



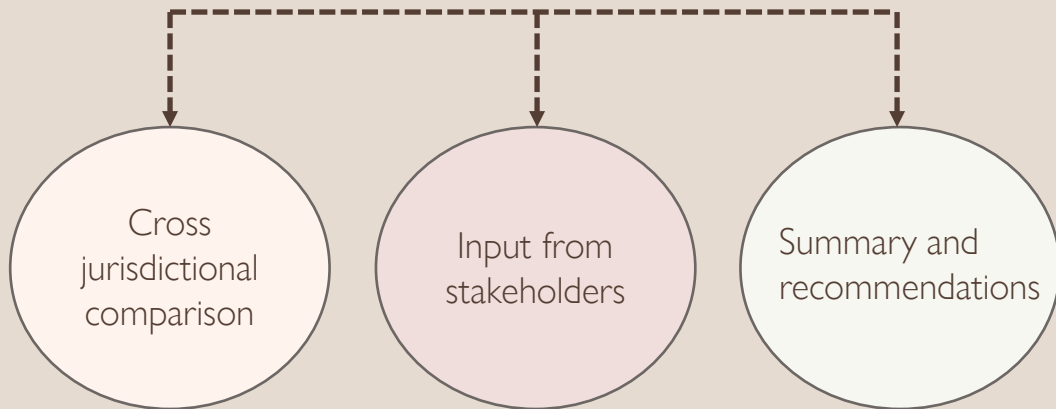
Bill 75

Status of Women Council Act /
Council for Women and Gender Diversity Act

The GNWT initiated a review of the Act in 2020 to determine what, if any improvements could be made to the Act to:

- Modernize the language.
- Identify gaps or shortfalls.
- Strengthen the Act.

L. Todd Consulting Documents



A need for legislation that recognizes and focuses on promoting awareness of and attitudinal change

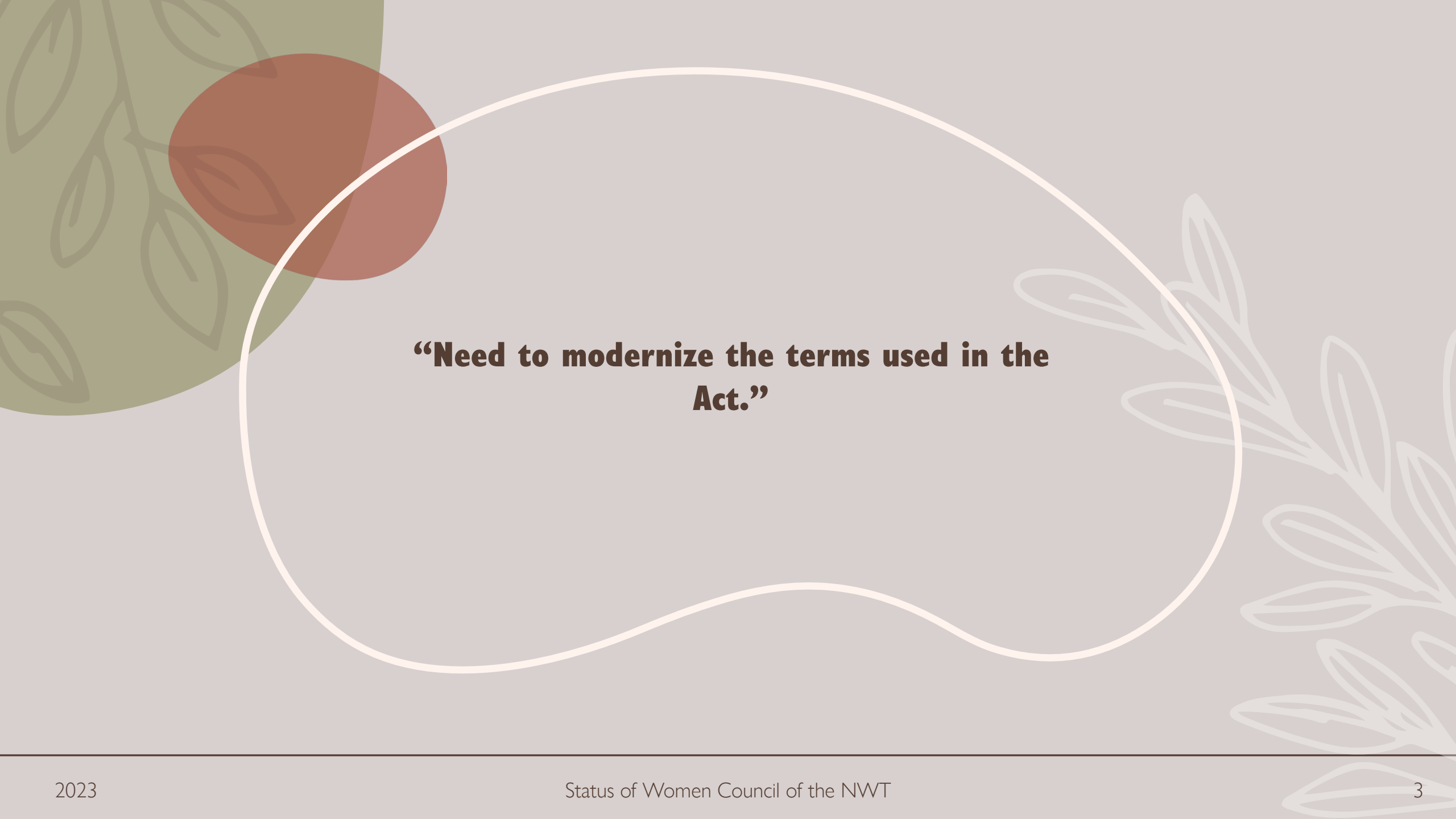
A need to modernize and define the terms used in the SWC Act.
(Section 1 Definitions)

A need to define the degree to which, the SWCNWT is autonomous from government

A need for transparency and accountability in all the activities of the SWCNWT

A need for a clear and transparent process
(Representation, Composition and Appointment)

A need for a Preamble and Regulations to provide clarity on the meaning, purpose and intent of the Act.



“Need to modernize the terms used in the Act.”

Mission

PEI

Working for **gender equality** for all Islanders.

YUKON

We are a non-governmental organization that works to **advance gender equity** through research, education and systemic **advocacy**.

MANITOBA

Manitoba Status of Women works to advance **gender equity** across the province. We envision a safe and equitable Manitoba for **people of all genders**, by seeking to address barriers and eliminate gender-based violence.

NEW BRUNSWICK

To further **gender-equality** in New Brunswick by strategically addressing ongoing and emerging issues through research, informed and committed membership, and engagement with government and the public.

NUNAVUT

DEVELOP PUBLIC AWARENESS OF ISSUES AFFECTING THE STATUS OF WOMEN, PROMOTE A CHANGE IN ATTITUDES WITHIN THE COMMUNITY, ENCOURAGE DISCUSSION AND EXPRESSION OF OPINION ON ISSUES AFFECTING THE STATUS OF WOMEN.

IN SUPPORTING WOMEN AND GIRLS AND **GENDER-DIVERSE** NUNAVUMMIUT TO BE STRONG LEADERS, ENGAGED ACTIVISTS AND COMPASSIONATE COMMUNITY MEMBERS, WE AIM TO FOSTER BETTER COMMUNITIES.

Status of Women Council / Council for Women and Gender Diversity Act

PEI *Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act*

New Brunswick *New Brunswick Women's Council Act*

Manitoba *Manitoba Women's Council Act*

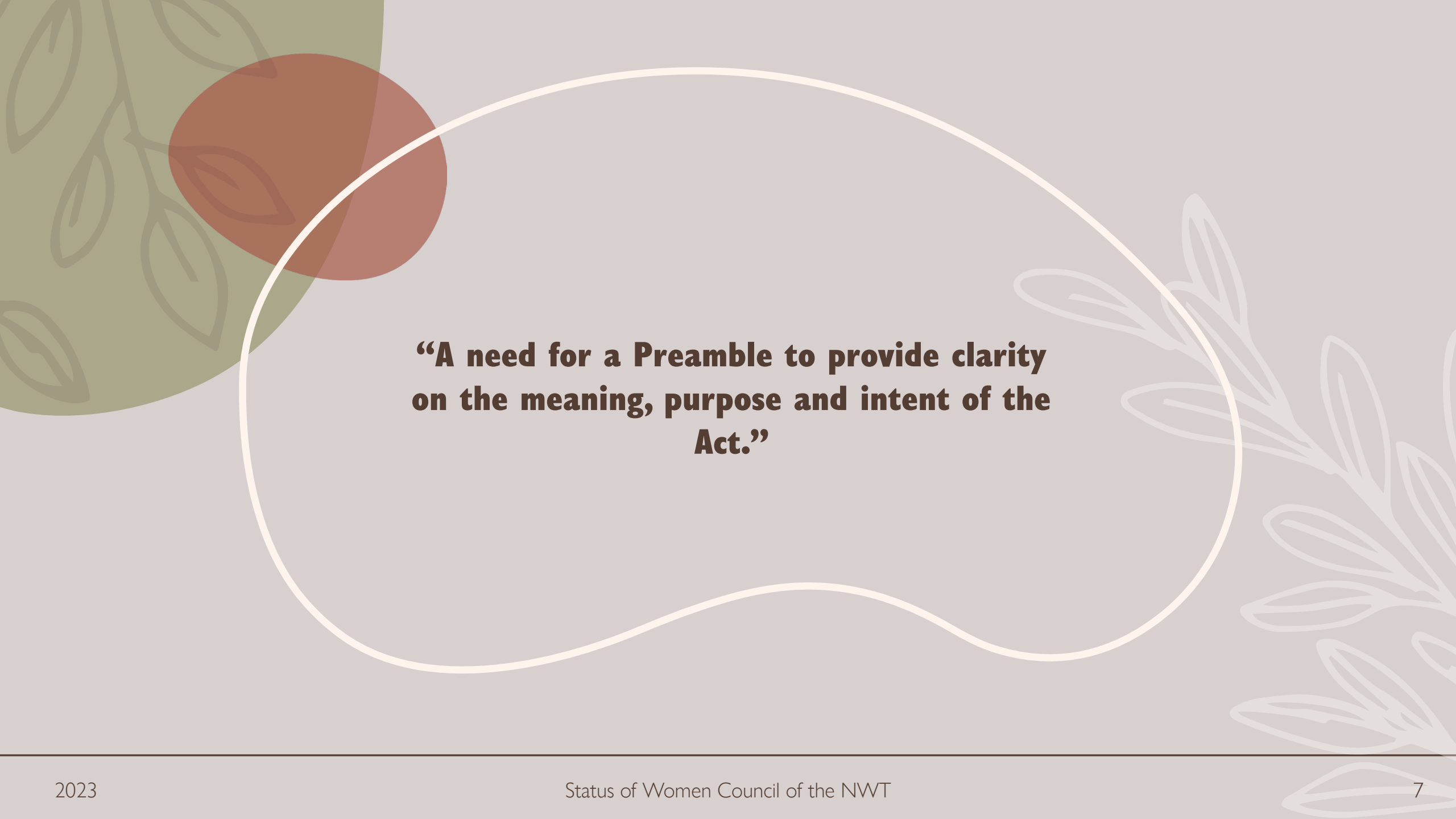
Yukon *Yukon Advisory Council on Women's Issues Act*

Nunavut *Qullit Nunavut Status of Women Council Act*



Adding “gender diversity” in the name of the Act is unnecessary.

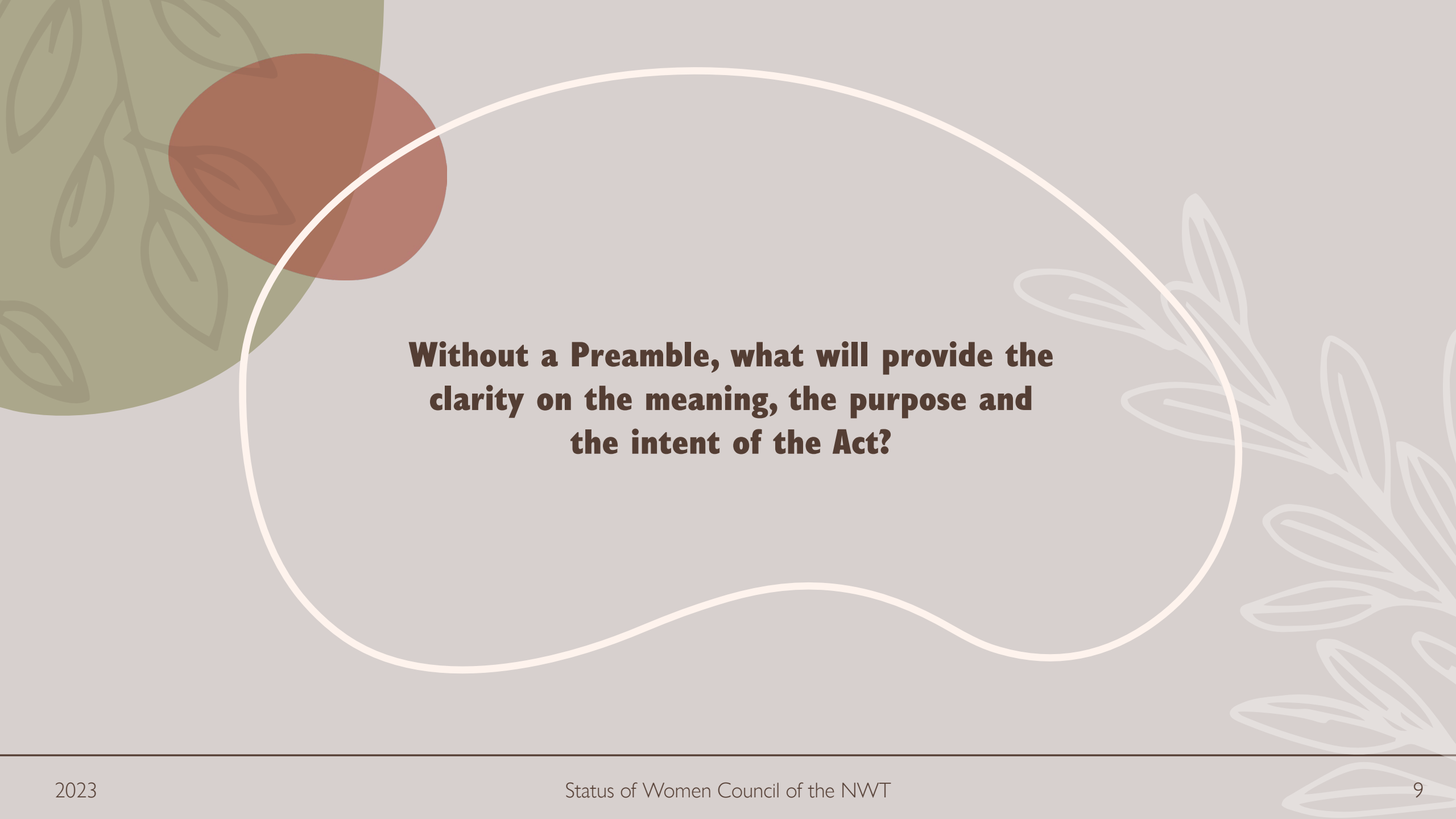
The real modernization need to be seen in the Mission of the council.



“A need for a Preamble to provide clarity on the meaning, purpose and intent of the Act.”

Need of a Preamble

A preamble was seen as a means to make a **high-level principled statement about the spirit and intent of the Act** that would allow the legislative focus to remain on **inclusivity and strengthen** the role and relevance of the Council.



Without a Preamble, what will provide the clarity on the meaning, the purpose and the intent of the Act?

Section 1 – Definitions

Recommendations were made to add the definitions of the following terms:

Non-binary
Status

Equity
Equality

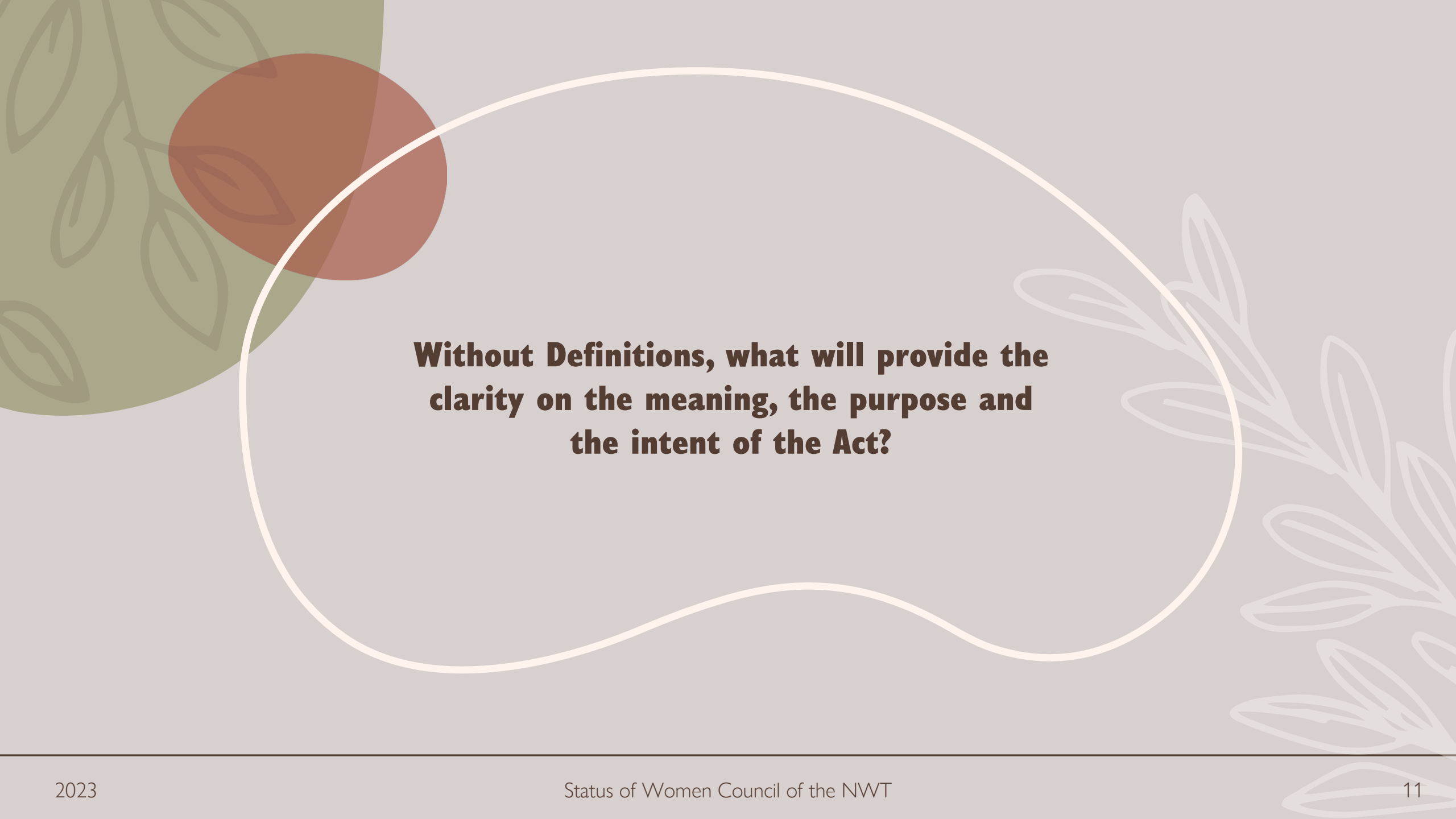
Gender diverse

Gender equity

Woman

Only 1 definition has been added:

Minister



Without Definitions, what will provide the clarity on the meaning, the purpose and the intent of the Act?

Section 2 – Purpose

2. The purpose of this Act is **to promote** the equality of women, gender equity, gender diversity and gender inclusivity **in government policies and programs** by establishing a council **to advise** on these matters.

Why Section 2 has to be reworded

PROMOTE (...) IN GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND PROGRAMS (AND) ADVISE ON THESE MATTERS

The Status of Women Council's purpose IS NOT to promote,

The Status of Women purpose is to:

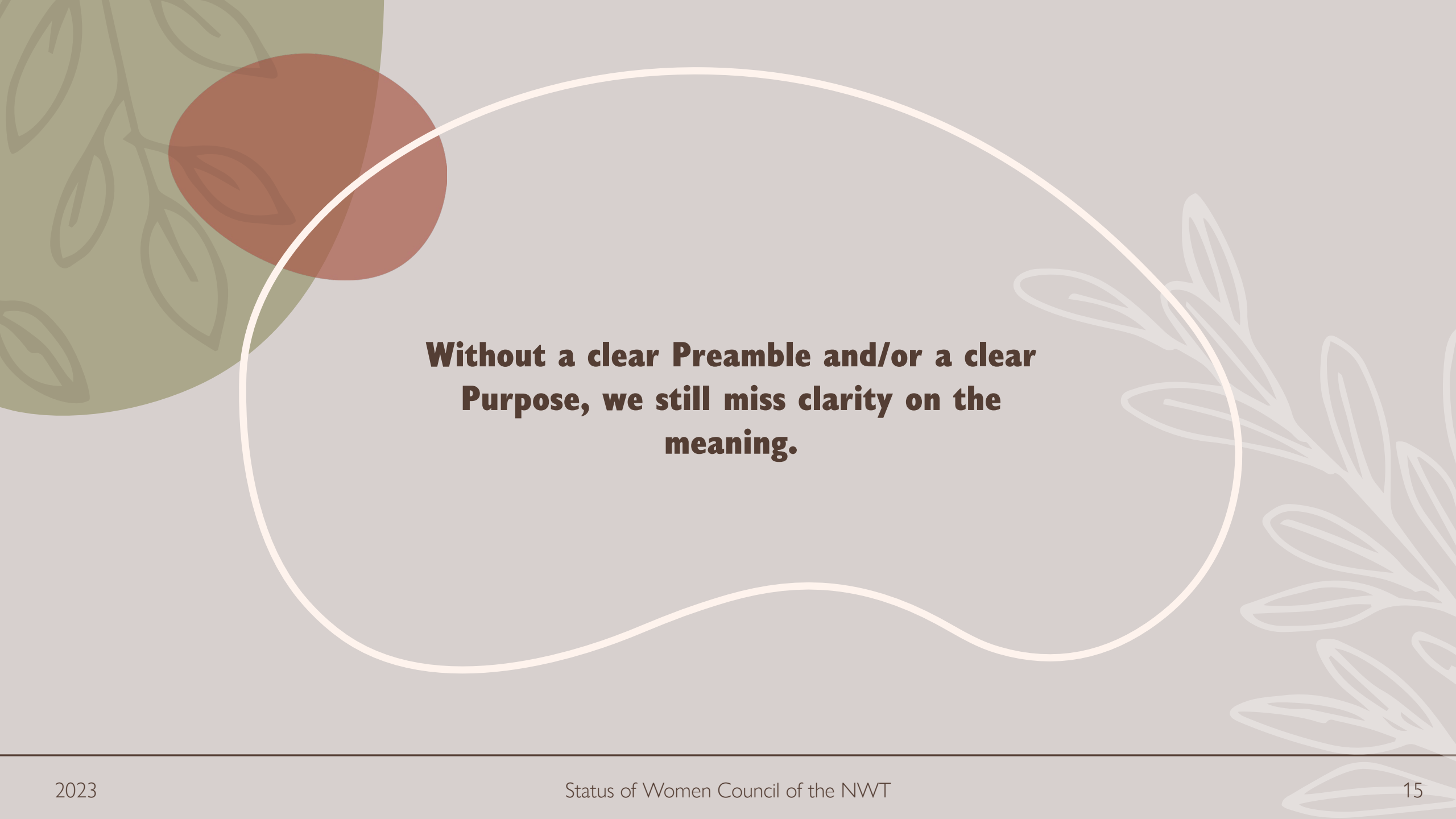
- We ADVOCATE for change
- We EDUCATE and TRAIN
- We conduct RESEARCH
- We RAISE public AWARENESS
- We COLLABORATE with organizations
- We REVIEW and REPORT on government policies, legislation, programs, and services

Why Section 2 has to be reworded

PROMOTE THE **EQUALITY OF WOMEN, GENDER EQUITY, GENDER DIVERSITY AND GENDER INCLUSIVITY**

If we start to list of things to be promoted, then:

- What about WOMEN EQUITY?
- What about GIRLS, FAMILIES?
- What about AGENDER individual?
- Adding GENDER equity/diversity/inclusivity does not fix everything.



Without a clear Preamble and/or a clear Purpose, we still miss clarity on the meaning.

Section 9 (1) – Chairperson and Co-chairperson

(1) The Minister shall designate one member as chairperson and ~~two~~ **one** member as co-chairperson of the Council.

Why Section 9 (1) has to be reworded

- We welcome the clarification made about the roles of the Chairperson and the Executive Director (Section 10) as these are two different roles.
- However, having 1 co-chairperson instead of 2 is not taking into account the geography and the vastness of the NWT.

To Conclude

- The Act must clarify that the purpose of the SWC is to engage with all women, girls, families, communities and vulnerable groups of the NWT.
- The Act must clearly state that the SWC is an independent, arm-length organization.



Thank you | Merci | Mársı | Masi | Kinanāskomitin | Hąj' | Quana | Qujannamiik | Quyanainni |
Máhsı | Mahsì

Status of Women council of the NWT

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