



**Plain Language Summary for Bill 93: Practice of
Engineering, Geoscience and Applied Science Technology Act**

The Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Infrastructure, is proposing a Bill to repeal the *Engineering and Geoscience Professions Act* and replace it with the new *Practice of Engineering, Geoscience and Applied Science Technology Act*.

The old and new Acts assign powers and duties to the Northwest Territories Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists (NAPEG), which is the regulating body for engineers and geoscientists in both the NWT and Nunavut. NAPEG has existed since 1969 as a society and became a delegated authority in 1979.

The new Act will give NAPEG new powers and duties that have become common in other professional associations in Canada. This will protect public safety by ensuring engineers and geoscientists in the NWT continue to hold to a high standard of expertise and professionalism, while also respecting their autonomy as a self-governing body. The Act is being replaced instead of amended to allow the Department of Justice to modernize the structure and language of the Act.

The new Act includes the following changes from the existing Act:

- Extends full membership to engineers and geoscientists who are only in the North part-time.
- Allows NAPEG to register professionals with foreign credentials in a limited capacity.
- Requires engineers and geoscientists to undergo continuing professional development.
- Allows NAPEG discipline hearings to issue custom disciplines for members guilty of misconduct (instead of immediate suspension), and to dismiss frivolous complaints.
- Adds oversight to NAPEG's Discipline Committee by adding lay members, requiring publication of decisions, and updating rules for appeals to the courts.
- Gives NAPEG more freedom in its bylaw-making power over membership dues, leave of absence, and background searches for applicants.

The new Act also makes NAPEG the regulator for applied science technologists and technicians in the NWT. These occupations do some design, construction, and testing usually reserved for engineers, but must do so under the supervision of an engineer. The occupations are regulated in nine provinces and Yukon, but not in the NWT or Nunavut. It is important to regulate the fields to ensure public safety, but the occupations are too small in the NWT to self-govern, so they will be regulated as part of NAPEG. Applied science technologists and technicians will be full voting members of NAPEG.

The Bill was developed by the Department of Infrastructure with input from NAPEG, the Departments of Industry Tourism and Investment, Education, Culture and Employment, Justice, the Nunavut Department of Infrastructure, and firms that employ technologists.

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