



## **Plain Language Summary for Bill 85: United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation Act**

The *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* (Declaration) sets out a minimum standard for Indigenous Peoples' survival, dignity, and well-being. The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is committed to implementing the Declaration across everything it does - including in its departments, laws, policies, treaties, and other types of arrangements with Indigenous peoples - to advance reconciliation and address the legacy and harms of colonialism.

The proposed *Act*, the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation Act* (*Act*), is intended to describe the process that the GNWT will follow to ensure that future laws, regulations, and policies enacted and implemented by the territorial government are consistent with the human rights set out in the Declaration. The *Act* will also set out a process for the GNWT to harmonize existing laws, regulations, and policies to make them consistent with the UN Declaration over time.

The primary goals of the new *Act* are to:

- Affirm the Declaration as a universal human rights instrument with application to the Indigenous peoples and laws of the Northwest Territories; and
- Provide a framework for the GNWT to work with Indigenous Governments and Organizations in a government-to-government relationship to determine how the Declaration will be implemented.

The new *Act* will:

- Direct the Attorney General of the Northwest Territories to include a Statement of Consistency with the tabling of any new legislation, or amending existing legislation, to ensure new laws are consistent with the Declaration;
- Provide for the creation of an Action Planning Committee to develop and implement an Action Plan to identify priorities and tasks to advance the implementation of the Declaration in the Northwest Territories; and
- Affirm the authority of the GNWT to enter into shared decision-making agreements with Indigenous Governments and Organizations.

The new *Act* was developed in partnership with Indigenous governments through a working group of officials and will require public review and reporting of activities under the *Act* and Action Plan, including the tabling of an annual report.

For additional information or questions, please contact:

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