

16th Legislative Assembly

First Session First Sitting October 18 - 19, 2007

OCT 19, 2007

Expectations of the New Government of the Northwest Territories

MR. RAMSAY: Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I, like my colleague from Inuvik Twin Lakes, would like to use my Member's statement today to speak about my expectations of the new Government of the Northwest Territories.

The people in our communities and us, on this side of the House, are waiting to see which portfolios will go to which Ministers. I'm watching closely, Mr. Speaker, on what happens over the next few days, because the questions, the concerns and the issues are accumulating and the session, for the public's knowledge, doesn't start again...The next sitting of this House doesn't start again until November 27th. That will be our first opportunity to question the new government on our constituents' issues.

Mr. Speaker, as the House will sit again on November 27th, that's five and a half weeks from now, and I and the residents here in the Northwest Territories fully expect that Cabinet will be up to speed on issues in the various departments. We have a great deal of experience on that side of the House and I would expect that the quality of our discussions during the next sitting will be good. I expect the Cabinet will follow through on all the promises each of them made on Wednesday during the Territorial Leadership Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I have a copy of all the speeches that the Cabinet Ministers and the Premier made on Wednesday and I will be here each and every day holding each one of them accountable for what they said and for the actions that they take. I don't want to see another government that reacts by bouncing from issue to issue.

I want to see a government that takes a proactive approach to governing our territory. That is a government that has a vision; that is a government that has a goal and a strategy for the future of our people. I don't want to see a government making decisions without consulting the Regular Members of this House. I don't want to see a government that will look after their friends first and people second. People should be their number one priority, Mr. Speaker.

AN HON. MEMBER: Hear! Hear!

MR. RAMSAY: The Members of this House and the people in our communities will be watching closely to see how this all unfolds. The government has to listen to us, Mr. Speaker. We are the voice of the people here in the Northwest Territories.

The last government had some difficulty listening to the Members, the Regular Members of this House, Mr. Speaker. I want this government to pay attention to what the Regular Members of this House have to say, because we do listen to the people that live in our communities and we bring their concerns forward.

I know one thing is for certain – we won't go anywhere unless we work together. We need cooperation from the government; we need cooperation on the Regular Members' side to achieve some good things for the people here in the Northwest Territories, Mr. Speaker, and I certainly am looking forward to working with the new government to achieve some good results for every one of our citizens here in the Northwest Territories. Mahsi.

--- Applause

I just want to say again to my supporters and those of you who know who Dave Ramsay is, that I'm not going to give up, I won't back down, and I won't go away. I will continue to pursue the interests of my constituents and the residents of this territory to the best of my ability as a Regular Member of this Legislative Assembly. Mr. Speaker, it's a role that I relish and I certainly am looking forward to. Mahsi.

--- Applause