



Status of Women of the NWT

NWT Territorial Candidate Questions



In 100 words or less...

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How do you plan to make NWT women more **equitable** in the NWT? What policies or legislation do you propose could change this?

Frame Lake: Jan Fullerton

More than anything, I would fight for better programs to address mental trauma, mental illness, and addictions. In a 2008 report, 73% of NWT family violence offences involved alcohol and drugs. However, while drug and alcohol abuse are often contributing factors, they often are not root causes. Colonization and residential schools in particular have caused trauma that is a barrier to healthy family relationships. If we don't address this underlying trauma and associated addictions, we are unlikely to see any real progress on family violence. I would also push for more alternative justice programs for convicted offenders such as victim-centered...

As a starting point, I would work with the Women's Advisory Office, the Status of Women Council of the NWT, and any other relevant departments/agencies to look at options for implementing a gender-based analysis of policies, programs, and initiatives. Part of this discussion would focus on what resources would be required and what office/agency/department could perform this service with the best balance of objectivity and affordability. Once this work is moving forward, it will help to inform government about other steps that would have a positive impact.

Sources: http://gordonfoundation.ca/sites/default/files/publications/MindTheGenderGap_NinaLarsson.compressed.pdf

Frame Lake: Kevin O'Reilly

Family violence is a systemic problem in the NWT, and its impacts are felt by women, children, elders and men. It must be addressed by a long-term comprehensive strategy implemented by many organizations and coordinated by the Coalition Against Family Violence. I agree with the 2013 NWT Family Violence Report Card that said more effort is required to inform and educate community people, including leaders, in order to change the attitudes and behaviours that contribute to violence. The quality of support services needs to be improved, especially in smaller communities. Stronger emergency protection orders are required to take offenders out...

A number of policies and legislative changes are required to improve gender equity in the NWT, along with those mentioned in my response on family violence. More affordable and accessible child care is needed in the NWT, so that more women and men are enabled to work and to contribute to their communities. Pay equity legislation needs to be strengthened and enforced, and a review should be undertaken of the GNWT's Affirmative Action Policy. Benefits for working parents must be improved, particularly for paid parental leave, and family and sick leave, and more flexible work schedules should be instituted in...

Frame Lake: David Wasylciw

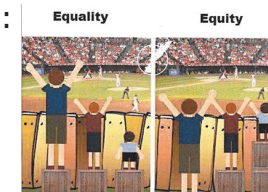
Firstly, I want to see more focus on changing attitudes towards women and girls. This means investment at every level including investment in new school curriculum that would support increasing respect and empowerment of girls and women. I want that curriculum to include opportunities for young boys to identify healthy and contemporary ways of being masculine that encourages their own sense of self-worth and respectful relationships. Along with curriculum changes I want to see social marketing campaigns developed and targeted at NWT residents to increase awareness of the high rate family violence in the NWT, and prompt more open and...

The concept of equality versus equity is well understood in the GNWT. The GNWT has an Affirmative Action policy that recognizes that employment equity for Aboriginal people needs to be supported through policy and evaluation of outcomes. Providing equity for women requires the development and implementation of an inclusive diversity lens that includes gender-based analysis as a key principle. I will work with all MLAs to ensure the GNWT develops and implements this lens early in the life of the 18th Assembly.

Great Slave: Glen Abernethy

If re-elected I will work to change public perception. I would like to enhance programs such as "What Will It Take" and work to get the training it into schools, colleges, and available to residents in every community. This will help expose violence and give all people the confidence and skills they need to respond to situations of family violence. If re-elected I commit to working with the Status of Women, the Coalition Against Family Violence and other stakeholders to build upon existing Family Violence Actions Plans with a updated plan for 2016-2020 with a focus on prevention. If...

I believe strongly in the concept of equity. Over the last four years, to keep myself grounded and focused when I'm working on issues important to NWT residents, I have posted the following graphic on my office wall:



If re-elected I commit to working with MLAs and government to ensure that an Equity Based Analysis is utilized during the design and implementation of program and services. This will require that Equity Based Analysis training is provided to all staff (policy/program design/etc.) responsible for program review, monitoring and design. We all know that one of the most effective ways of improving...

Great Slave: Chris Clarke

I think the most pressing issue for women at this time is their right to live without fear. All too often to I hear about women scared to take a cab by themselves, walk down the street late at night, even in pairs, afraid that they will be ridiculed for who they are, or scared what their partner might do to them when they get home from work. Luckily, I come from a long line of a matriarchal family, where women are the boss. From living with my great grandmother Mary Louise King (born Desjarlais Lockhart), my grandmother Doris McQueen...

As an architect, I have worked on countless construction sites overseeing the development of the building, and whenever I see a woman on site it makes me extremely happy and impressed that they are working in trades mainly dominated by men. However, this should not impress me; it should be completely normal. This extends to many professions, such as pilots, mining, oil and gas workers, the transportation sector, and many, many others. I will work hard for women's rights, and particularly Native women, in upper management positions within the government. Having worked for Environment Canada, the NWT Housing Corporation, and...

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How do you plan to make NWT women more **equitable** in the NWT? What policies or legislation do you propose could change this?

Kam Lake: Kieron Testart

My plan will take action on family violence with education initiatives targeted at boys that teach informed consent and healthy relationships as part of sexual health education. For adult men, treatment programs in the correctional system and specialized courts like Domestic Violence Treatment Option Court are important initiatives that have seen significant progress. Our government needs to continue showing leadership on ending domestic violence and expanding these programs with dedicated funding. I am also in support of legal navigator program for women that will connect victims of domestic violence access social and legal supports provided by our government.

I will develop new mentorship programs targeted towards advancing the careers of women within the public service. I will develop new education funding for women in trades, science, engineering, and as entrepreneurs. My 10-year plan to transform Aurora College into a polytechnic will allow students, including women, to stay and learn in the North. Staying close to home offers increased stability and access to family supports while pursuing post-secondary opportunities. Finally, no plan to open our economy is complete without affordable daycare and protected maternity leave. I will work to create new daycare spaces and implement a universal daycare program.

Nahendeh: Kevin Menicoche

I will work to ensure that we as the 18th assembly re-affirm the NWT Family Violence action plan, phase II and build the systems that provides a safe place for women and children, in our communities, so that victims can leave their abusive homes without fear.

I will work to have the Protection Against Family Violence act conduct the five year performance review and evaluation.

The GNWT has a Policy called "Equality of Men and Women in the Northwest Territories" this provides direction to the Minister responsible for the Status of women. This was created in 1998 and I believe that it is time to review it and ensure that the intent is fully carried out to raise the profile of women in the GNWT Public service and in the NWT.

Nahendeh: Dennis Nelner

My focus would be at the home. There are program dollars I feel are not properly spent, that can be targeted towards better parenting skills training through programs such as early childhood development. If we reduce the stresses at home better parenting skills allows us to solve problems in a better way; meaning less violence towards women, and reduction of single parent families. Considering fiscal restraints I would at the very least have one shelter constructed in the regional centres; so families have a place to go and cool off. A redistribution of healthcare monies is needed for more mental...

I would work with the union and HR to promote training and upgrading for the rank and file members of the GNWT. In today's society and the power of the internet employees are allowed the opportunity to upgrade their skills online, without having to leave the community or their families. By upgrading we can improve our chances of career advancement.

Nahendeh: Shane Thompson

As a single father of five young women and two young men and as Justice of the Peace for the past 24 years, I understand the importance of ensuring a safe home and ending family violence. As a MLA, I would stress the providing training to all residents starting in school, college and community based workshops (Men & Women), on how to stop the cycle. I would like to see the government work with communities to find home grown solutions and potentially on the land opportunities to heal. As well, continue to utilizing and enhancing the Emergency Protection Orders process...

As stated in my previous question, I have five daughters, with three of them still living in the north. All three feel that they have the same opportunity as their brothers. I believe the GNWT has come a long way in trying to provide equity and equality for all its residents. Is it perfect? No it isn't but it is getting better. When I look at my field of work or being a Justice of the Peace, the women and men are treated the same. In other words, same salary, same duties and same opportunities to grow.

As plans to...

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Range Lake: Caroline Cochrane

To pick two is difficult as I see the logic/necessity of addressing many areas (policy, partnerships, prevention, etc.).

The first item on the list though that I think we can do without additional funding is to work together. My own experience working in the non-profit sector has taught me that the GNWT needs to have all stakeholders at the table when important decisions are made.

I apologize but I cannot make a second choice for if we truly work together then the order of priority will be defined by us all instead of just the GNWT.

- Ensure the Status of Women Council Act is implemented as it is intended (all departments working in partnership with the Council)
- Apply a gender equity lens to all policies
- Review and tighten up the affirmative action policy through training, support, promotion and adherence
- Ensure our leadership stands behind its own legislation by appointing a female minister to the Status of Women.

Range Lake: Daryl Dolynny

In March 2015 I helped bring forward a motion calling for the GNWT to investigate the feasibility of a domestic violence death review committee for the NWT. The GNWT did some preliminary research but unfortunately it will be up to the 18th Assembly to continue to make this a priority. If elected, I will continue to pursue such a committee is established. The second area I would commit to supporting are the priorities of the recent National Roundtable on Missing and Murdered Aboriginal women. In the spirit of respect, recognition and responsibility we must improve the prevention and awareness of...

As government, while we know that Gender-Based Analysis may improve equity of performance, the GNWT still needs to standardize this approach with all policies and programs and evaluate its effectiveness. Furthermore, working on Forced Disclosure legislation, may cast the right amount of sunshine on discrepancies in the workforce, set new benchmarks for employers and call for a pressure of change. From the non-government side, we need to encourage business to be "pay equity champions", finally, we could also set up "voluntary" pledge campaigns for employers to close this equity gap.

Thebacha: J. Michael Miltenberger

From 2013 SoW Report Card: "All levels of government are needed to help in the fight to eradicate family violence. Some of the ways that we recommend are:
Raise awareness of the problem of family violence and establish social norms that makes violence unacceptable.
Connect community residents to services and programs in an equitable way so that all residents have the same level of service.
Change social and community attitudes and behaviors that contribute to violence. Build networks of leaders within communities that stand up against family violence. Hold services and institutions accountable to addressing community needs."

To determine what women need to increase their equitable status, I propose to work with the SoW NWT to articulate the needs they have. The areas that I think are most important to begin this discussion are prevention programs. We should assess how well they are working and then scale up the most promising ones.
The second area is regarding economic independence. We need to help women to be economically independent through targeted business start up funding program to helping women entrepreneurs and business owners. Also, role models can help support women-to-women business mentoring programs.

Thebacha: Louis Sebert

There are I understand currently five shelters for women escaping abuse. More should be created so that those in need of shelter have this resource closer to home. The use of DVTO Court is being expanded outside of Yellowknife (currently in Hay River and soon to be in Fort Smith). DVTO Court should be further expanded to communities where resources exist.

I have advocated an increase in the minimum wage to \$15.00 an hour which would assist the many women who work in the service industry.. A recent study has found that day care is expensive (\$45.00 to \$62.00 a day) and in short supply. Affordable day care on the Quebec model (about \$7.00) a day would remove a financial burden on families of modest means and allow more women to enter the workforce.

Yellowknife Centre: Julie Green

I commit to making family violence a high profile issue in any and all means at my disposal as an MLA. I will ensure constituents are informed as well as colleagues in the Legislative Assembly. I also believe that the Status of Women needs a larger budget to raise the profile of family violence. In addition to highlighting the issues during Family Violence Awareness Week in the fall, the SOW needs funds to promote an end to family violence year round. Family violence needs to become as unacceptable as drinking and driving.

A good focus for making conditions more equitable for women is to look at their workforce participation. Many women with pre-school children don't participate in the workforce because they don't have access to affordable, licensed child care. The GNWT has a study that says \$20 million would buy affordable child care in the NWT. The 18th assembly needs to look at how to make affordable child care a reality. Women are more often unemployed, underemployed and paid less than males. The 18th assembly needs to study these issues and find solutions.

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Yellowknife North: Edwin Castillo

1) Community Engagement
I think the families and communities that live with the family violence have largely been left out of discussions about the solutions in the past. To encourage community engagement, community solutions must reflect the full scope of issues of concern to their residents for the Northwest Territories. Working in partnership with community governments and residents can push advocates of social change to come up with new and creative approaches as they discover ways to help create healthy communities where people want to live.

2) Stabilization of funding for social community systems and NGOs
We should recognize...

There are several ways that I would be an advocate for NWT women being more equitable including policy changes as follows:

- Introduce measures (communiques and policies) that actively identify, encourage and celebrate women's achievements to the NWT.
- Encourage more accessible and affordable social services that are especially important for lower income women or offer family-friendly work environments. This will dramatically reduce the demands for unpaid care and the domestic work of women. The childcare or family care of appropriate quality and respectful of the rights and dignity of both caregivers and care receivers are still scarce, and where...

Yellowknife North: Ben Nind

Lifted, in part, from the UN Commission on the Status of Women – here is what I would commit to: Education for Prevention
"The best way to end violence against women and girls is to prevent it from happening in the first place by addressing its root and structural causes. Prevention should start early in life, by educating and working with young boys and girls promoting respectful relationships and gender equality." This needs to be a formal mandatory social education program for all youth in the NWT.
"Working with Men and Boys
Here is the scope of the issue. There are...

To ensure fairness, measures must often be put in place to compensate for the historical and social disadvantages that prevent women and men from operating on a level playing field. Equity is a means—equality is the result (UNESCO, 2003).

A number of legal instruments exist in Canada for equality for women. The Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms as well as the Canadian Human Rights Act and within this jurisdiction, the NWT Human Rights Act in which it "is recognized in the Northwest Territories that every individual is free and equal in dignity and rights without regard to his...

Yellowknife South: Robert R. McLeod

There remains large research gaps in understanding how best to address and reduce intimate partner violence, especially outside of urban areas. I believe we should step up the involvement of health care providers by developing and implementing protocols for referral of abused women to local services. I would engage the Departments of Health and Justice to ensure that health care interventions don't violate patient rights and move forward with legislative supports. We also need greater coordination and communications of services ("one-stop-shopping") to improve service access and effectiveness for victims. The Status of Women Council would be a lead partner on...

I believe the GNWT is already addressing gender equity and our personnel record illustrates the point. Female employees comprise the majority of the public service at 64.4%. These are well paying jobs. Among permanent senior managers in the public service 48% were female at the end of 2014. But we need to do more. We need to have more gender-balanced representation in the Legislative Assembly. I will commit to fostering the discussion, both in the legislative assembly and with the public at large, to determine the best course of action to support increased participation of women in northern politics.

No response from candidates below:

- Deh Cho: Ronald Bonnetrouge
- Deh Cho: Lyle Fabian
- Deh Cho: Michael Nadli
- Deh Cho: Gregory Nyuli
- Frame Lake: Roy Erasmus
- Hay River North: Robert Bouchard
- Hay River North: Karen Felker
- Hay River North: Rocky Simpson (R.J.)
- Hay River South: Jane Groenewegen
- Hay River South: Wally Schumann
- Hay River South: Brian Willows
- Inuvik Boot Lake: Desmond Z Loreen
- Inuvik Boot Lake: Alfred Moses
- Inuvik Twin Lakes: Jimmy Kalinek
- Inuvik Twin Lakes: Robert C McLeod
- Kam Lake: Dave Ramsay
- Mackenzie Delta: Frederick JR Blake
- Mackenzie Delta: William Firth
- Mackenzie Delta: David Krutko
- Mackenzie Delta: Norman Snowshoe
- Monfwi: Jackson Lafferty
- Nahendeh: Rosemary Gill
- Nahendeh: Arnold Hope
- Nahendeh: Deneze Nakehk'o
- Nahendeh: Randy Sibbeston
- Nunakput: Ethel - Jean Gruben
- Nunakput: Jackie Jacobson
- Nunakput: Robert Kuptana
- Nunakput: Herbert Nakimayak
- Nunakput: John JR Stuart
- Sahtu: Paul Andrew
- Sahtu: Yvonne Doolittle
- Sahtu: Daniel McNeely
- Sahtu: Judy Tutcho
- Thebacha: Don Jaque
- Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh: Tom Beaulieu
- Tu Nedhe-Wiilideh: Richard Edjericon
- Yellowknife Centre: Robert Hawkins
- Yellowknife North: Sean Erasmus
- Yellowknife North: Cory Vanthuyne
- Yellowknife North: Dan Wong
- Yellowknife South: Nigit'stil Norbert
- Yellowknife South: Samuel Roland

Thank you to all the candidates that participated in our questions and good luck with your campaigns.

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