



**Plain Language Summary for Bill 37:**  
***An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act***

The Government of the Northwest Territories' Department of Justice is seeking to amend *the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (the "Act") in order to clarify certain provisions in the Act and enhance compliance with legislated timelines.

**The Act:**

- Gives the public a right of access to records held by public bodies;
- Gives individuals a right to access and request correction of personal information about themselves held by public bodies;
- Specifies limited exceptions to the rights of access;
- Prevents the unauthorized collection, use or disclosure of personal information held by public bodies; and
- Provides for an independent review of decisions made under the Act.

**The proposed bill will amend the Act to:**

- Ensure that GNWT mandatory leave days are not counted as business days when applying the Act's timelines;
- Clarify the Information and Privacy Commissioner's (IPC) authority upon concluding a privacy review, including order making power; and
- Clarify the definition of "common or integrated program or service" in the Act by removing reference to "agency" or "agencies", as the definition of "public body" already includes the term "agency". It is unnecessary and confusing to use the term in different contexts under two separate definitions.

**In summary, the proposed bill:**

- Amends the definition of "business days" to exclude mandatory leave days;
- Clarifies the elements of the IPC's response on completing a privacy review; and
- Removes the term "agency" and "agencies" from the definition of "common or integrated program or service".

The bill was developed in consultation with the IPC as well as all public bodies prescribed under the Act.

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