



4. Permitting the Commissioner to obtain an order from the court where no action has been taken based on the Commissioner's recommendations.

- The Bill would also amend the Act to require the Commissioner to provide additional details in their annual report on complaints received, while respecting personal privacy. These additional details would include the number of complaints received, the bodies of government that were the subject of the complaints, the recommendations and orders made by the Commissioner as a result of the complaints, and progress made on compliance with the orders and recommendations made by the Commissioner.
- The Bill would also add a requirement that the Commissioner reside in the NWT to ensure they have and continue to hold a strong connection to the land and people they serve.

## 2. Merging the Languages Boards:

- The OLA creates two Boards: an Official Languages Board and an Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board. Since 2009, ECE has heard recommendations from both Standing Committee and the Boards themselves that a single board would be preferred. As such, the Bill would amalgamate the two boards into a single entity to improve efficiency and update their roles under the Act.
- The new consolidated board will be empowered to provide advice and recommendations to the Minister on those topics currently within the purview of the two boards, including the scope of usage of all Official Languages in the administration and delivery of services and in official communications. They will also be responsible for reviewing and evaluating the programs and initiatives of communities, government institutions and other bodies or institutions that aim to maintain, promote or revitalize Indigenous languages and the operation and effectiveness of the Act overall.

## 3. Updating language in the Act:

- The Bill seeks to add language to the Act's Preamble recognizing the significant negative effects of colonialism on the use and proliferation of Indigenous languages, how increasing the use of Indigenous languages takes strides towards repairing the harms that have been caused to Indigenous peoples through forced cultural assimilation, and how these ideas work towards implementing the principles of UNDRIP. Updates will be made to the Preamble to recognize the importance of language to cultural identity, including the importance of local variations and dialects to small communities with significant lexical nuances, as well as to reinforce the GNWT's commitment to ensuring support for the provision of services in a manner that maintains fair and equitable access for Indigenous language speakers. The Bill will also update French terminology throughout the Act.

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