



Plain Language Summary for

Bill 25: An Act to Amend the Education Act

The Minister of Education, Culture and Employment is sponsoring Bill 25, *An Act to Amend the Education Act* (the Act).

The Bill amends the Act to align the Yellowknife District Education Authorities (DEAs) elections with municipal elections in the City of Yellowknife.

Prior to October 2018, municipal elections and education authority elections were both held every three years. However, during the October 2018 municipal elections, a bylaw was approved by voters under the *Cities, Towns and Villages Act* to increase term lengths of city councilors in Yellowknife from three to four years.

As a result, elections for the Yellowknife Education District No. 1 (YK1) and Yellowknife Catholic Schools (YCS) members are no longer aligned with municipal elections.

DEAs have identified that it is costly and inconvenient to hold elections independent of the municipality.

The Act currently only allows for term lengths of either two or three years for DEAs. In order to re-align elections with the municipality, the proposed amendments would amend section 89(3) of the *Education Act* to allow for two, three or four-year terms.

The amendments would also allow the Yellowknife DEAs to hold interim elections for one-year terms in 2021. This one-year transition period will allow YK1 and YCS to once again start holding elections in the same year as the City of Yellowknife starting in 2022, when the next municipal election is scheduled.