



**Government of the Northwest Territories Response to
Motion 16-18(3) Smoking in Vehicles with Minors Present**

Motion

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Deh Cho, that the 18th Legislative Assembly recommend that the Tobacco Control Act be amended to include a prohibition on smoking in a vehicle when a minor is present;

AND FURTHER, that the Government respond to this motion within 120 days.

GNWT Response

The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to amending the *Tobacco Control Act* in the life of the 18th Legislative Assembly to align the Northwest Territories' (NWT) legislative framework for tobacco control with tobacco control and smoking reduction efforts that are taking place across Canada, and to respond to the recent changes to the federal *Tobacco and Vaping Products Act* (Canada).

The Department of Health and Social Services (Department) is aware of the research of health risks associated with smoking tobacco and second hand smoke exposure, particularly for children and youth. Smoking in enclosed spaces, such as vehicles, can lead to and in many cases worsen respiratory conditions, in addition to having long-term health consequences.

The Department also recognizes that the NWT is one of just two jurisdictions in Canada that does not prohibit the smoking of tobacco in vehicles with young persons present.

The Government of the Northwest Territories will consider the Motion's recommendation to prohibit smoking tobacco in vehicles with minors present as it moves forward with proposed amendments to the *Tobacco Control Act*.