

Motion

Support of Federal Bill C-583: An Act to Amend the Criminal Code

WHEREAS Bill C-583, *An Act to Amend the Criminal Code (Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder)* is before the House of Commons;

AND WHEREAS Bill C-583 seeks to define Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in the *Criminal Code*, and to allow the courts to order assessments and consider mitigating circumstances where FASD contributes to the offence;

AND WHEREAS Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder is an incurable developmental disability resulting from exposure to alcohol before birth;

AND WHEREAS 43% of the NWT population regularly consumes five or more drinks per occasion, according to the 2009 Addictions Report;

AND WHEREAS FASD affects hundreds of residents in our territory;

AND WHEREAS individuals affected by FASD have a diminished capacity to grasp the consequences of their own and others' behaviour;

AND WHEREAS this Government and Legislative Assembly have publicly stated our collective commitment to support individuals affected by FASD;

AND WHEREAS this Government and Legislative Assembly have an opportunity to urge the Government of Canada to support Bill C-583 and schedule full committee hearings, including the testimony of expert witnesses;

AND WHEREAS this Government and Legislative Assembly have an opportunity to collaborate with the Governments and Legislative Assemblies of the Yukon and Nunavut to express pan-territorial support for Bill C-583;



Date of Notice: June 2, 2014

Date of Introduction:

Disposition:

Carried:

Moved by: Ms. Bisaro

Seconded By: Mr. Moses

Ruled Out of Order:

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that Members of this Legislative Assembly strongly urge our federal and territorial counterparts to support Bill C-583 and urge the Parliament of Canada to schedule full committee hearings with testimony of expert witnesses, including at least one hearing in the Northwest Territories;

AND FURTHER, that Members of this Legislative Assembly urge the Member of Parliament for the Western Arctic to support Bill C-583.