



MEETING EDE 63-20-25

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT  
AND ENVIRONMENT**

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**MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2025**  
**EAGLE ROOM, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY / ZOOM**  
**3:30 PM**

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**AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Prayer/reflection
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
5. Public Matters
  - a) Public Ministerial Briefing Joint ITI-ECC - GNWT response to CR-23 SCEDE Regulatory Framework
6. In Camera Matters
  - a) Debrief
  - b) SCEDE Workplan
7. New Business
  - a)
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Tuesday December 9, 2025 at 6:30 p.m.
9. Adjournment



# Update on SCEDE Recommendations Joint Briefing with ITI & ECC

December 8, 2025

# Outline

- SCEDE Report Overview and Key Recommendations
- GNWT participation in Regulatory Initiatives
- Linkages to report recommendations
- GNWT response to key report recommendations
- Questions



# SCEDE Report Overview and Key Recommendations

- Committee provided 20 recommendations in total
  - Various GNWT departments implicated (ECC, ITI, ECE, DOF) as well as the Land and Water Boards and federal government
- Key Recommendations for discussion
  - Regulatory bundles (1)
  - Waters Regulations (2 and 3)
  - Mineral Resources Act (4)
  - Board appointments (5)
  - Compliance data sharing (6)
  - Pathfinding (7)
  - Guidance and templates (8)
  - Plain language summaries (9)
  - Capacity Funding (12, 13, 14, 16)
  - Environmental Audit (17, 18)
  - MVOD (19)

Note: Committee requested that the briefing cover all recommendations except 10 and 11 (Indigenous procurement and secondment)



# GNWT Participation in Regulatory Initiatives

- **Mackenzie Valley Operational Dialogue (MVOD) - CIRNAC**
  - Was created in 2020 as an opportunity to learn about the perspectives and expertise of resource co-management partners, identify common challenges, and collectively work to develop operational work plans for regulatory topics.
  - Workplans have been developed to advance certain topics/priorities
  - ECC and ITI are both on the Organizing Committee
- **Northern Regulatory Initiative (NRI)**
  - Is a federal initiative under the Critical Minerals Strategy
  - Aims to lift up northern regulatory regimes to help create systems that are effective, efficient, inclusive, and sustainable.
  - It includes funding for all three territories - \$40M over 7 years (2023-2030);
  - Latest announcement Federal Budget 2025 is for \$67 million to accelerate regulatory processes and consultation capacity in the North, helping advance major projects in partnership with Indigenous Governments
  - Funds intended to support regulatory improvements in collaboration with Indigenous governments and co-management boards.



# Linkages to Report Recommendations

- Mackenzie Valley Operational Dialogue
  - Strong linkages to Recommendations 1, 2, 3, 4, 7, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19, 20
- Northern Regulatory Initiative
  - Strong linkages to Recommendations 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 19





# GNWT Response To Key Recommendations

## Recommendation 1

- Permitting Bundles
  - LWBs have the lead for this item
  - GNWT departments will be reviewing and providing input into these permitting bundles
  - GNWT will continue to support the development of these bundles with our partners.
  - Has been identified as an action through MVOD



# GNWT Response To Key Recommendations

## Recommendations 2 and 3

- Water Regulations amendments and update
  - Initiated the targeted amendment process for the Water Regulations with Indigenous governments
  - Much progress has been made; we are awaiting a first draft of the updated regulations from the drafters
  - GNWT is following the Legislative Development Protocol
  - This item is a shared priority amongst the parties





# GNWT Response To Key Recommendations

## Recommendation 4

- Mineral Resources Act
  - Public engagement documents on the general MRA regulation policies and on Benefit and Socioeconomic Agreements are posted and available for feedback, on the GNWT Have Your Say website, with the third engagement document on transitional policies from the old to the new MRA system, and on the Mineral Rights Review Board, coming this month.
  - Drafting of the regulations and reviewing them with Indigenous Governments on the IGC-established Technical Working Group is an iterative process continuing in 2026.
  - Public posting of the regulations is targeted for Spring 2027 following Section 35 Aboriginal Consultation, after which they can be finalized for implementation.
  - GNWT will continue to communicate progress on the regulations as milestones are reached.



# GNWT Response To Key Recommendations

## Recommendation 5

- Board appointments
  - Recommendation to revise Standard Operating procedures (SOPs) related to board appointments
  - GNWT has recently revised its SOPs and continues to find areas of improvement
  - Many appointments are federal



# GNWT Response To Key Recommendations

## Recommendation 6

- Compliance and Enforcement
  - Recommendation to include data on the GNWT open data portal
  - Public information already included on land and water board public registries



# GNWT Response To Key Recommendations

## Recommendation 7

- Pathfinding
  - While additional pathfinding resources have not been acquired at this time, GNWT has been engaged in the work of MVEIRB to develop an online interactive tool to map regulatory and environmental assessment pathways for proponents.
    - The tool will provide step-by-step guidance that integrates geospatial mapping to make it easier for mineral, energy and infrastructure project proponents to understand and navigate EA and regulatory processes.
  - GNWT is engaged with CanNor to identify focal areas for pathfinding cooperation.
    - Potential focal areas include: supporting NWT critical minerals projects in advancing to production (from pre-EA to EA and regulatory processes); Aboriginal consultation; Supporting IG capacity to participate in or lead resource and infrastructure projects (e.g. linking to federal funding programs)



# GNWT Response To Key Recommendations

## Recommendation 8

- Guidelines and Templates
  - Recommendation is to review existing documents to identify gaps
  - LWBs and MVEIRB conduct reviews of existing documents and make additions and updates based on priority
  - Boards have the lead on this recommendation
  - GNWT is contributing staff time to board initiatives to develop regulatory and EA training tools
    - The online regulatory and EA course is expected to be available in April 2026. The federal government is funding this work through the NWT Board Forum.



# GNWT Response To Key Recommendations

## Recommendation 9

- Plain Language Summaries
  - Recommendation is to provide guidance and direction to proponents during regulatory processes
  - GNWT has limited ability to influence this process given this occurs during the various Board processes
  - Boards have the lead on this recommendation





# GNWT Response To Key Recommendations

## Recommendations 12, 13, 14, 15, and 16

- Capacity Funding
  - First recommendation was more aligned with employment
  - Other recommendation on increasing capacity funding to IGs
  - GNWT has set IRMA funding
  - Continues to work with CIRNAC to access additional funding



# GNWT Response To Key Recommendations

## Recommendations 17 and 18

- Environmental Audit
  - Recommendation to implement 2020 Audit
    - Many in progress, some completed
  - Recommendation to review 2025 Audit and Develop Response Plan
    - Responses to the 2025 Audit provided
    - Some items from Audit overlap with MVOD workplan
  - Many initiatives ongoing with CIRNAC, LWB, MVEIRB and IGs



# GNWT Response To Key Recommendations

## Recommendation 19

- MVOD
  - Recommendation to implement MVOD recommendations
  - Work is ongoing with MVOD and other improvement initiatives



# Questions?

