

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ENVIRONMENT**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 2026
EAGLE ROOM
1:30 PM**

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 Briefing on Socio-Economic Agreement Program Review with Honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
6. In Camera Matters
 - a) Debrief
 - b) Correspondence
 - i. 2026-02-24 Honourable Minister Responsible for Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains
 - ii. 2026-03-16 Office of the Regulator of Oil and Gas Operations
 - iii. 2026-03-18 Honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
 - iv. 2026-03-18 Honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
 - v. 2026-03-18 Honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
 - vi. 2026-03-18 Honourable Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
 - vii. 2026-03-25 Honourable Minister of Infrastructure
 - viii. 2026-03-25 Honourable Minister of Infrastructure
 - ix. 2026-03-25 Honourable Minister of Infrastructure
 - x. 2026-03-25 Honourable Minister of Infrastructure
 - c) Workplan

7. New Business

a)

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting: Thursday, April 30, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

9. Adjournment

Minister's Opening Remarks
Response to Request for Ministerial Briefing on Socio-Economic Agreement Program Review

- Thank you, Mr. Chair, and thank you to the Standing Committee for inviting me and officials from ITI and partner departments, ECC and HSS, to appear before you today to provide a briefing on the Socio-Economic Agreement Program Review and Redesign.
- With me today are Pamela Strand, Deputy Minister of ITI, Menzie McEachern, Assistant Deputy Mineral and Petroleum Resources at ITI and Dianna Beck, Director of Mineral and Petroleum Resources at ITI.
- Socio-Economic Agreements are one of the most important tools we have as a government to maximize benefits for Northern residents, businesses, and communities.
- SEAs have helped create opportunities for NWT residents. Since the first SEA was signed in 1996, nearly \$21 billion in procurement spending has gone to NWT-based businesses, with more than \$9 billion spent with Indigenous NWT businesses.

- The diamond mine signatories of SEAs have also created more than 36,000 person-years of employment for NWT residents, including 824 person-years of employment in 2025.
- With our diamond mines either closing or nearing the end of their productive lives, we want to ensure that the next generation of resource sector projects—and SEAs—continue to maximize benefits for all NWT residents.
- Our work on the SEA Program Redesign will support these efforts.
- This redesign work was intentionally undertaken alongside the co-development of regulations under the Mineral Resources Act, recognizing that SEAs must ultimately operate within a new legislative and regulatory framework. While this alignment has taken time, it is essential to ensuring the new policy is sound, and effective for future agreements.
- SCEDE requested this briefing to review the status of the SEA Program Review and the GNWT's implementation of the recommendations. This is important and complex work as there are many cross-cutting considerations.

- Today's presentation will:
 - summarize the SEA Program Review and its recommendations;
 - explain the Program Redesign responses;
 - outline what is underway, what depends on the Mineral Resources Act, and what remains; and
 - clarify how these changes improve accountability, outcomes, and the separation of benefits from impacts.
- With your permission, I will invite Menzie McEachern to walk the Committee through the key elements of the review and how we are working our way through implementation.



SEA Program Redesign

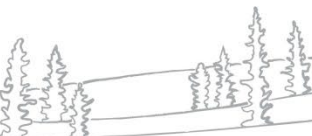
SCEDE Briefing

April 29, 2026



Outline

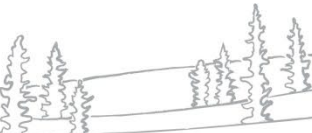
- Background
- Phase 1: SEA Program Review
- Phase 2: SEA Program Redesign
 - Summary of SEA Program Redesign Considerations
- Phase 3: Implementation
- Next Steps



Context

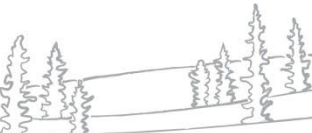
Key Considerations:

- Canadian Free Trade Agreement
 - Chapter 3
 - Chapter 8
 - Annex II: NWT Party Specific Exemptions (PSE)
- International Trade Agreements – Apply to the NWT similarly



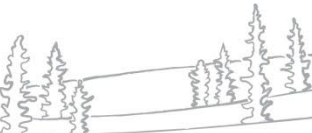
Phase 1: SEA Program Review

- Scope Included:
 - Effectiveness
 - Relevance
 - Administration
 - Sustainability
- Independent Program Evaluation:
 - DPRAs engaged
 - Creation of a Technical Advisory Panel
 - Engagement
 - **Involvement with the GNWT's Program Review Office**



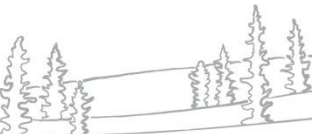
SEA Program Review Final Report

- Evaluation Report made 14 recommendations in 12 key areas:
 - Redesign the SEA Program;
 - Develop Regulations under the Mineral Resources Act to comply with SEA Commitments;
 - Focus SEAs as benefit retention agreements;
 - Use stronger language;
 - Include Implementation Plan;
 - Address Mine Closure;
 - Identify commitment outcomes;
 - Include realistic and achievable targets;
 - Ensure greater collaboration between GNWT departments;
 - Increase involvement of impacted communities;
 - Target education and training; and
 - Regular Reviews of SEAs.



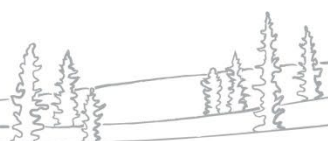
Phase 2: SEA Program Redesign

- To follow up on recommendation to redesign the SEA program
- Contracted MNP
- Socio-Economic Forum held in Yellowknife in December 2022
- Interviews with GNWT staff and additional TAP meetings
- SEAPR Final Report, completed in June 2024
 - Considerations for GNWT



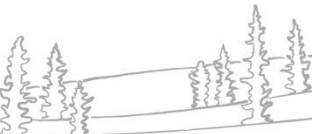
SEA Program Redesign Final Report

- Final Report separates considerations into initial implementation actions and those that will require additional planning and consideration :
 - Improve Governance of SEAs;
 - Transform and Standardize Performance Measurement;
 - Expand the Roles and Responsibilities of Indigenous Government Organizations;
 - Transfer Existing Responsibility to Lead Impact Monitoring and Mitigation to HSS;
 - Implement Enforcement Responsibilities in a Separate Unit for SEAs;
 - Implement an Advisory Board to Oversee SEA Commitments; and
 - Improve Training and Education Programming Supports.



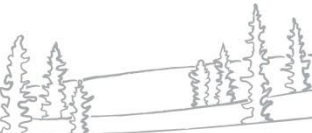
Phase 3: Initial Implementation

- Development of Guidance Documents
 - Terms of Reference
 - Policy Guide
 - Annual implementation schedule
- Standardize reporting requirements and dates.
- Develop a Program Logic Model and Performance Measurement and Evaluation Framework



Implementation: MRA Considerations

- Mineral Resources Act
 - “enables the establishment of requirements relating to benefits for the people in the Northwest Territories”
 - Regulations under co-development require SEAs for proponent to sell minerals.
- Finalize Advisory Body
- Enforcement Function of SEAs
 - New compliance and enforcement function under the MRA will be housed in the ITI’s new Regulatory Division



Implementation: Future Considerations

- Confirm responsibilities related to impact monitoring and mitigation in line with the GNWT impact mitigation framework: future SEAs to focus on benefits only
- Perform periodic evaluations of the administration (including policy direction) and effectiveness of SEAs as a program.
- Regular SEA performance meetings and updates.
- Identify training and education opportunities across GNWT programs that contribute to SEA outcome achievement, informed by engagement with Indigenous Governments or Organizations, industry, and training providers.



Questions

