

GREAT SLAVE GAZETTE

Proudly serving the community of Great Slave



MLA GREAT SLAVE
KATRINA NOKLEBY
WINTER 2021



Welcome to 2021! We were lucky enough to end 2020 with the first doses of the Moderna vaccine administered to local seniors. In the coming weeks (maybe even by the time you read this) the Territorial rollout plan will be released and the vaccination race will be on!

The North has worked hard to maintain our stronghold against the COVID-19 virus and I have to say thank you to each and every Northerner for their part. I couldn't be more proud of how well we have fared against this deadly virus and worked together to stay safe and healthy. It's not just luck that we've persevered in our fight against COVID-19, it's been the hard work and dedication of everyone in our territory.

As we go into the coldest months here in Canada's Arctic with temperatures already dipping below -40, please keep an eye on your friends and neighbours so we can ensure the safety of our vulnerable populations. You can call street outreach at 445-7202 between the hours of 12:00 noon and 12:00 midnight if you see someone requiring assistance, or 911 outside of those hours.

Please join our Constituency meeting on January 26th, there is a lot to talk about and it has never been easier! You can join the Zoom conference by logging onto the video chat or by telephone. Login information can be obtained by emailing greatslave@ntassembly.ca. Hopefully by the spring session we can have an in person meeting again! Alternatively please feel free to contact my office via email or telephone anytime to raise your concerns or issues with me.

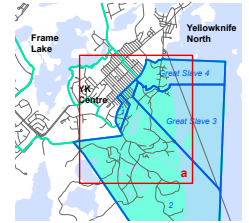
Lastly, I am pleased to unveil my newly developed website that you can visit online at <http://mla-greatslave.ca>. It is our goal over the coming years to populate the website with photos and stories highlighting our wonderful community and its residents. If you have anything you'd like us to include please feel free to submit photos or stories via our email or online facebook page.

Katrina



Katrina and Peter Pagonis of Pete's Tire and Salvage, making a donation to the Salvation Army Christmas Kettle.

Please note that this newsletter is being distributed by Canada Post as unaddressed admail due to COVID-19. Canada Post delivery routes do not match the electoral district. Some other district residents will receive this Great Slave Newsletter. We have included a map of the Great Slave electoral district so you can check which district you reside in.



THE COMMUNITY OF *Great Slave*

CONSTITUENCY MEETING

Due to COVID 19 restrictions, we will be holding our constituent meeting via Zoom.

**January 26, 2021 7:00pm
via Zoom.**

TO REGISTER

**email: greatslave@ntassembly.ca
or call 867-446-4901**

SESSION WILL RESUME ON

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

PROTECT NWT

Protect NWT has been created to help Northerners with questions about COVID-19 and they have launched a new number 811 which is a pandemic support line where you can discuss any questions, plans or requirements. Email support is available at protectnwt@gov.nt.ca



NOKLEBY IN THE NEWS

Since taking over her new role as a regular MLA, Katrina has worked hard to bring issues of concern to the attention of people via social media and to the floor of the NWT Legislative Assembly.

Backed by the behind-the-scenes knowledge she received during her time as a cabinet minister, your MLA is now poised to be a force to reckon with in her role as part of the Assembly's 'opposition' to the cabinet ministers and premier.

While that might sound adversarial, the regular MLAs play a key role in ensuring the Executive Council remains focussed on priorities agreed to in the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories (2019-2023). The regular MLAs also must respond to issues of the day raised by constituents. One measure of how successful an MLA is at addressing concerns that matter to real people is attracting the attention of the media in a positive way.

And over the past few months, Katrina has certainly done that. From underfunding leading to dispatcher burnout on the new 911 service, to providing a solution for firefighting service on the Ingraham Trail to internet connectivity for people journeying along our highways, Katrina has attracted some positive attention.

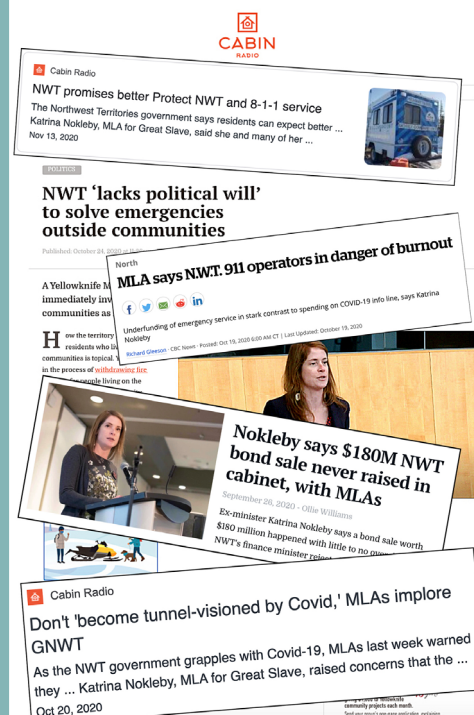
Here are just some of the stories that have featured your MLA:

- A **Sept. 26**, Cabin Radio story reported on Katrina's revelation that the territorial government's sale of bonds worth \$180 million happened with little to no oversight. "The GNWT has quietly taken on \$180 million in new debt," Katrina stated in a social media post that caught Cabin's attention. "This was never raised to my recollection while I was on cabinet. Nor am I aware that regular MLAs were consulted. Future generations of NWTers will be paying for this for decades to come."
- On **Oct. 20**, CBC North reported about Katrina's concerns over the territory's new 911 emergency service being underfunded. That could lead to the burnout of operators, who are dealing with life-or-death situations. In the Assembly, Katrina said there are only five operators, working 12-hour shifts sometimes with no relief. "At times, 911 has been so short-staffed that the dispatcher on duty doesn't get meal or break times and has to run to the bathroom hoping a call does not come in," she said, noting the GNWT's thriftiness about 911 emergency service costs is in contrast to its spending for a new 811 service it set up for calls related to COVID-19.
- On **Oct. 24**, Cabin Radio reported on Katrina's demand that the GNWT immediately invest in better emergency services outside communities, as lives are at risk. Her plea came as the City of Yellowknife gave notice of withdrawing fire services for people living on the Ingraham Trail this spring. She also noted there are other communities in the NWT where residents live beyond municipal boundaries. She wondered who would help them in case of emergency. Katrina offered a solution for the Yellowknife situation, urging the GNWT to purchase a combined fire and rescue truck for Yellowknife's airport, which could then be used both at the airport and to respond to emergencies outside city limits.
- In a **Dec. 17** story on the Yellowknifer website, in her role as a member of the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment, Katrina raised the issue of the alleged monopoly that Northwestel has in the North, and asked Northwestel president Curtis Shaw if there could be more partnerships with Northern businesses to provide last-mile internet connections.



Photo credit: Blair McBride/NNSL

Katrina at the December 6th Vigil for the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women. The vigil was hosted by the Status of Women Council and took place outdoors this year to ensure compliance with the relevant public health orders.



IMMUNITY FOR OUR COMMUNITIES

The availability and rollout of a COVID-19 vaccine is a turning point in this pandemic. Emerging Wisely stated that all public health measures may be lifted once a vaccine for COVID-19 has been approved, produced, and distributed to vulnerable populations. Before any measures can be safely lifted, the vaccine needs to be delivered and the rate of infection needs to be reduced territorially, nationally and globally.

The NWT is deeply interconnected with other Canadian jurisdictions. This means that national vaccine rollout, as well as the ongoing status of the pandemic across the country is factored into the decisions made about territorial public health restrictions.

Over the coming weeks and months, as more research is completed and more COVID-19 vaccines come on the market, changes to recommendations will happen once there is strong evidence on vaccine safety and efficacy.

Until that time, it is important to remember that there are a number of residents who will not

be able to receive the vaccine. This includes residents who are pregnant or breastfeeding, immunocompromised, have an autoimmune condition, and those under the age of 18.

Finally, public health measures like travel restrictions, self-isolation on requirements, and rules for gatherings and businesses have been put into place to mitigate the health impacts of COVID-19. These measures have been instrumental in the protection of the public but have taken a toll on residents of the NWT. The goal has always been to return to our normal way of life and remove these measures.

The successful rollout of a vaccine will be a major step in getting back to a "normal" way of life, but it will take time and perseverance. Following vaccine delivery, the restrictions will be reviewed and adjusted to reflect the risk level. It will be important to maintain these protective measures and continue the behaviours we have successfully adopted, including physical distancing, enhanced cleaning and disinfection, staying home when you



are sick, keeping your circle small, healthy respiratory practices, and wearing a mask.

We truly appreciate the dedication NWT residents have shown throughout the course of this pandemic and are counting on these efforts as we enter this next crucial stage.

The entire strategy can be read at:
https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/sites/hss/files/resources/nwt_covid-19_vaccine_strategy.pdf

1-800-661-0844

NWT HELP LINE 24/7

The NWT Help Line offers support to residents of the Northwest Territories, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. It is 100% free and confidential, and offers the option for follow-up calls with a trained responder.

Trained responders can help you with many issues, including:

- Stress management
- Addictions recovery
- Suicidal thoughts
- Depression and anxiety
- Abuse
- Grief and loss

For more information, visit our NWT Help Line [page](https://www.gov.nt.ca/covid-19) and share it with your friends.

If you would like this information in another official language, contact us at 1-855-846-9601. Si vous voulez ces renseignements dans une autre langue officielle, communiquez avec nous au 1-855-846-9601.

Remember help is available if you need it!



For vaccine information See Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine Fact Sheet:
https://www.hss.gov.nt.ca/sites/hss/files/resources/moderna_vaccine_information_sheet_jan_2021_-_english_0.pdf



RAYMOND PIDZAMECKY
B.A B.S.W. M.S.W. RSW

This year has been especially difficult for many of us. The isolation and travel restrictions that have resulted from COVID are for some, exacerbating underlying issues. In particular... depression, addictions and PTSD. Resources are stretched and, in some cases, limited.

For indigenous constituents, the separation from family during this time of year can trigger past traumas that originate from exposure to residential school. Current restrictions might trigger you to remember being forcibly taken away and prevented from having contact with family.

To help address the needs of this specific group of individuals we would like to make you aware that there are approximately 16 counsellors that contract to First Nations and Inuit Health Branch - Northern Region Indigenous Services Canada. This group provides services to **Yellowknife Indian Residential School Survivors** and their families, **Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women**

and **Girls** and their families and individuals who went to **Day School** and their families.

The process to access counselling, if you fit into any of the 3 groups mentioned above, is to **call First Nations and Inuit Health Branch - Northern Region Indigenous Services Canada at 1-800-464-8106** and at the prompt **press 2 for the Northwest Territories**. When you reach the call centre staff just ask for the list of counsellors serving Yellowknife. From that list you pick a counsellor and contact them through the phone numbers posted. You get to pick the counsellor that you feel might best serve your needs.



IF YOU SEE SOMEONE
OUTSIDE AND COLD,
DONT IGNORE THEM.

867 445 7202

**YELLOWNIFE STREET
OUTREACH**

WILL HELP THOSE IN NEED,
SOBER OR NOT.

YOU NEVER KNOW,
YOU COULD BE SAVING A LIFE.

THE **NWT'S** SUPPORT FOR
LGBTQ2S+ YOUTH, FAMILIES
AND THEIR **ALLIES**

INFO@RAINBOWCOALITIONYK.ORG

WWW.RAINBOWCOALITIONYK.ORG

867-444-7295



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OF
YELLOWKNIFE



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**DO YOU HAVE A
SPECIAL EVENT
COMING UP?**

wedding | birthday | new baby

WE WANT TO KNOW!

Email: greatslave@ntassembly.ca