

Standing Committee on  
Economic Development and  
Environment

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# Committee Transition Overview and Considerations

## **Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment**

The Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment shall consider the following matters with respect to the Departments of Environment and Natural Resources; Industry, Tourism and Investment; Infrastructure; and Lands:

- A. Review multi-year business plans and budgets, bills, boards and agencies, including the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, the Northwest Territories Power Corporation, the Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation, and the Public Utilities Board;
- B. Review departmental performance, including that of boards and agencies;
- C. Consider matters related to infrastructure;
- D. Consider matters related to climate change; and
- E. Consider any other matter referred by the House.

**Total Number of Meetings: 168**

### **Key Reviews and Reports (Appendix C)**

Total Number of Bills Reviewed: **10**

Total Number of Reports: **14**

### **Committee Initiatives: 5**

- Mining Fiscal Regime
- Northern Business Support
- Remediation Economy
- Telecommunications
- Food Security

### **Recommendations for follow-up in the next assembly:**

The 20<sup>th</sup> Assembly's SCOEDE should consider the following committee priorities and processes from the last Assembly:

#### *Food Security*

- Monitor the development, and coordination of community freezers, community kitchens and food support for low income families specifically with respect to country foods.
- Examine the development of northern food processing facilities supported through regulations and financial assistance.
- Monitor the subsidies provided through GNWT to stabilize food prices.
- Received briefing on federal funding accessed throughout the Northwest Territories which support agriculture and harvesting capacity.
- Advocate for a true strategy on Food Security alongside the need for a Minister Responsible for food security,

### *Remediation Economy*

- Ensure that the GNWT is working to build waste management skills across all communities. Prioritize education in managing impacted soil, and the demolition of materials and recyclables.
- Examine how the GNWT is coordinating efforts that support backhaul of waste throughout all communities.

### *Northern Business*

- Prioritize the completion of a regional environmental assessment for the slave geological corridor before the environmental assessment.
- Examine the Northern Business Report and advocate for the recommendations to be continued by the GNWT.
- Monitor and receive briefings on operations of the Hay River Fish Plant to ensure the management and operations of the plant maximize efficiency.
- Monitor the quantity of fishers and volume of catch from around the lake. Monitor actions to remove the authority of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation and to broker and market NWT fish sales independently.
- Ensure a comprehensive examination of the Taltson Hydro Expansion continues
- Implementation of an Indigenous Procurement Policy in the 20<sup>th</sup> assembly

### *Telecommunications*

- Examine how the GNWT will strategically support the development of fibre redundancy throughout NWT networks.
- Increase affordability of connectivity for students and low-income families
- Examine how the GNWT could support the development of Local Service Providers to provide connection to the home.
- GNWT to work with partners to increase cell service through all NWT highways
- Advocate to CRTC for establishment of subsidy to reduce Internet access prices in the far north.
- Continue to advocate for wholesale highspeed access to support local service providers to establish fibre to the home at a fair rate. Committee suggests the GNWT establish a Policy Statement which can be referenced in submissions to the CRTC.

### *Support for the Arts*

- Advocate for further coordination and innovation to produce and procure local moosehide is a missed economic opportunity.
- Ensure that NWT Arts sales, specifically Indigenous art should be supported, developed and showcased nationally and internationally. NWT Arts sales for Indigenous arts should be supported to become competitive within international market opportunities.

### *Marine Transportation Service*

- Monitor scheduling and delivery of services to communities to ensure NWT communities are prioritized over commercial contracts.
- Monitor financial management to assess whether new organizational structure improves efficiency of operations.

### *Infrastructure*

- Focus on only one of the three mega-projects currently being advanced by the Government. This should allow for a more transparent and concrete work plan to achieve the federal support necessary to deliver the project. Committee recommends there be a focus on the Mackenzie-Valley Highway in the 20<sup>th</sup> Assembly.
- Ensure that climate change adaptation and mitigation measure are better captured in legislative and policy initiatives as government advances various projects.

### *Regional Economic Development Plans*

- The Department of Industry, Tourism, and Investment has provided high-level documentation which outline basic data regarding economic opportunities throughout the regions of the NWT. However, these regional Economic Development Plans do not discuss, plan, or frame for how the department will support the sustainable economic development of the regions. The documents are statistical outlines with existing present-day information. The 20<sup>th</sup> Assembly should consider ensuring that this work continues and the department provides more concrete plans to support regional economic development and diversification.

### *Legislation and Regulations*

- The following legislation is outstanding from 19<sup>th</sup> assembly. The Protocol should continue to be fostered in an effort to create stronger and more representative legislation. Committee recognizes with the legislative development protocol more time is required to draft legislation as such the following legislation should be priority ahead of all others:
  - MVRMA Review;
  - Waters Act; and
  - Environmental Protection
  - Mineral Resource Act Regulations

## **Appendix A**

### **Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment Bills: 10**

- Bill 93: Practice of Engineering, Geoscience and Applied Science Technology Act
- Bill 84: An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation Act
- Bill 78: Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Act
- Bill 74: Forest Act
- Bill 52: Elevators and Lifts Act
- Bill 46: An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act
- Bill 29: Resource Royalty Information Disclosure Statute Amendment Act (PMB- KOR)
- Bill 24: An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act
- Bill 23: An Act to Amend the Public Utilities Act (PMB- JJ)
- Bill 3: An Act to Amend the Public Highways Act

### **Total Number of Reports Read: 14**

- Report on Bill 74: Forest Act. (Sept 27, 2023)
- Report on Bill 78: Waste Reduction and Resource Recovery Act (Sept 27, 2023)
- Report on Bill 84: An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation Act. (Sept 27, 2023)
- Report on Supporting Northern Businesses (Jun 02, 2023)
- Report on the Prevention and Management of Contaminated Sites (Feb 07, 23)
- Report on Bill 52, Elevators and Lifts Act (Oct 18, 2022)
- Report on the Statutory Reviews of the Wildlife Act (NWT) and Species at Risk Act (Mar 08, 22)
- Report on the Government of the Northwest Territories Approach to the Mining Regime Fiscal Review (Nov, 30, 2021)
- Report on Telecommunications (Nov, 30, 2021)
- Report on Bill 24: An Act to Amend the Revolving Funds Act (Nov, 23, 2021)
- Report on Bill 29: Resource Royalty Information Disclosure Statute Amendment Act (Nov, 23, 2021)
- Report on Bill 3: An Act to Amend the Public Highways Act (Mar 01, 2021)
- Call for Comments – Review of the Commission’s Regulatory Framework for Northwestel Inc. and the State of Telecommunications Services in Canada’s North (Jan 26, 2021)
- Report on Long-Term Post-Pandemic Recovery: Recommendations to the GNWT (June 09/2020)