

KATRINA NOKLEBY

FOR **MLA GREAT SLAVE**



Thank you to the Dene Nation and the Assembly of First Nations for reaching out and giving me the opportunity to respond to these questions.

1. Do you support the existing consensus style of government at the territorial level, if yes why, if no, why not?

Yes, I do. I believe for consensus to work we need to elect the right people to the 19th Assembly. We need people that are willing to work together collaboratively as a team, utilizing the skills and strengths of all MLAs, so we will be better equipped to deal with the issues the Northwest Territories is currently facing. We need leaders that are interested in the common good for all citizens not just for their area of interest or region. If elected I will work hard to build relationships based on mutual respect with other MLAs so that we can foster a good team environment and work better together.

2. Do you support a strong, decentralized NWT, with strong communities and regions? If elected will you support the reinstatement of a formal policy of proactive decentralization? If not, why not?

When working in the communities I hear that people feel centralization of services is hurting community residents. It's forcing people to relocate for work to places such as Yellowknife or Inuvik that would rather stay in a smaller community. It also results in increased travel for residents in order to access services they previously could at home. I would like to see the (re-)establishment of services in each of the communities and/or regions which would help to create more community-based, employment opportunities. I believe this would also help to lower the us vs them mentality that appears to be growing between Yellowknife and the rest of the territory. I would need to research more what a formal policy would entail before I could answer, however, I would be open to establishing one if that was determined to be the best approach.

3. If elected will you support the expedited conclusion of all outstanding land claim and self-government agreements within the life of the 19th Legislative Assembly? If not, why not?

I strongly answer yes to this one. I believe unsettled land claims and unsettled self-government agreements are hurting the Northwest Territories. The instability caused by not having a clear established system is scaring off investment in the territory which impacts our resource extraction sector. One only has to look at the Yukon, which is booming, to recognize the impact of settled claims. More importantly though, Indigenous Governments and businesses will be a key driving force in moving our territory forward to prosperity. These negotiations must be conducted with mutual respect and executed in a manner that is

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consistent with Indigenous beliefs and philosophies. The territory will only succeed once all its citizens are empowered and strong.

4. In 2005 the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) committed to a full co-drafting process with the Indigenous governments for the Species at Risk Act (SARA) and the Wildlife Act (WLA) and to subsequent pieces of legislation like the Forestry Act. The government of the 18th Assembly unilaterally withdrew that commitment. If elected, will you support the full reinstatement the 2005 GNWT commitment to a full co-drafting process with Indigenous governments of pieces of legislation jointly agreed to as critical by the Indigenous governments and the GNWT?

Yes, I would support a mutually respectful process that incorporates traditional, Indigenous knowledge into our legislation whether this be by reinstating the 2005 commitment or creating an updated version.

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