

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON ACCOUNTABILITY AND OVERSIGHT

The Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight (AOC) includes all 11 Regular MLAs. AOC reviews issues of government-wide implication, like the budget and the response to COVID-19. It also coordinates what happens in the Assembly each day and the work of other committees.

In January 2022, AOC began reviewing the GNWT's proposed operating budget, the [Main Estimates 2022/23](#). This involved several days of confidential briefings with Ministers and departmental staff, followed by public discussion in the House. AOC also negotiated with the Government for changes to the GNWT's proposed budget. In the final day of the February-March session, Members voted and passed the GNWT's budget for 2022/23.

AOC held four theme days in the February-March sitting: housing, recovery from the pandemic, small communities and child and family services. On theme days, Members focus their statements and questions on the theme to highlight the issues for both the Ministers and the public.

Recently, AOC shared the Standing Committee on Social Development's "Report on Housing Phase One: Needs for NWT Homeowners and Private Landlords" with the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Indigenous Affairs. This was to strengthen [the statement to the federal government by Minister Chinna](#) to improve housing in the NWT, and to provide further NWT context and research to inform the Parliamentary Standing Committee's review on the "Effects of the Housing Shortage on Indigenous People Across Canada."

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON RULES AND PROCEDURES

On January 27, 2022, the Committee received a referral from the Speaker regarding multiple questions about the Rules of the Legislative Assembly. The Committee looks forward to starting its research and review of the questions at hand.

### Who we are

Standing and Special Committees are small groups of Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) tasked with examining different topics, bills and Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) department initiatives in detail.

### What we do

These Committees are how the Assembly completes its more detailed work. Each Committee is responsible for a different range of topics. They make sure legislation and GNWT programs and services reflect and represent the needs of the people of the NWT. This often means engaging with residents online or in person.

Find out more about each Committee at [ntassembly.ca/committees](https://ntassembly.ca/committees)

### Next Sitting

May 26<sup>th</sup>-June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2022

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# STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

## PRIORITY: HOUSING

The Standing Committee on Social Development released its report "[Lifting NWT Children, Youth and Families: An All of Territory Approach to Keeping Families Together](#)" on March 29, 2022. This report is the final product of its review of the [Child and Family Services Act](#). It resulted in 19 recommendations to the GNWT. The main finding is that a whole of government approach must be used to mobilize system supports to keep families together starting from pregnancy. More information, including a [visual summary](#) of the report, can be found at [ntassembly.ca/keepingfamilies-together](https://ntassembly.ca/keepingfamilies-together).

On March 31, 2022, heated debate occurred in the House about systemic racism when discussing this report. With the report now in the GNWT's hands for consideration, the Committee will return its focus back to its priority of housing in the NWT. It has also been reviewing Bill 47: [An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act, No. 2](#) and Bill 40: [An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act](#).



## WHAT IS A COMMITTEE PRIORITY?

This is an issue selected by the Committee as important and needs their focus. It guides their work alongside the reviews they are required to do.

## PUBLIC BUSINESS IN THE WINTER 2022 SITTING INCLUDED:

### REVIEW OF BILLS

1. [Clause-by-Clause Review](#), Bill 38: *Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act 2021*, Minister of Justice (February 3, 2022)
2. [Technical Briefing](#), Department of Education, Culture and Employment on Bill 39: *An Act to Amend the Post-secondary Education Act* (February 16, 2022)
3. [Clause-by-Clause Review, Bill 41](#): *Justice Administration Statutes Amendment Act*, Minister of Justice (March 24, 2022)
4. [Clause-by-Clause Review, Bill 39](#): *An Act to Amend the Post-Secondary Education Act*, Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (March 24, 2022)

### PUBLIC BRIEFINGS, REVIEWS AND MEETINGS

5. [Briefing](#), Minister of Education, Culture and Employment, Early Learning and Child Care in the NWT (March 7, 2022)



## STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT

**PRIORITIES:** INCREASE RESPONSIVENESS OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND SERVICES TO STIMULATE NORTHERN AND INDIGENOUS BUSINESSES; MAXIMIZE TELECOMMUNICATIONS BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES; EFFECTIVE MANAGEMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL LIABILITIES AND CONTAMINATED SITES

On March 8, 2022, the Committee released its [Report on the Statutory Reviews of the Species at Risk \(NWT\) Act and Wildlife Act](#). This was the first review of both Acts. The report included 14 recommendations to the GNWT, ranging from the removal of regulatory barriers that prevent wild meat from being shared to creating a funding program that supports Indigenous guardian programs in communities.

The Committee was assigned [Bill 46: An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act](#) to review.

The Committee released its [Report on Telecommunications](#) in November 2021 and continues to advance its priorities of improving management of environmental liabilities and contaminated sites, as well as supporting northern business. The Committee intends to release reports on these topics within the life of the 19<sup>th</sup> Assembly.

### PUBLIC BUSINESS IN THE WINTER 2022 SITTING INCLUDED:

1. [Presentation](#), Minister of Infrastructure on the Yellowknife Airport Master Plan (March 31, 2022)
2. [Technical Briefing](#), Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Tłıchǫ Government regarding the Bathurst Caribou Management Plan and the 2021 Barren-ground Caribou Herd (March 10, 2022)
3. [Presentation](#), Gwich'in Tribal Council Grand Chief Ken Kyikavichik on supporting northern businesses and organizations (February 24, 2022)

SCEDE IN NORMAN WELLS FOR SPECIES AT RISK ACT

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

**PRIORITY:** INCREASE THE REPRESENTATION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN THE PUBLIC SERVICE

On March 9, 2022, the Committee released the [Report on Bill 37: An Act to Amend the Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#) which summarizes an amendment to clarify the definition of “business day” in the Act.

The Committee now turns its head back to the [Official Languages Act](#) review, which it has been conducting for the last year. It is legislated that the Act is to be reviewed every five years. The Committee is eagerly accepting public submissions on the [Official Languages Act](#).

### PUBLIC BUSINESS IN THE WINTER 2022 SITTING INCLUDED:

#### REVIEW OF BILLS:

1. [Clause-by-Clause Review, Bill 37: An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act](#), Minister of Justice (March 7, 2022)

#### PUBLIC BRIEFINGS, REVIEWS AND MEETINGS

2. [Briefing](#), Minister of Finance, Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Framework (February 9, 2022)
3. [Review](#), Information and Privacy Commissioner 2020-2021 Annual Report (February 10, 2022)
4. [Review](#), Ombud 2021-2021 Annual Report (February 11, 2022)
5. [Review](#), Official Languages Commissioner 2020-2021 Annual Report (February 17, 2022)





## SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON RECONCILIATION AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

The Committee has held [five public hearings](#) about the implementation of the [United Nations Declaration on Indigenous Peoples](#). It also held ten in-camera hearings about negotiations with Indigenous leadership and governments.

The Committee released its report titled “[Interim Report: What We Heard About the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Negotiating Agreements](#)” on March 30, 2022. The report summarizes implementation challenges as presented to the Special Committee by experts and scholars. A separate chapter identifies key challenges in concluding agreements as heard from Indigenous nations and organizations.

The Committee will write a final report with recommendations before the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

## PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

If you have thoughts about any of the below matters before Committees, Members would be pleased to hear from you. E-mail a letter with your ideas to [Committees@ntassembly.ca](mailto:Committees@ntassembly.ca) specifying the issue on which you are commenting and a Committee Clerk will gladly accept your submission. If it is your preference to talk to a Committee in person, please e-mail [Committees@ntassembly.ca](mailto:Committees@ntassembly.ca) to coordinate a meeting.

## THE [OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT](#) REVIEW

The Standing Committee on Government Operations is eagerly seeking public input on the following discussion points: What is or isn't working well for promoting Official Languages? What should the Official Languages Commissioner be responsible for? How should language rights be honoured and where should they be applied?

## INDIGENOUS RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

The Standing Committee on Government Operations continues to research ways to increase the representation of Indigenous people in the public service. Please don't be shy to contact the Committee to talk about your lived experiences, ideas or challenges with this topic.

## UPCOMING LEGISLATION

With the next sitting taking place from May 26th, 2022 to June 3rd, 2022, legislation will be referred to Committees for review. Keep updated on what Committees are considering at [ntassembly.ca/publicengagement](https://ntassembly.ca/publicengagement) or in the next edition of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly Committees Update.

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