



Environmental Rights Act

Annual Report

2022-2023

The *Environmental Rights Act* recognizes the right of the people of the Northwest Territories (NWT) to a healthy environment and provides NWT residents with tools to exercise their right to protect the integrity, biological diversity and productivity of ecosystems in the NWT.

Section 19 requires the Minister to table a report to the Legislative Assembly as soon as possible after the end of each year, describing:

- all applications for investigations made under section 8;
- all prosecutions commenced under subsection 12(1);
- all actions commenced under subsection 13(1);
- the disposition of any money received under subparagraph 13(5)(c)(ii); and
- all convictions for offences under subsection 15(1).

In the 2022-2023 fiscal year, no applications for investigations under Section 8 of the Act were received. No prosecutions, or actions as detailed in the *Environmental Rights Act* were undertaken. Therefore, there was no disposition of money or convictions for offences.

Update on 2020-2021 Investigation

In the 2020-2021 fiscal year, an application for an investigation into the dispersion of dust from a tailings pond at the Ptarmigan Mine Site on the Ingraham Trail was received. The investigation was completed in September 2021.

As the Ptarmigan Mine site is a designated Excepted Waste Site under the Devolution Agreement, the government responsible for the ongoing management of the site is still under negotiation. However, as an interim measure, the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC), with funding and agreement from Canada, worked to secure a contractor that will be applying dust suppressant on the tailings pond in June 2023.