

PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Forest Act

WHAT IS THE COMMITTEE DOING?

The Committee is meeting with the public to review the *Forest Act* (Bill 74), which was developed collaboratively with Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations and Renewable Resources Boards in accordance with the Intergovernmental Council on Land and Resource Management: Legislative Development Protocol. The public's feedback will help Committee make recommendations to the GNWT about sustainable forest management.

WHO IS THE COMMITTEE?

The Committee is part of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly and is made up of Regular Members. The Committee reviews the GNWT's Economic Development activities, which includes this new legislation about wildfire, and the protection of forests and communities.

WHY REVIEW THE *FOREST ACT*?

The new *Forest Act* replaces the current *Forest Management Act* and the *Forest Protection Act*. These Acts have not been changed since the GNWT inherited the legislation from the Government of Canada in 1987. There have been no major changes in 30 years. The new Act will modernize the roles and responsibilities of the GNWT, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change (ECC), Renewable Resources Boards, Renewable Resource Councils and forest management committees.

TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

Fire Prevention

- What could government do better to support fire prevention – with legislation, policies, funding, or other actions?
- Does your community and/or business have a fire prevention plan?
 - Do you know what to do in the event of a fire emergency?
 - FireSmart, maintenance clearing and brushing practices?
 - Access to fire prevention training?

Forest Management

- Under the new Act, anyone with Aboriginal or treaty rights to harvest forest resources in an area of the Northwest Territories will no longer need a permit to harvest...
 - What kind of regulations should be placed on commercial activities if this Bill passes?
- How should sustainable harvesting be addressed?
- What should the forest superintendent's role, powers, and responsibilities be?