

Plain Language Summary for Bill 61: An Act to Amend the Ombud Act

The Member for Yellowknife North is sponsoring a bill that amends the *Ombud Act*. These changes were recommended by the Ombud in her annual report and the Standing Committee on Government Operations.

If adopted, this bill would mean residents could make complaints to the Ombud about a wider range of public bodies, including housing associations and the Human Rights Commission. It also would give the Ombud the ability to investigate complaints into matters that have come up since April 1, 1999. Right now the Ombud can only investigate complaints into matters that have come up since January 1, 2016.

The bill would also allow the Ombud to provide more notice of investigations including to Indigenous organizations, where the public body being investigated is the result of an agreement between the Government and an Indigenous government, for example, the Tłı̄chǫ Community Services Agency.