claims and LUP implementation plans so everyone understands the requirements, oversight and reporting.
- Promote the mineral resource industry locally, nationally and internationally to assist in public and investor confidence. This includes awareness campaigns as to new technology utilized in the industry and promoting the use of our online staking system and the geosciences information we have available.
- Advance Land use planning to address the need for conservation purposes, resource development and mixed use – such as recreation, access, tourism, potential municipal boundary extensions.

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- Support infrastructure projects such as the expansion of the Taltson and the Slave geological province road. Such projects will assist with lowering the cost of living, promoting tourism, and encouraging investment in the mining and business sector.
- Increase investment and promotion for responsible mining opportunities, exploration, training, and site remediation.
- Continue lobbying the federal govt for an increase for the exploration tax credits as our costs in the north are way higher than other areas.
- Work with the Federal govt in regards to the royalty distribution. Under Devolution, Canada keeps 50% and now shares 50% of royalties with GNWT of which we give ½ (25%) to indigenous govts. payments. We need to try to negotiate more of the Alberta distribution model where they got all the royalties and if it was too high, an equalization formula was implemented.

We won't get another operating mine if we don't put an emphasis on exploration, and we won't have the revenue staying in the territory if we don't have the labor force and clear regulations, so I would prioritize getting these regulations done immediately and investing in the promotion of our market.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

Some factors affecting cost of living are market driven, so I will focus on areas the GNWT has a direct link to.

In regards to the "cost of doing business", the distance we have from the south and lack of infrastructure as well as our terrain and climate make it difficult to compare our cost of living to the south. However, during the last four years one of the biggest complaints I heard from business was the amount of contracts that were allocated to southern companies. In theory, the BIP (business incentive policy) sound great at 30%, however in practice it seems to have flaws. I feel the GNWT needs to review this policy in the next assembly, in consultation with our business partners, to ensure we provide the best support for all of our northern businesses.

As for the carbon tax, my understanding was it was either the GNWT define how we would implement it, or have the federal government define it for us. In saying that though, if at any time the federal government decides to cancel it, I would be the biggest supporter to take it out of our legislation.

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But business is not only about infrastructure and opportunity, it is about people. If residents are not happy they will not stay. Over that last four years the GNWT, changed the co-pay program to assist more families to access necessary home repairs, improved the rent subsidy program to help ensure stable housing, increased the NWT Child Benefit, added funding for resident energy savings, and increased the funding for licensed day cares to alleviate parents having to incur additional costs. As well, Junior Kindergarten was implemented, with over 550 children attending across the NWT. The amount of saving this provides to families is substantial.

The concern of lowering our power costs is something we need to continue to focus on. We have made some progress. The amendment to the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* I brought forward while I was the Minister of MACA, now allows municipalities to pass bylaws allowing property owners to finance, through local improvement charges, energy efficiency or renewable energy projects. This is not going to be beneficial to everyone though, so we need to continue to pursue the expansion of the Taltson Hydro line and implementing alternative energy sources in our diesel reliant communities. The GNWT has to subsidize the smaller communities due to their extreme living costs, so getting them off diesel will assist in the world's climate change issues and lower the costs for the GNWT and thus all of us as taxpayers.

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Hughie Graham

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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

Infrastructure spending during an economic slump is a great way to get value for money. Building during a boom is always more expensive. An opportunity exists to provide benefits for northerners in building infrastructure, providing jobs in construction and ongoing maintenance. The Inuvik-Tuk Highway is a good example of this, providing jobs and training prior to and during the 4 year construction period.

Let's get Taltson hydro project built. It's great to get money for studies, but GNWT needs a commitment from the Federal Government to build the project, as a Territory of 44,000 people can't bear this burden. Let's get going!

Capacity Building in Tourism is an opportunity in front of us that we should be taking advantage of. People are travelling to NWT for business or Aurora viewing and there lies an opportunity for travelers to spend more money in our communities through local tours, food and beverage, cultural experiences or a multitude of other experiences.

2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWTs economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post- Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

I strongly believe the GNWT needs to partner with Indigenous Governments to settle land claims. While this work is ongoing , GNWT needs to work with Indigenous Governments for access to land for explorers to get out and explore and find the next generation of mines. GNWT needs to be leaders and can't rely on Industry to consult the people of the Northwest Territories. Industry has done a good job to get the last generation of mines built, but this is onerous and the responsibility of Governments. The GNWT should also take control of the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act from Ottawa and ensure that it is a made in the NWT regulatory act with clear timelines and clear expectations.

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3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

The GNWT needs to work with the Federal Government to meaningfully tackle the cost of living. Employer provided housing could be made as a non-taxable benefit, raise the northern living allowance, or provide an NWT tax credit are all some thoughts that come to mind and can put money in Northerners pockets. Long term, let's eliminate personal income tax in NWT. This has worked in Alaska and can work in NWT to attract and retain people. The cost of power will never decrease, however, building legacy power infrastructure can stabilize the cost of power and building a power grid can get NWT communities off of diesel power generation.

Sahtu

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No response



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Thebacha

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No response

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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

My focus will be on growing the South Slave economy, but of course all the NWT prospers when any region thrives. I would strive for lower power rates (half what they are now) for the four connected South Slave communities right away - using the power at Taltson Dam that has been wasted for 30 years - rates guaranteed for the future under any Taltson Dam expansion. In addition I will work with Hay River, Enterprise and Tu Nedhe (Fort Resolution and Lutsel K'e) to enhance tourism in the region using the draw of the many other wonders Thebacha has to offer to visitors.

2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWT's economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post- Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

I find it bizarre that industry does not take the lead in guiding government on ways the NWT can best reduce regulations and red tape nor that the GNWT would not want that to happen and would actively engage it. I would work to facilitate closer cooperation between government and industry so that exploration increases across the NWT. As long as local 1st nations approve and NWT residents are hired, there are no negatives involved with exploration.

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3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

As stated above in #1, I would work to have the electrical rates for Thebacha riding cut -to 9 cents per kwh for businesses and 7 cents per kwh for residences. The power utilized would be the electricity wasted at Taltson Dam since the 1980s. Revenue from the sale of that electricity would be used to subsidize power in other NWT communities, reducing rates throughout the NWT. I would investigate the NWT Power Corp seeking other similar efficiencies. I would also investigate to confirm that the GNWT's carbon tax is being returned to residents as promised by the federal government. I would continue to fight against further taxation of any kind.



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No response



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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

If I had the opportunity some of my direct and specific actions to grow the economy would be:

- Conclude land claims and self-government negotiations in the 19th Assembly. This would clarify land ownership, free up about 150,000 sq. kms of resource rich land for potential development. It would also put millions of dollars into the northern economy through the Indigenous governments.
- Pursue a comprehensive plan to get all diesel dependent communities in the NWT off diesel with a minimum penetration goal of 60% within the next 5 years. There are millions of untapped federal dollars available for this initiative. The communities in each region could be bundled to create regional business opportunities, maximize efficiencies and economies of scale. The plan should be to include the replacement of both heat and power with renewables, which would create a significant reduction in the carbon tax.
- Within the year come up with a plan and timeline to take full advantage of the unrealized potential of the fibre optic link and Inuvik as the premier site for remote sensing. The current federal red tape has to be removed and a close working relationship developed between industry, Indigenous, Territorial and Federal governments, so things can get done.

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Question #2 is directly related to question #1.

I would push conclude land claims and self-government negotiations in the the 19th Assembly:

- This would clarify land ownership, provide certainty to industry and free up land for potential development.
- It would also put dollars into the northern economy through the Indigenous governments.
- It would help create a path forward, allowing all governments, working with industry to focus on a strong, healthy economies.
- I would have the GNWT work with Industry to create the conditions through agreements to maximize the use of renewables in the provision of heat and power at rates lower than diesel, with the added bonus of a reduced carbon tax- which would be good business, good for the environment and good public relations.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

There are things that can be done across the NWT to lower the cost of living for northerners in all ridings:

- As the shareholder the GNWT should require NTPC to lead the shift to renewable energy in communities and resource projects for heat and power. They either do it themselves or enter into proper power purchase agreement with communities, Indigenous governments or industry. There is a northern industry waiting to be created. There are millions of unaccessed federal dollars for this initiative. There are

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millions of carbon tax dollars that can be avoided by this change, given that the carbon tax is a consumption tax. The micro-grid technology is now available and renewables are cheaper than diesel by NTPC's own estimates.

- The current community gensets are old, inefficient and due to be replaced. *Capital dollars are going to be spent one way or another. We need it to be in a forward looking way that drops cost, creates a northern industry, minimizes the carbon tax and helps the environment.*
- In the midterm the settling of land claims and self-government agreement would also have a downward pressure on cost of living as the economy improves, energy costs come down and the unrealized potential of the fibre optic link is realize.

These three questions are all linked and cannot be looked at independent of each other. Thank you.

Tu Nedhé-Wiilideh

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No response
Link to video for forum <https://www.facebook.com/nwt.chamber>



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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

I would empower communities to help find the solutions. Currently the GNWT says they have a good relationship with our communities yet all decisions are still made in Yellowknife for the benefit of our communities. The GNWT may have assumed control over land and resources through Devolution but it must acknowledge that indigenous communities continue to have significant control and can influence whether projects proceed or not. Our communities are not against development but want it to proceed in a way that benefits them while minimizing impact to their way of life.

Settlement of Land Claims can help stimulate the economy. Not only will the implementation of the claims and governance agreements create additional employment in our communities but the Slave Geological Province is in the heart of Akaitcho Territory. The settlement of the Akaitcho Agreement and the NWT Metis Land Claim Agreement will create certainty in the area and help increase exploration and thus the potential for new mines.

The recent announcement of \$40 million in funding toward pre-construction work on the Slave Geological Province Corridor, and the eventual construction of all-season infrastructure to the Slave Geological Province Corridor has the potential to bring major economic development opportunities by reducing the costs of operating existing mines and future resource exploration and development activities.

We also need to invest in the traditional economy. We need to implement programs that help our people to diversify the economy so we are not so reliant on mining. While mining is important not everyone wants to work in a mine and we need to create opportunities in tourism, forestry, fishing and other service industries that local people can participate in without having to leave home.

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2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWTs economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

Mineral Exploration is important for the development of new mines. There is a misconception in the communities that exploration activities are the same as mining when in fact exploration is relatively low impact and can utilize many traditional skills that many of our people have from being on the land. An education program should happen in communities to inform people what exploration is and how it is done. This will help communities to better understand, which could result in receiving the much-needed support from them.

As said above, the settlement of land claims and governance agreements will help create certainty and increase the potential for exploration as will further investment in the Slave Geological Corridor.

The GNWT has been working with Indigenous communities to promote mining in the NWT but I don't think they go far enough in this partnership. I would work to encourage the government to provide additional resources to communities to develop Mineral Resource Strategies for their regions so they can identify how they want development to occur in their territory. Indigenous governments are the decision makers on how things happen on their land and should be given the tools to help them do this.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

The biggest contributor to cost of living is the cost of power. The NWT has the highest cost in the country and Alberta's cost of power is 90% less than the NWT. Investment into the Taltson Hydro would help decrease this cost. Additional investment into renewable energy like wind and solar can also help.

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The most efficient way to decrease the cost of living is through the investment in infrastructure. I would encourage further investment into infrastructure such as roads and power generation.

I would also push the GNWT to neutralize the carbon tax so that residents are not negatively impacted. The NWT is so vast that our contribution to the amount of carbon going into the environment is minimal and the implementation of the carbon tax in the NWT will negatively impact our residents.

Increasing employment in communities will help people become self sufficient and increase ability to pay bills. Decentralizing services and creating well paying jobs in our communities will help to offset the high cost of living.

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Steve Norn

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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

This speaks directly to a number of my platform items, which is to assist businesses, and seek employment opportunities.

We must be innovative in keeping our economy afloat as our mining industry enters an ebb cycle. I firmly believe that the tourism industry will do just that. By developing our tourism industry, our economy will grow, the NWT is already a tourist destination, and we have observed a large influx of tourists in the past years. It is time to be creative and look at ways to keep as much revenue as possible in the Territory. In addition, there are two new infrastructure developments in the Taltson and the Slave Geological Corridor, these projects will need to be discussed. I can say that I am willing to work with all stakeholders involved to make sure the NWT will benefit from such projects and that they are done in an environmental and socially responsible manner.

I am also very supportive of small businesses and want to find ways to assist this sector. Recently, I was advised that one individual who made attempts to start a small business in their home in one of the communities. However, they lived in an NWT housing unit, and were not allowed to run a business out of their home. NWT housing policy currently does not allow for home-based businesses to run out of their units. I am not ok with this. How can budding entrepreneurs be expected to succeed with obstacles such as this? A majority homes in our communities are NWT housing units.

If I am elected, I would like to see many of our policies reviewed including but not limited to the following: BIP, Affirmative Action, and housing policies.

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Exploration has always been part of the economic fabric of the NWT and it is still necessary. However, we cannot talk about exploration until we discuss land claims. These agreements need to be ratified, so that stakeholders such as the GNWT, Akaitcho, and the Metis can have certainty in terms of how we will share our land, resources, and figure out our self-government agreements. The people in our riding have waited a long time to see these claims finalized, and I feel we are ready to take those next steps.

Once land claims are finalized, I believe we can push forward and invest in exploration and give it the attention it deserves.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

If elected, I propose to create a committee that includes experts like economists, who can look at and address ways to lower our cost of living. Our Government needs to look at ways to keep money in the pockets of the people and be creative; I believe there are many ways to do this.

For example, while on a tour of a tank farm in one of the communities, I found out that the price of fuel was \$1.81/litre. This was a price set by the GNWT. I am not okay with that. People are moving out of the NWT because it is far too expensive to live here. We need to address this and make it a priority for the next Legislative Assembly to tackle issues such as these.

Yellowknife Centre

Incumbent: Julie Green
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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

Mining is a pillar of our economy, generating jobs, taxes and royalties. All northerners are concerned about the impact of mine closures scheduled to begin in the next decade. I think mining can be part of our future, but we have some significant issues to address, not all of which are within the control of the GNWT.

There are a couple of mines with the necessary regulatory authorizations but no money for construction. This is a problem related to a tight money supply globally and impacts other mining jurisdictions as well. Part of the issue in the NWT is a lack of infrastructure, roads in particular. The road to Whati is permitted and construction is supposed to begin this fall, but Fortune Minerals has to raise the money for the additional 50 kilometers of road required to get to the deposit. It will be a challenge to do that because the deposit is relatively small and faces competition from less remote places. The road with the most potential to grow mining is the Slave Geological Province Corridor. Preparatory work is now underway. Once it is complete, it should go to environmental assessment.

Another part of the issue around mining development (and any other land-based business) is uncertainty of land tenure. Specifically within the southern NWT (eg. South Slave and Dehcho) there is a patchwork of land claims that have yet to be finalized. Negotiations are moving slowly. While GNWT is not the only party at table for these negotiations, they could expedite negotiations by committing to the implementation of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in this context.

Yet another part of the issue is electricity. I am told that mining companies want to hone their green credentials, so they don't want to power mines with diesel, as they do now. That means developing clean energy alternatives. Time is running out for this investment to have an impact on the diamond mines. But pending the results of the feasibility study, Taltson may power future projects along the SGP corridor. Once

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the feasibility study and other preparatory work is complete, the project should go to environmental assessment.

Yes, the regulatory system is viewed by some as being complex, but this is because it is unique in Canada and provides for an integrated system of land and water management built on settled land claims and on the assumption of co-management of resources by the territorial, federal, and indigenous governments. People have come to expect that decisions will reflect everyone's interests and rights. The regulatory system is key to reconciliation. Referral of projects to environmental assessment (EA) is the exception not the rule. But the EA process itself is expensive and it's usually only multinationals that have the funds to take a project through. That said, audits of the regulatory system conducted by third parties every five years since 2005 have not shown significant problems with the dreaded red tape.

Now about diversification. Tourism is growing especially in the North Slave. Government needs to invest in tourism infrastructure such as a visitor centre in Yellowknife and campgrounds here and throughout NWT. There also needs to be a greater investment in product development so tourists will stay in the North longer.

I am keen on investments in clean energy and retrofits. The retrofit economy offers a triple benefit: job creation, reductions to heating and power costs and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. We need to expand existing programs and make them more accessible to a broader user group. Numbers are impressive: a 9 per cent return on investment by 2030, along with a savings of \$120 million on utilities and a reduction of 121 thousand tonnes of CO₂ in that period plus 87 jobs for at least a decade.

An investment in child care makes a lot of sense. It offers great economic multipliers with multiple benefits. Parents can stay in workforce after parental leave. Child care offers employment throughout NWT. Most important, structured early childhood development will give children get the best possible start in life. Child care facilities are another infrastructure need in most communities but could be combined with school renos and/or new construction.

2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWTs economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

Exploration spending ebbs and flows. In 2015 more was spent in NWT than Yukon but Yukon is now booming and spending there for 2018 was projected to be three times what it was here. Likewise, Nunavut had an exploration boom before that.

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Many of the issues I spoke about with respect to mining are relevant to exploration, including completing land rights agreements so there is certainty around land tenure. It's hard to get prospectors interested in field work when there's no clear path forward to exploration and development. That said, there are areas with land rights agreements in place, and it makes sense for government to increase its prospector training offerings in those areas.

The GNWT could boost its investment in exploration as well through the Mining Incentive Program. In 2018, there were more applications than there was money available to applicants. Given the return on investment on this fund is five times the government investment, the government needs to grow this program immediately.

Finally, infrastructure is as helpful to exploration as it is to production. It's cheaper to drive to prospecting or exploration sites than to fly.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living.

During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

I mentioned building retrofits and clean energy. I would like to see these programs expanded and made more accessible to low-income residents and commercial landlords, for example. These initiatives will reduce the cost of living (specifically heat and power bills) and have other important benefits as well including reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating jobs.

The GNWT could decide to subsidize power rates. In 2014, government granted NTPC \$20 million when the Snare River hydro system had a low water problem. The government can create policy direction for the Public Utilities Board, the board that sets power rates. At this point Yellowknife subsidizes power rates in the NWT. If diesel communities went off grid with solar, wind or hydro, there would be less need to subsidize their rates, and that would reduce our rates. That said, there are warning bells ringing about the age of the NTPC infrastructure and the need for upgrades. This is an investment the government needs help from Ottawa to pay for because we just don't have the population base to afford it. The expansion of Taltson will also help reduce power rates.

The GNWT must rethink sources of revenue. A Revenue Options paper published in 2016 dismissed all the possibilities but produced no evidence to support its conclusions. The NWT tax base is set to shrink because of a weakening economy and aging population. We need to look at shifting taxation to those who



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do not live here. For example, the NWT corporate tax is now 11.5%. In Yukon, the same tax is 15%. Bringing the NWT on par would raise \$18 million a year. As well, the GNWT could earn an additional \$20 million a year for each 1% increase in the payroll tax. I prefer this approach rather than nickel and diming residents with fees and increases.

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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

Yellowknife Centre is a unique riding in that it has a lot more commercial activity than most other ridings. As a result, my economic development focus would be on improving the street level economy in downtown Yellowknife. Small business owners feel that their voice has been ignored for many years – I would change that from my very first day in office, and I would concentrate on four key areas: improving services for tourists, establishing a polytechnic university campus in the downtown, fostering innovation and the sharing economy, and helping the downtown business community find its voice.

With respect to broader territorial economic issues, we need to increase our population and attract more business and investment to the North, and to Yellowknife. Diversification across economic sectors, including tourism, television and film, culture and construction is critical to develop a strong and resilient northern economy, as is support for entrepreneurialism and strengthening business capacity. We need investment in the Taltson expansion and in other infrastructure projects. We will not be able to afford the additional social programs we need without a strong economy, and a strong economy will require significant investment. A new polytechnic university and a strong mining sector are not mutually exclusive initiatives. We need to start pulling in the same direction on these files.

2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWT's economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

Spending on mineral exploration has increased everywhere in Canada, but in the NWT and Nunavut – it is on the decline in part because land claims have not been settled and large chunks of are not available for mineral exploration under Interim Measures Agreements with the Deh Cho and Akaitcho First Nations, as well as with the Northwest Territories Métis Nation. The lack of

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infrastructure and cost of exploration in the North are major barriers as well. Therefore, settling and fully implementing land claims; making Indigenous governments partners in resource and infrastructure development is a necessity.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

Few things bother me more than cash grabs. I believe that the airport revolving fund was simply a means of downloading the territorial responsibility for maintaining the Yellowknife airport onto residents, visitors and industry. And I think we're seeing the results of this strategy with recent announcement of investments in other NWT airports (\$150 million in Inuvik). Yellowknife MLAs stood up to this new tax, but since then I've seen very little attention paid to how the revolving fund is being spent. Two and a half years have gone by and we still don't even know what the vision is for our airport? As MLA I will push for a review of the Revolving Fund, and I will argue that it needs to be repealed.

And only a couple of months ago the large increase to the land transfer tax was successfully executed by Cabinet with the help of the incumbent MLA for Yellowknife Centre. It's completely unfair to Yellowknifers, and not just those who can afford \$500,000 homes. It is unfair to all Yellowknife homeowners.

If elected, I won't merely talk the talk of fighting against fee increases and the introduction of new taxes, I will walk the walk.

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Thom Jarvis

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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights keyways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy

- a. Move strategic and vital infrastructure initiative such as the Talston Hydro electric project and the proposed road through the Slave Geological province to the top of the priority tree.
- b. Pursue the proposed Polytechnic initiative. This has the potential to fill the northern capacity gap.
- c.. Increase the Northern Mineral Exploration Tax Credit and revisiting the Minerals Strategy. The processes involved are still too cumbersome, complex and slow.
- d. work with ITI to increase the levels of support for economic development. The SEED program for instance has helped many entrepreneurs. The levels of grants however are low in relation to todays costs. The support and push ITI have undertaken to revive the commercial fishery should also be applied northern companies and start ups looking to work in exploration and mining.
- e. Adopt the Chamber of Mine's NWT Resource Vision – an "Improving Investor Confidence" strategy – as an all-of-government approach. The Chamber of Mines has just provided a very thorough and well thought out approach. One with such common sense it boggles the mind it hasn't already been started. It is time to get on this right away

2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWTs economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline.

What specific

actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

- A. Address and streamline existing regulatory burdens. Specifically ease the EA requirements for minimally invasive exploration work. This takes too long to approve and adds costs.
- B. Adopt the Chamber of Mine's NWT Resource Vision – an "Improving Investor Confidence" strategy – as an all-of-government approach. The Chamber of Mines has just provided a very thorough and well thought out approach. One with such common sense it boggles the mind it hasn't already been started. It is time to get on this right away.

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- C. Increased support for The Mine Training society. It has successfully trained over 1300 who have went on to work in the industry. 25% of the mining industry's work force in the NWT is indigenous. We can increase this. Nothing demonstrates the value of the sector to the communities more than those same people working directly within the industry to the benefit of their families and community. The more trained people we have in the north, the more we can mitigate the money leaving through trans jurisdictional workers. This applies to monies spent directly in the territory on goods and services that will invigorate our retail, construction and service sectors, as well as helps us maintain and grow our population. A rising population increases the federal transfer payments vital to GNWT and the social programs we need.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

- a. Uncompetitive hydro rates are a component of the high cost of living. They effect not only individuals but also business who in turn pass along these fixed costs to their clients., the Talston project will increase the supply and stabilize the grid north of the lake. It will also put in place a very valuable, attractive and vital piece of infrastructure for future development. The key to lowering these rates is supply, production costs and a larger customer base.
- b. If the federal requirement for a carbon tax disappears after the coming federal election, our own hurriedly created in the north tax should disappear along with it. An added expense we do not need. The north contributes such a negligible amount of green house gasses that this tax will not put a measurable dent in worldwide CO₂ levels. I appreciate that the last government had its back to the wall on this one and attempted to come up with a "least bad" option. Our efforts would be better directed towards developing initiatives towards adapting to coming changes.
- c. And back to an element of the first point...more customers. Once the costs begin to decline there could be fewer people deciding to opt out of the north. Which leads to even more customers.



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No response
Link to video of forum <https://www.facebook.com/nwt.chamber>



Yellowknife North

Incumbent: Cory Vanthuyne
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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights keyways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

1) Indigenous Land Rights & Self Government Agreements

- 14 tables being negotiated, all of them are important and require attention
- The big 3 are Dehcho, Akaitcho and Metis.
- These 3 regions cover more than half the territory and it's the bottom half. Which is connected to the rest of Canada and has a lot of the key infrastructure in place already
- These agreements will be critical in strengthening the NWT's economy
- Canada, GNWT and Indigenous government need to make a renewed commitment to finalizing all outstanding agreements so we can all move forward as a proud and prosperous territory

2) Polytechnic University in Yellowknife

- A new PU must align with those things that we value as a society.
- No matter where you live in the territory...self-determination, economic engine and diversity, climate change and alt energy, innovation and technology...these aspects effect our daily lives
- The education piece is obvious, lets create a vision for becoming the hub for circumpolar education, innovation, technology and research.
- There are so many relationships and partnerships that can be built to support this vision.
- Millions of dollars are accessible through governments, philanthropy, other university's, industry is a huge contributor to Uni's....they want to get their hands on the product!

- I know we have some smaller sized mining opportunities in the hopper, but how are we truly going to build an economic future for ourselves when the diamond mines start shutting down in 5 years...if not sooner.
- Easy...build a PU that will be a cornerstone for revitalization for the City of Yellowknife and create jobs and economic spin off
- But also allow the outcomes of the PU to be the incubator for our future creative minds, entrepreneurs and engineers, and the like...that's where an economy truly comes from!
- If we don't do it Yukon will...lets catch up with them and stay in stride with them so we can work with them and provide a double whammy for both territories!

3) Government spending and fiscal strategy

- You all recall the austerity measures the last government undertook
- We can't keep on that same vein this time
- Last government made tremendous cuts while increasing taxes, fees, power rates, etc. That's unacceptable!
- We must commit to a fiscal strategy that will invest in our mandate.
- We must spend more wisely on a day in and day out basis and we have to be as effective as possible with every dollar spent.
- Spending like feens for 4 years and then cutting and slashing for 4 years does not create certainty for people and has detrimental effects on the economy.
- Yes, through good day to day management lets make smart reductions where redundancy can be reduced and where efficiency can be identified.
- Another 4 years under the current fiscal strategy is not acceptable. A new strategy with a long term vision toward sustainability and certainty is what I will push for.

4) Territorial Financing Formula

- After devolution we have taken on considerably more responsibilities
- Our government line of credit is virtually maxed out and we are heading toward an economic slump.
- Its time we renegotiate the TFF! That's the formula for transfer funding that comes from the Federal government.
- It's a complex formula and it has a number of layers to it but many of you know it as the 35K per head transfer that we receive.
- 75 cents of every dollar the GNWT spends comes from the Federal government. The other 25 cents comes from our own source revenue.

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- The 75 cents from the feds comes with strings attached. Ours comes with our own strings attached. That's a benefit
- Problem is we can't increase our own revenue without the Feds clawing back the difference. If we were to grow our pot to 30 cents then they would take away the 5 cent difference on their end.
- It time to negotiate a new deal that sees a freeze on the clawback for a period of time.
- We can't be in a economic slump, which people leave at 35K per head, put more spending pressure on social spending, try to make payments on our maxed out card and try to increase our own source revenues without an economy at the same time. We can't possibly do it...THAT'S HOW GOVERNMENTS FALL.
- A new deal must be demanded and committed to by the federal government and I plan to put every federal candidate on the hot seat for this issue.

2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWT's economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

Mining is what brought my Dad here...he worked at Giant in the late 60's. I worked at Con Mine in the early 90's. I understand the value of mining and the contribution mining has made to our city and the north.

1) Settle Land Rights Agreements

- I already talked about the importance of getting these agreements done. I will only add a couple more points
- Finalizing agreement allows Indigenous governments to continue the process of developing land use plans.
- Land use plans layout the general aspects of what can and cannot happen on lands and where and how certain activities can take place.
- Indigenous governments that have settled claims are already developing mineral strategies and also preservation strategies.
- This is all about the certainty piece...the sooner we settle agreements the sooner we bring certainty about the future of mining and exploration.

2) The Mineral Resources Act

- I'm very happy about the work SCEDE did on this act along with the department of ITI, Indigenous governments, Industry, and many NGO's.
- The MRA is new legislation that will be our own Made In The North approach toward mining and will meet the unique needs of the NWT
- It will increase investment in the exploration and mining sector
- It will promote a sustainable and diversified economy
- It will fully respect the rights of Indigenous peoples
- It will protect the natural environment
- It will provide benefits to all NWT residents
- I say lets take advantage of the new MRA...it will play an incredible role in supporting and promoting mining and the economy

3) Indigenous Equity Ownership

- This is the next big economic movement in the NWT
- Indigenous organizations are going to become actual owners of mineral resource projects...and its already happening!
- Roads have been bumpy in the past between industry and indigenous peoples, so it was easy to understand the mistrust
- There is now an obvious change. Since the beginning of diamond mines both sides realize that collaboration can be very profitable
- We see new indigenous ec/dev corps that provide many services to the mines and the mines hire a number of indigenous people to work in various positions
- Denendeh Dev Corp started its own exploration and development company
- These 20 years of working together has revealed a change in mindset
- A critical part of self-determination is indigenous people creating their own economic freedom and decrease their dependence on government
- One of the solutions is in building business partnerships and sharing in the equity ownership of future mines...this is beyond IBA's!
- Indigenous people want better standards and futures for their children and see themselves as growing their economy while remaining respectful stewards of the land.
- No better way for them to have their eye on BOTH than to be an equity owner in future mines!

4) MVRMA – Bring it home to the NWT

- Since devolution in 2014 we have gained considerably more responsibly for land, water and resources.

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- Since that time we have worked on many important pieces of legislation like: MRA, PLA, PAA, ERA,
- Next Assembly we need to continue this work on FA and WA
- BUT, we need more control over our own economy and environment.
- What remains outstanding is that we have an obligation as part of the devolution agreement to review the MVRMA
- I would take it one step further and say its time to bring the MVRMA home to the NWT where it belongs.
- Colaboration between IGO's and GNWT has already started to shape land and resource management through the acts I named already
- Bringing the MVRMA home would allow us to be more accountable and develop a regulatory system that reflects our needs and aspirations

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

1) Greener more affordable Energy

- The impacts of climate change are upon us and affect us in the north more than any other region
- Through the Pan Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate change, Canada and the NWT have an obligation to meet territorial and national targets to reduce emmissions.
- The most effective way to meet targets is to reduce and get off fossil fuels
- The GNWT is already investing in energy retrofits for our own asset upgrades and looking at projects like the Taltson Expansion to make power rates more stable in the North Slave region.
- The Arctic Energy Alliance budget has been doubled over the next four years to accommodate the increased demand of residents wishing to make energy efficient home improvements such as the installation of solar panels.
- Private enterprise is making a difference...SSI Energy is making a difference with small multi-generator system that can meet demand wether its one light bulb or peak daytime load. Co-energy is also captured. That system can power, cool and heat a building. Go to youtube and search SSI Energy and you get the presentation Jeff Phillip provided my committee.

- Industry has stepped up. Just look at the Diavik windmill farm and now carbon sequestration at Gacho Kue
- We are heading in the right direction...government, individuals and industry are all committed to lower our carbon foot print!

2) Investment in infrastructure that will lower the cost of living

- First and most important is housing.
- If our next generation of young adults and young families that we just spent a whole bunch of money on for a polytechnic and to get a better education so they can contribute to society, can't afford a home and get a leg up, they will take their education elsewhere to help some other jurisdictions economy.
- In the communities we must find a solution to getting folks into homeownership. Public housing right for some people and we need to maintain those assets, but PH is not a good fit for all.
- Homeownership gives people pride and they have a desire to maintain and protect their home. They will make it their own and build on to it as their families grow.
- Homeownership also takes an incredibly large financial burden off the GNWT. We are already busting at the seams when it comes to adding more public housing and paying to maintain units for their lifespan.
- Getting some of the PH stock switched over to homeownership will help lift that burden while providing people more independence, self-reliance and self-respect.
- **Broadband**...we paid 75 Million to run a fibre optic line down the middle of the territory.
- What good is it if we don't bring it into each community that it runs by. And, it has to be the GNWT that pays for this. All the communities have significant funding gaps and infrastructure gaps of their own
- They can't afford to do it, and we can't afford to not do it for them.
- This is key to building healthier and better educated communities!
- **And of course, roads**...I won't go into detail accept to say everything is cheaper by road...ask any transport company and they will tell you...air is \$1.25 per pound...ground is \$.25 cents per pound.
- That makes groceries, supplies, travel...everything more affordable!
- **Daycare infrastructure** – you can't support universal daycare if all we have is unlicensed day homes and no actual daycares.
- YK Daycare has a waiting list of 170 kids
- Kids Korner Daycare shut down suddenly last year and put 44 kids in limbo.
- As we build new schools or do major renovations on an existing school, we need to build on new daycare space.

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- The GNWT has adult learning centres, they have a college and are looking at a polytechnic, they have all the schools for JK-12...BUT no facilities for our newborn to 3 year olds.
- Makes no sense!
- Private business, parents and NGO's can work together to operate a daycare but none of them will build and maintain one.
- The codes that have to be met to build a child care facility today are too costly, there is no return on investment. There would be more daycares owned by private owners if there was a profit to be had but that's not the case.
- If we don't do this then no one will come here to start and raise a family. Folks from down south that have toddlers are already checking ahead and are turning down jobs and not coming here because there is no adequate daycare accessibility for their children.
- Our government needs to make this a strategic priority going forward. Then maybe we can look at universal daycare...until then there's no point.

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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

I believe we need to grow an economy for the future. I think the most transformative action we could take on that front is diversifying our economy. Here's some specific ideas on how we get there.

Invest in our Knowledge Economy: The territory has hardly scratched the surface of our knowledge economy. Key to realizing that promise is getting the polytechnic University built in Yellowknife. This is our chance to build a hub of forward-thinking research, innovation, and entrepreneurial spirit in our capital to help build the economy of the future.

Incentivize Entrepreneurs to Move Here: There are people across the country running businesses not necessarily tied to place. The federal transfer payment structure gives us a lot of room to play with incentive programs to encourage these businesses and entrepreneurs to come to our territory and build their lives and spend their money here. It's a major untapped market that I think we should pursue.

Invest in Infrastructure: We need to connect this territory physically and digitally. I support investing in transformative infrastructure projects like the Mackenzie Valley Highway to connect our communities and encourage economic opportunity from North-to-South. And I will advocate for our government to do its part in realizing the promise of the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic project, and push for fibre redundancy to our capital city to keep our businesses online.

2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWT's economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post- Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline.

What specific

actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

Mining is primarily driven by market forces. Without giving the farm away and making sure NWT residents get a fair deal for their resources, I think the biggest thing we can do is bring certainty to our investment landscape.

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The number one thing in getting there is settling our outstanding land claims. We have groups talking about the transformative effect this could have in our economy. It's time we put our heads together and get there. I recognize every GNWT politician says this, but they are not willing to do the most important thing we can do to settle land claims, relinquish control. Devolving powers means exactly that, letting go of GNWT powers and letting our indigenous governments take the lead.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

I believe there are a few big things we can do to make life better for working people in this territory:

- **Universal Daycare:** right now Yellowknifers are spending around \$1000 a month per child in childcare. This is a particularly big burden on my riding, which has a lot of families. I will push for universal daycare for around \$10 a day to drop a big bill from families' pocketbooks, and help parents participate in the workforce.
- **Addressing our Utility Bills:** A big chunk of our monthly cost of living comes from what we pay for heat and electricity. I will push for more affordable heating and building retrofit incentives, and pursue an expansion of our clean electrical capacity across the territory so a chunk of Yellowknifers' bills aren't subsidizing diesel.
- **Evaluating our Fiscal Regime:** I think it's a valid question to ask whether we're charging fees and taxing the right groups for the right reasons. I will advocate for a holistic review of our territorial fiscal regime to see where we can lower the burden on our people.

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Jan Vallillee
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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

Our economy must continue to diversify. If we don't, there will be stagnant spending. We can continue to expand our tourism industry throughout the North, but we must ensure the tourist operators are competent.

The growing online commerce is one in which local companies must embrace to ensure they can continue to compete. If they don't, storefronts will continue to close. Companies would be wise to embrace the order, pay and pickup method of consumerism. Or they would be wise to offer online ordering with free delivery if X amount of dollars are spent on the order. This may also generate a new delivery business. Some companies have already recognized this is the direction of consumerism and have embraced the model.

Unless we address the 'downtown' issues, we will continue to see a decline in businesses wanting to operate. We will have to marginally scale back infrastructure spending to refocus some of our priorities on the most important resource, which is our people.

We need to open our doors for cleaner energy technologies development. I want to see the GNWT research other circumpolar countries existing and emerging technologies and have them do cold weather testing. We also need to support local companies, in any NWT community, trying to bring cleaner, more energy efficient products to market.

I also want to see portable saw mills in some of our smaller communities to create fire barriers, then utilize the wood for building much needed public housing and/or greenhouses. The by-product from that could then be used for wood pellets or mulch, or both.

I have already committed to the NWT/Nunavut Construction Association to review the existing outdated 30 year Mechanics Lien Act to look at reducing the hold back rate that currently sits at 10%. I will not commit to the actual rate reduction until I've seen some historical data and trends.

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2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWT's economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

We have to streamline the application for exploration processes. It's a very cumbersome and lengthy process. There is so much red tape, the process is horrendously time consuming and the regulatory hurdles are a deterrent. Once the industry learns how challenging it is for exploration in the NWT, they'll go elsewhere. I'm in no way suggesting we skip necessary due diligent steps, but I am suggesting the government perform a LEAN exercise on the process from application for exploration permit through to first day of operation. I'm very fortunate to know professionals that are involved in almost every stage of these projects so have the capacity to reach out and provide accurate information that isn't filtered by senior management.

Once the process has been streamlined, with full consideration for cultural and environmental stewardship, we must sell the North as such. We need to go out and sell the North as a viable, resource rich region. We don't need 14 people traveling to accomplish this. We need amazing video footage of what the North has to offer to showcase how rich we are. We need our government to sell the process to interested companies and let them know we have a workforce that is eager to get their hands dirty. We don't need a huge delegation to do this.

Land claims have to be a priority for this next government. It makes exploration companies nervous to consider the North with unsettled land claims and the indigenous governments deserve this

I do believe running hydro power up to the existing mines would encourage more exploration from companies already mining there. The area is resource rich and with existing mining infrastructure in place, it would make sense feasibly. There are more minerals, but in part, it boils down to the will of the companies to navigate the current red tape.

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3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living.

During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes.

To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

I was directly impacted by the increase in land lease fees, to the tune of 800% in one year, which is absolutely irresponsible of any level of government to impose on their citizens. I would like to see some rules in place that prohibit the GNWT from imposing increases in any taxes or fees over a fair percentage annually. If fees must come in line with market value, spread the increase out over several years.

The Airport Improvement Fee has had a negative impact on the flow of air traffic. This information independently stems directly from several individuals employed in the industry. I feel this tax should be scrapped entirely as it negatively impacts multiple businesses. I do not support a hotel at the airport as it doesn't bring the tourists into the community.

Affordable licensed daycare homes for months old to 4 years is desperately needed. The wait list is years long, which is not sustainable and puts immense pressures on families. The stress to try to find affordable daycare needs to be addressed as a priority. I commit to working with other MLA's wanting to see this initiative fast tracked.

We need to do a comprehensive review of BIP to ensure companies that have long been established in the North are receiving a fair shake.

GNWT needs to open the doors for cleaner energy technologies development. I want to see the GNWT research other circumpolar countries existing and emerging technologies and have them do cold weather testing. We also need to support local companies, in any NWT community, trying to bring cleaner, more energy efficient products to market

Reducing the cost of energy is one way to bring down the cost of living for all residents, businesses and governments. Doing this will trickle down to consumers. We should be focusing on increasing grants to ensure they reach a majority of the population, not just those who can afford major retrofits, i.e. converting to propane, installing wood pellet stoves, installing triple pane windows, etc. At present only those with significant savings can afford these upgrades. I would like to research the feasibility of offering low interest

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loans for individuals wanting to upgrade to solar, propane, wood burning wood pellet stoves, just to name a few.

The NTPC file needs to be scrutinized in depth by a working committee. I do not have all the answers to this issue, but am directly impacted by it. I will fully commit to working with other MLA's to find better solutions to ease the financial burden residents are facing.

Yellowknife South

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- 1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?**

There are three key areas that I believe we need to focus on to boost the economy:

1. Mining
2. Tourism
3. Polytechnic University

I think as candidates we in agreement that a key factor to improving our economy is supporting mining. Creating the right incentives and environment for mineral exploration and development is all-important in helping extend the life of our current mines and, more importantly, developing the North's next mines. Having worked in the industry for many years, I believe that we can and must do better in ensuring jobs go to Northerners and that the economic benefits from mining stay in the North.

The 18th Legislative Assembly just passed a Bill on the creation of the new Mineral Resource Act. To ensure continued and improved investment, a focus during the next government on developing regulations that supports exploration and development while still ensuring benefits to the North and Indigenous groups are seen throughout the life of a project, is essential. This means from exploration, to construction, through operations and finally reclamation. We must do this with meaningful engagement with all relevant stakeholders.

A related item that will assist in creating certainty within this industry is the finalization of land claims. With the Slave Geological Province Corridor at our doorstep, it is important that we get the Akaitcho, Deh

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Cho and NWT Metis claims settled very soon. The completion of land claims will ensure alignment with indigenous leadership, increasing the likelihood additional lands may be opened up for development.

From a tourism perspective, we know that the Aurora is a big draw for us. We market ourselves well and know that the winter months are “tourist season”. The only issue is that we need “tourist season” to be the entire year. How do we do this?

Well, we need to focus on diversification of the tourism sector. We need a broader selection of tourism products and experiences, including cultural and indigenous tourism. And to do this, we need to create the right incentives for private sector tourism product development. This means that the government needs to work effectively with relevant organizations, outfitters and service providers to make informed decisions, provide adequate supports for the creation of new businesses if needed, and look long-term and plan for how new infrastructure such as highways can provide opportunities.

The expansion of the Yellowknife Airport is also integral to the development of the North, both as part of a broader industrial strategy, but also in order to accommodate international flights. We lose a lot of tourism spend by having tourists stopping in Vancouver, Calgary and Edmonton – we need those dollars to be spent here in the North. Having the ability to receive direct international flights improves the likelihood of this happening. The expansion of the Yellowknife Airport also allows us to take greater advantage of other business opportunities such as lucrative cold-weather-testing.

The polytechnic university has the potential to be a game changer for us. It has the potential to draw people to the North, not just to go to school, but also to live long- term. Currently the majority of our graduates attend post secondary schooling in the south, many not returning once they complete their studies. If we gave them the opportunity to go to school here at home in the first place, they are more likely to stay North and continue to contribute to the economy for years to come. And we know that our great city has drawn “one year” folks to stay for a lifetime, so drawing students to our city increases the likelihood that they stay permanently, thereby increasing our Federal transfer payments and increasing contributions to the local economy.

We can also leverage the polytechnic university by having the school focus on programs and professions that are typically tough to fill from within the North (trades, mine technicians, healthcare professionals) or that will support the growth of our economy (remediation and tourism). In this way, we are more likely to grow local expertise, improve our ability to hire from within the North, and increase the likelihood of people staying North. For example, we can partner with our industry friends to ensure that summer student and co-op placements are filled from the polytechnic institute, building a connection between students and employers early on and increasing the likelihood of full-time employment down the road.

In all of our decisions related to the economy, in order to get the most out of our investments, we need to consider more than just the benefits, we also need to determine the potential impacts and work with stakeholders to plan for and mitigate them.

2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT's minerals industry and the NWT's economy, which is important in the NWT's path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn't recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?

The biggest contribution that I will make to rejuvenate investment in mining in the NWT will be to take action. Let me explain.

In 2014-15 the GNWT issued its first Mineral Development Strategy. In this document, a weakness in our investment climate was highlighted as an area of concern, as was the need to restore the territory's competitive advantage. The weakness in our investment climate was in part the result of unclear and uncertain regulatory processes.

Fast forward to 2016 and in the GNWT's Unlocking our Potential publication the government exclaimed that we were "open for business" citing 5 reasons the NWT was one the friendliest places to mine:

1. Mineral Potential
2. Supportive Populace
3. Political Will
4. Trained Resident Workforce
5. Geoscience Expertise

Fast forward again to this past August when the Mineral Development Strategy Progress Report covering 2016-19 was released and under Pillar 2 of the strategy, which is focused on establishing an improved NWT regulatory environment, two of the successes being celebrated included:

1. The Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board working on the development of a guideline advising prospective operators about what the regulatory process looks like and the work it would entail; and

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2. The introduction of the new Mineral Resource Act.

Neither of these successes have in fact clarified or provided more certainty in our regulatory processes.

The 5 reasons mentioned earlier for the NWT being a great place to mine still hold true, and likely more so. There are a greater number of residents today understanding the importance mining plays in our economy, and more than any other slate of prospective MLAs in previous elections, we are agreeing that we need to further support mining. So if we know what the issue is and we have the environment required to make the changes, what is the issue?

As someone who has sat as a representative of industry encouraging the government to make changes, offering to work as a member of a broader stakeholder group to find solutions, I know that we will only see the needed improvements when we have a government that is committed to taking action.

1. MLAs that work together, across departments and committees;
2. Leaders within the GNWT structure that are committed to making necessary change;
3. Government departments that do not operate in silos and that communicate with each other; and
4. A willingness to bring all stakeholders together not just to commit to working on solutions, but to actually work together to put changes into action.

As your hopeful MLA for Yellowknife South and as member of the 19th Legislative Assembly looking to make positive change for the NWT, I am committed to taking the necessary action to make these things happen.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

There has been a lot of support for further contributions to infrastructure such as the Talston project and the Great Slave Geological Corridor. I too am a huge supporter of funding further infrastructure that aims to reduce the cost of living. But instead of repeating the rationale for my support for these infrastructure

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projects, like most candidates have explained, I am instead going to speak in a little greater detail about the tax situation here in Yellowknife and across the North.

When I was discussing this concern with a friend, they used the following metaphor to describe the current climate when it comes to taxes: “death by a thousand cuts”. That resonated with me.

We have introduced so many new taxes and have increased existing taxes over the last few years, that individually, though they may not be “costly” to residents or business owners, cumulatively, they are leaving our residents and business community wondering whether now is the time to leave and/or close up shop.

That’s a reality.

The increase in power rates, land lease taxes and the introduction of airport improvement fees and the carbon tax, to name just a few, all contribute to an individual’s or a family’s cost of living. Add to that the impact of additional taxes to businesses that then get passed on to the consumer, and the impact can become unbearable.

Let’s give an example. Our regulations require businesses that sell alcohol to purchase the alcohol that they sell from the government. Recently, the GNWT increased the taxes paid on the purchase of alcohol. So, where a local bar owner could purchase directly from a distributor in Edmonton at almost half the cost, they are forced to pay almost double through the GNWT. How do we think that added cost gets covered? At least in part, it gets passed on to the consumer. So, not only is the basic cost of living increasing, so are the goods and services that individuals choose to spend their remaining spending money on. Eventually, costs overall are just too high, residents stop spending money at local businesses, businesses falter, people leave, our Federal transfer dollars decrease and we are hurting more than we were before.

The next government needs to take a long hard look at the overall tax situation not just in Yellowknife, but across the North. What is the intent of the tax? How much are we receiving from the taxes? What are the impacts?

Taxes that cripple businesses and reduce spend by consumers is contrary to a flourishing economy, especially when the benefit of those taxes may be less than the potential of other revenue generators. So, if we are losing more people to the south and therefore receiving less Federal transfer dollars because of the ongoing increases to taxes, we need to make changes.

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1. The NWT Chamber of Commerce will be hosting Opportunities North this October which highlights key ways to grow the economy. Recent reports from the Conference Bureau of Canada and most recently CMHC pointed towards an economic slump. If you had the opportunity what would be your direct and specific action to grow the economy?

There are two parts to my answer: the need for a clear vision and then ideas for immediate action.

A vision and a plan

The first task for the next Legislative Assembly is to create a collaborative and clear vision that will inspire investor confidence and drive economic prosperity. My vision going in would be that we need to revitalize our mineral resource sector, support growth among NWT-owned and managed small and medium sized enterprise and invest in education and innovation.

Direct and specific actions will be the building blocks in our plan to achieve a vision to grow the economy, not only to create processes that may have some impact on the economy. As we set goals, we need incremental performance indicators for each goal with clear points of accountability responsible for each one. I believe our public service wants to be empowered and engaged to create meaningful change and that it is possible to incentivize senior public servants to be accountable for measurable results. Ultimately, accountability for economic growth as a big picture goal rests on the shoulders of political leadership.

Direct and specific actions to achieve the goal

We need to catch-up on infrastructure across sectors from communications to transport to energy. That is a reality that must be part of any long-term economic vision for the NWT. Our political leadership will need to be decisive in order move from feasibility studies to capital investment.

There are also immediate actions that I believe can have a direct, specific and prompt impact on a growth vision for the economy:

1. Reduce "red tape": Regulations impact business development at all scales and across industries. I believe the desire to reduce "red tape" will easily find its way into the next Legislative Mandate. The question is how to do so effectively.

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Why? To support early stage resource projects to move forward efficiently, to provide certainty to investors about the time it will take to scale up a project and see a return on investment, to encourage start up entrepreneurs to follow through on their ideas and to support business innovation.

How: I believe our goal should be to prioritize effective, streamlined and responsive regulatory systems. That means rules that achieve their intended goal but avoid redundancy and are responsive to the actual size or needs of a given circumstance or situation. There are many rule systems that can impede economic growth, such as:

- Environmental regulations that overlap between different levels of government or multiple government entities;
- Development or environmental processes that are not scaled to the nature of the application;
- Regulatory processes that allow for too many delays;
- Food safety regulations that constrain growth of a local specialty food industry;
- Liquor licensing regulations that reduce the competitiveness of our local service industry;
- Provisions in the Mechanics Lien Act that may be out of step with more modern practices.

I think we need to analyze the purpose of a rule and ensure that its impacts are actually related to the purpose. When establishing new, more responsive rules, I think we should consider a commitment to always remove an old rule first. To really peak investor interest, we might consider a temporary commitment to remove two old rules for every new one. This will keep rule systems responsive, streamlined and dynamic.

2. Procurement: Establish responsive procurement policies that prioritize support for NWT managed and owned businesses, particularly those whose employees are paid salaries that stay in the NWT.

Why? Northern based businesses face higher operating costs compared to southern entities. Recognizing this reality and supporting northern-based businesses helps them grow, compete, develop capacity and encourages more employment in the NWT.

How: I believe that an independent panel composed of business representatives from around the NWT should be tasked with a short timeline (120 days) to deliver a proposal for change and improvement for GNWT procurement.

The "Business Incentive Program" (BIP) is the current policy intended to help level the playing field so that local businesses, and the NWT residents they employ, are competitive when bidding for government contracts against southern-based counterparts. Unfortunately, many in our business community are concerned that the current "BIP" is ineffective in achieving its purpose.

I have heard from members of the business community about different options to improve this system to support NWT based businesses. For example, one suggestion is that rather than a government-contract bidding-advantage,

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northern businesses could receive a form of subsidy or contract-advantage based on the number of salaries paid in the NWT. Another idea is to reward companies for “performance” of work using northern labor rather than reward them in advance for the “promise” of northern employment.

The GNWT should also support or incentivize local companies to partner together in order to have the capacity to bid on larger scale projects. Alternatively, or in addition, I believe we can find a way to support northern managed or led bids that keep the leadership of a project in the NWT but relies on support from companies based elsewhere to help bridge gaps in experience or knowledge.

I believe we have ideas around us to make NWT businesses more competitive. It is time to gather those ideas, analyze the information, make a decision and act.

3. Champion innovation: Create immediate opportunities for partnerships and collaboration between businesses, show our commitment to lifelong learning and build capacity for innovation and entrepreneurship across sectors.

Why? Investment in our mineral resource sector has fallen behind. I do not only want to catch up. I want to catch up and get ahead.

How: The NWT needs to show our business community and potential investors that we are ready to lead with a vision for innovation from mineral resources to tourism. Direct and specific actions we can take immediately are to help facilitate partnerships, invest in education and reward innovation.

Effective partnerships need trust. Both during my time at the NWT Chamber and in my outreach with Indigenous Development Corporations and other businesses in the lead up to the campaign, I have consistently heard of a strong desire to create opportunities for networking, collaboration and partnerships. One benefit may be increased opportunities for multi-local partners bidding on larger scale projects. I think the GNWT can help facilitate opportunities to build, and in some cases rebuild, relationships and links between and within industries or sectors and government departments. The Premier’s recent economic symposiums are a good example that brought Indigenous Governments, Indigenous Development Corporations and, later, other NWT businesses and business organizations together for a facilitated program. I think a more permanent, regular and inclusive program of this sort should be immediately established.

I am a strong believer in the power of lifelong learning as a creator of future prosperity. I believe the GNWT should always prioritize opportunities for education and training across industries and sectors. That can be industry-specific such as through the Mine-Training Society or support for students who choose to bring their education back to the NWT through adaptive Student Financial Aid repayment options. I believe we should also be decisive and strong in our support for a polytechnical university that capitalizes on our areas of particular strength such as rare earth

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minerals, technology metals and arctic climate science. We need to show that this is a jurisdiction that will prioritize lifelong education.

Last under this heading, I support the work that is beginning towards reimagining a northern-based knowledge economy and believe it needs to be championed. A knowledge economy will prioritize innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship. This includes support for a university institution as a key component that can act as a research hub focused on northern research priorities. It could also include supporting a physical space similar to the successful artist space in Inuvik that provides shared space and tools for artisans or more like the broadly focused Yukonstruct facility in Whitehorse. It should also include flexible access to funding for early-stage research or project developmentscaled to the needs of small and medium sized businesses. The NWT cannot delay in showing itself to be dynamic and innovative – we need to move into leading a northern growth economy.

- 2. Investment in mineral exploration is critical to maintaining the NWT’s minerals industry and the NWTs economy, which is important in the NWT’s path forward post-Devolution. It has been more than three Legislative Assembly terms since exploration investment in the NWT began to decline. It still hasn’t recovered, preferring other territories and provinces instead. The Conference Board of Canada continues to predict grim economic consequences for the NWT as a result of mining decline. What specific actions would you take to turn this around, to rejuvenate mining investment in the NWT and keep our mining jobs, business, and tax revenues strong?**

The NWT needs to urgently raise exploration investment and support early stage projects towards successful development and production.

I would start from the 2014 Mineral Resource Strategy that was produced in partnership with the NWT/NU Chamber of Mines. I believe the Strategy’s five goals are as relevant today as they were five years ago:

- Create a competitive edge to improve investor confidence;
- Improving the regulatory environment;
- Enhancing Indigenous engagement and community capacity;
- Promote a lasting legacy; and
- Enriching the workforce.

A progress report for 2016-2019 was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on August 23, 2019. In that progress report, it notes that “the next key step will be a review of recommendations received from MDS partners on opportunities to improve implementation work and determine whether the MDS is having the intended impact.” I believe that review is urgent so implementation work can be invigorated and adjustments made as needed to improve on measured outcomes.

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As we take action to achieve the 2014 goals, I believe the following to be key priorities to reinvigorate the mineral resource sector:

- Regulatory systems: we should ensure that our regulatory systems are responsive and streamlined. Being “streamlined” means that small scale projects should comply with rules relevant to the scale of what is being proposed. Being “responsive” could include ensuring that processes follow clear timelines not easily subject to delay. Overall, I believe we should continue to work with Federal partners towards getting as close as possible to a single point of contact to support proponents through any regulatory process.
- Education: Strengthen investment in education starting from early childhood foundations through to adult learning and training opportunities. I support a university that can act as an anchor for programs relevant to northern needs including geology and geoscience and also as a partner in innovation in areas of particular strength such as rare earth minerals.
- Infrastructure: We need to catch-up on infrastructure across sectors from communications to transport to energy. I realize that major infrastructure projects involve significant capital so if asked to choose a priority amongst all of these needs, I would focus first on energy. Providing cleaner, less costly energy through Territory-wide projects such large scale hydro or via an improved grid-connection could make resource development more economically feasible, reduce operating costs for all sizes of business as well as residents and reduce our carbon footprint. It will also help companies looking to assure their investors about their own carbon outputs.

3. The second stated priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly was cost of living. During the time of the 18th Legislative Assembly northerners have increasingly had their cost of living increased through the introduction of or increase of new fees and/or taxes. To name a few NTPC has increased rates an average of 31% over the last 5 years.; the airport improvement fee; increase in land lease taxes; and introduction of the carbon tax. How do you propose to noticeably reduce the cost of living in your riding?

There is a web of inputs that increase the cost of living and the cost of doing business. I believe it is important to be aware of those different inputs and how they impact one another in order to remain conscious of how different decisions – including choices around fees or taxes in one arena – might impact this long-standing challenge for NWT residents.

In addition to aiming to avoid or minimize any further increases in fees for government services, I believe we can have an impact on the cost of living and the cost of doing business by focusing on energy infrastructure and improving the availability of land access for municipal development. Efforts that target both residents and businesses have potentially double the impact: reducing the cost of living for residents reduces pressure for higher wages; reducing the cost of doing business should reduce pressure for higher costs in goods and services.

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Energy: By improving energy infrastructure whether by increasing hydro capability or expanding grids, I believe we can impact both business operating costs and residential cost of living. In doing so, it is important to look to increase the overall demand for greener energy by supporting potential industry users. That way the fixed costs to produce the energy are spread out over more users. Whatever direction we chose will be expensive but I believe we need to be decisive and move forward.

Land access: Limited options for development within the City of Yellowknife results in a limited supply of commercial space which can drive up costs or reduce opportunity for development. I believe we need to work with the city to improve the city's ability to plan and respond to emerging needs or innovative development proposals. Establishing a plan to transfer land within the municipal boundary to the city may be a solution and I believe this should be actively explored. Changes in the way land is managed should include active consultation with Indigenous Governments on whose traditional territories the City is built.

I also believe we must actively seek a solution for more productive use of vacant spaces, particularly in the downtown core. To come up with innovative solutions, I would suggest a task force drawn from regional Indigenous Governments, the City of Yellowknife, GNWT and local business people involved in the real estate industry mandated to identify recommendations within a short, set timeframe.