



**MEETING EDE 137-19-23**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT**

~  
**FRIDAY, APRIL 28, 2023**  
**EAGLE ROOM / ZOOM**  
**1:00PM**

---

**AGENDA**

1. Prayer
2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
4. Public Matters
  - a) Ministerial Briefing with Intergovernmental Council Representatives on Bill 74:  
*Forest Act*
5. New Business
  - a)
  - b)
6. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 10:00AM
7. Adjournment



# **RESPONSE TO STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT ON FOREST ACT**

April 28, 2023

Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment Meeting

# Outline

- Background
- Collaborative Development of Bill 74
- Step G – Consensus on Draft Bill
- Engagement and Consultation
- Difference between Bill 44 and Bill 74
- Next Steps



# Background

- Desire for a new, modern Forest Act for the Northwest Territories
- Work began during the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly
- Draft Forest Act Bill developed collaboratively with:
  - Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations
  - Co-management boards
  - Stakeholder Advisory Group
- Bill 44 introduced near end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly
- Decision to withdraw Bill to provide time to address a number of outstanding concerns



# Approach to Bill Development

- Collaborative development of Bill 74:
  - First Act developed under the new *Intergovernmental Council on Land and Resource Management: Legislative Development Protocol*
- November 2020: Forest Act Legislative Initiative began
- Invitation for Indigenous governments & Indigenous organizations to participate in a Technical Working Group
  - LKDFN, NSMA, YKDFN, NBDB, and DFN.
- Renewable Resources Boards participation in Bill 74
  - Part of review process for multiple versions of draft Forest Act Bill but not members of the TWG



# Process for Bill Development

- Drafting process began with a review of Bill 44
- Creation of two new two guidance documents:
  - Key Elements document
  - Comprehensive Policy Intentions document
- Legislative Proposal approved May 2022
- Technical Working Group met 15 times over 2 years
  - Drafted eight versions of Bill 74



# Step G

- Step G is the final stage of the collaborative development process under the protocol
- This step is intended to achieve final consensus on any outstanding matters prior to a Bill being submitted to the Minister to bring forward to the Legislative Assembly
- Final consensus achieved on November 16, 2022
  - No outstanding issues were raised



# Consultation

- Consultation
  - Consultation began on November 21, 2022, and ended January 4, 2023.
- ECC received comments from both IGC and non-IGC Indigenous Governments and organizations.
  - One amendment was made to the Bill to reflect land claim and self-government agreements.
  - No Aboriginal Rights infringements were raised during consultation.





# Engagement

- Public Engagement
  - Engagement began on November 21, 2022, and ended on December 28, 2022.
  - Hosted through the GNWT's *Have Your Say* online engagement portal.



# Difference between Bill 44 & Bill 74

- Advisory Committees
- Increased recognition of Land, Resources and Self Government Agreements
- The Right to not Require a Permit where there is an Aboriginal or Treaty Right to Harvest for Personal Use
- Dispute Resolution and appeals



# Next Steps

- GNWT will continue to work with the IGC and Legislative Assembly on next steps outlined in the Process Convention
  - *Process Convention on the Introduction, Consideration and Enactment of Bills Drafted Pursuant to the Intergovernmental Council Legislative Development Protocol*
- Passing of *Forest Act* during 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly
- Development of regulations during 20<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly
  - Collaborative process with IGCS, Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations, boards, stakeholders and the public.



# Questions?

