

Terms of Reference

**Special Committee on
Reconciliation and Indigenous Affairs**

Purpose

The purpose of this Special Committee is to seek and encourage discussions and recommendations on opportunities and challenges in relation to Aboriginal Rights negotiations and reconciliation with a view to advancing the priorities of the 19th Legislative Assembly, including the resolution of these negotiations and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

The Special Committee shall report to the House and may provide advice to the Minister responsible for Executive and Indigenous Affairs on:

- facilitating the timely resolution of outstanding issues in Aboriginal Rights negotiations;
- advancing reconciliation with the NWT's Indigenous Peoples.

Composition

Members of the Special Committee shall be appointed by the Legislative Assembly. The membership of the Committee shall include two (2) Members of the Executive Council, on the recommendation of the Executive Council. The membership of the Committee shall include three (3) Regular Members, appointed on the recommendation of the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight. The Chair and Vice-Chair shall be elected by the Committee from among the Regular Members appointed. The Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs is an ex-officio non-voting Member of the Committee.

Accountability

This Committee is accountable to the Legislative Assembly.

A final report from this committee is to be tabled no later than the first day of the final sitting of the 19th Legislative Assembly.

The Chair or Vice-Chair of the Special Committee shall provide updates on the work of the Committee to the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight. The

Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs shall provide updates on the work of the Committee to Cabinet.

The work of the Special Committee shall in no way interfere with, and does not replace or diminish in any way, the mandates or prerogatives of the Executive Council, Financial Management Board, or any of the Standing Committees of the Legislative Assembly.

Notwithstanding the work of the Committee, the Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs shall continue to report as required to Cabinet, the Financial Management Board, and pursuant to the rules of Legislative Assembly any Standing Committee having oversight of matters related to the work of the Committee.

Scope

- 1) The Special Committee will receive detailed reports on the status of Aboriginal Rights negotiations with a focus on those matters where a consensus among the parties has not been found.
- 2) The Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs may also provide the Special Committee reports on other matters related to Aboriginal Rights negotiations and reconciliation.
- 3) The Special Committee may provide advice on any matter related Aboriginal Rights negotiations and reconciliation.
- 4) The Special Committee shall have access to such persons, papers and records as is necessary to conduct its business, including engaging with Indigenous governments and organizations.

Term

The Committee will come into existence upon adoption of a Motion of the Legislative Assembly and will discontinue upon dissolution of the 19th Legislative Assembly., or until it is disbanded by way of a motion of the Legislative Assembly.

Quorum

Quorum for the Special Committee will be three (3) Members including at least one Member of the Executive Council.

Operations

The Special Committee:

- a) Will meet as required at the call of the Chair, in person or by phone, at least once per year;
- b) Will follow the Rules of the Legislative Assembly, as they apply to Committees; and
- c) Will record advice offered to Cabinet and share the records of advice offered with the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight.

Operational Support

As the Special Committee is a committee of the Assembly, the Clerk, in consultation with the Principal Secretary will assign a Committee Clerk and Advisor to the Committee for the purposes of organization and recording of meetings. Policy support shall be provided from the Department of the Executive and Indigenous Affairs.

Committee Staff, in consultation with staff from the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs will assist the Special Committee by:

- a) Arranging for and organizing meetings of the Special Committee;
- b) Coordinating the preparation of information or material required by the Special Committee;
- c) Summarizing Special Committee decisions and direction; and
- d) Maintaining and retaining Special Committee records.