

**Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories**  
**Anti-Poverty Motion**  
**February 11, 2010**

**MOTION 11-16(4): DEVELOPMENT OF AN ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGY**

**WHEREAS** every person has the right to a standard of living adequate to the well-being of their families and themselves;

**AND WHEREAS** approximately 10 percent of Canadians, or 2.9 million people, lived in poverty in 2007;

**AND WHEREAS** in some NWT communities, up to 50 percent of households have a total income of less than \$30,000;

**AND WHEREAS** 40 percent of NWT households with a senior have incomes below \$40,000;

**AND WHEREAS** health indicators, educational achievement, child apprehension rates and family violence can be directly related to poverty;

**AND WHEREAS** poverty is human-made and can be overcome;

**AND WHEREAS** the GNWT currently has no official definition of poverty and no clear and integrated strategy to combat poverty;

**AND WHEREAS** it should be a priority goal of the GNWT to eradicate poverty in the Northwest Territories;

**AND WHEREAS** eradicating poverty will significantly contribute to the achievement of all of the Legislative Assembly's goals and priorities;

**NOW THEREFORE I MOVE**, seconded by the honourable Member for Weledeh, that the government develop an anti-poverty strategy for the Northwest Territories;

**AND FURTHER**, that the Premier initiate discussions towards this strategy in partnership with business, organizations and those living in poverty;

**AND FURTHER**, that the government and partners start by developing a definition of poverty;

**AND FURTHER**, that the anti-poverty strategy identify specific, measurable targets, with clear cross-departmental mechanisms for coordination and integration of actions;

**AND FURTHERMORE**, that the government provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

**Motion Carried: February 11, 2010**