



Plain Language Summary for Bill 15: Northwest Territories Indigenous-Led Conservation Fund Establishment Act

The Government of the Northwest Territories, in partnership with 23 Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations has developed the *Northwest Territories Indigenous-Led Conservation Fund Establishment Act (Act)*. The *Act* establishes a not-for-profit body corporate called the Our Land for the Future Trust. Our Land for the Future Trust will manage the initial \$375 million fund and any future contributions in accordance with The *Our Land for the Future Agreement (Agreement)*. The fund will be used to support Indigenous-led conservation, stewardship and related economic diversification activities in the Northwest Territories, including the establishment and management of Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas.

The primary goal of the new *Act* is to establish Our Land for the Future Trust as a not-for-profit body corporate to:

- hold, invest and manage funds contributed to the Our Land for the Future Trust in accordance with the Agreement;
- disburse funds to eligible Indigenous partners to carry out core activities in accordance with the Agreement; and
- support the partners in achieving the purpose, vision and objectives of the Agreement.

The new *Act* will:

- establish Our Land for the Future Trust as a legal entity with the powers of a natural person;
- require Our Land for the Future Trust to produce audited financial statements annually in accordance with Canadian public sector accounting standards; and
- direct the Minister of Environment and Climate Change to table in the Legislative Assembly (a) the annual audited financial statements and (b) the public-facing annual report prepared in accordance with the Agreement.

The GNWT has worked with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and the public to develop the NWT conservation work plan, *Healthy Land, Healthy People*. The Our Land for the Future Trust will provide funding to Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations to pursue the conservation, stewardship and related economic development objectives in *Healthy Land, Healthy People*.

The new *Act* was developed in partnership with Indigenous governments through a working group of officials. Neither the new *Act*, nor the Agreement will affect any of the existing or future decision-making processes and negotiations of any partners with regards to rights over land, water and resource management in the NWT. This *Act* establishes the mechanism to fund Indigenous-led conservation and stewardship based on the purpose, vision and objectives of the Agreement, as determined by all partners involved.

For additional information or questions, please contact:

Amy Kennedy
Assistant Deputy Minister, Policy and Strategic Planning
Department of Environment and Climate Change
Tel: (867) 767-9055 ext. 24004
Email: amy_kennedy@gov.nt.ca