



**Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee
Report 3-18(2): Report on the Review of the 2014-2015
Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report**

Background

The Standing Committee on Government Operations presented their Committee Report "Report on the Review of the 2014-2015 Northwest Territories Human Rights Commission Annual Report" on November 1, 2016. This report contains a recommendation that the Government of the Northwest Territories advise the House of its timeline for making amendments to the *Human Rights Act*. It also included a recommendation that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a response within 120 days.

Recommendation 1

The Standing Committee on Government Operations recommends that the Government of the Northwest Territories advise the House of its timeline for the completion and introduction of a bill to modernize and update the *Human Rights Act*.

GNWT Response

The NWT Human Rights Commission undertook a review of the *Human Rights Act* to mark the 10-year anniversary of the legislation. In 2015, the Comprehensive Review Team released a report based on its findings, entitled "*Northwest Territories Human Rights Act Comprehensive Review: A review and analysis of human rights promotion and protection in the Northwest Territories*". The report includes recommendations aimed at improving the Act and enhancing the effectiveness of its supporting agencies.

In response to the Comprehensive Review, the Department of Justice, in cooperation with the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, has reviewed the report, undertaken research and engaged in further consultations with the Human Rights Commission. Based on this work and discussions, the Department of Justice plans to bring forward a legislative proposal for changes to the Act this spring. If approved, it is expected that a bill to amend the *Human Rights Act* could be ready for introduction early in 2018.