



## **Plain Language Summary for Bill 75: Council for Women and Gender Diversity Act**

The Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories (NWT) is an independent, arms-length agency established by the *Status of Women Council Act (Act)*. The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) initiated a review of the *Act* in 2018 to determine what, if any improvements could be made to the *Act* to modernize the language, identify gaps or shortfalls, and further strengthen the *Act*.

Based on the results of the review and recommendations made by the Gender Equity Division, Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs, the GNWT is repealing and replacing the *Act* to modernize language, provide clarity, meaning, purpose, and further strengthen the *Act*.

The proposed *Act* will:

- Repeal the *Act* and enact the *Council for Women and Gender Diversity Act*.
- Allow the Status of Women Council of the NWT to continue as the Council for Women and Gender Diversity of the NWT.
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of the Minister, the Council for Women and Gender Diversity, and the Gender Equity Division.
- Modernize the language of the *Act* including the principle of inclusivity throughout.
- Clarify the composition of the Council for Women and Gender Diversity, and member term limits.
- Re-define the Objects and Powers of the Council for Women and Gender Diversity; and,
- Include a purpose statement indicating the principles that underline the *Act*.

The *Act* includes a statement indicating that the purpose of the *Act* is to promote the equality of women, gender equity, gender diversity and gender inclusivity in government policies and programs by establishing a council to advise on these matters.

The *Act* will fall under the authority of the Minister of Responsible for the Status of Women, with administrative responsibility through the Gender Equity Division of the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs.

For additional information or questions, please contact:

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