

Standing Committee on
Accountability and Oversight



Committee Transition Overview and Considerations

Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight

The eleven Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly comprise the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight. The committee's role is to:

- A. Review issues which have government-wide implications, including all issues related to Devolution implementation, and the overview of the budget and fiscal framework;
- B. Review Government of the Northwest Territories reports on financial and performance results and program and policy evaluations to ensure anticipated outcomes are being achieved and accountability is maximized;
- C. Coordinate Sessional business scheduling and planning in cooperation with appropriate Ministerial representatives;
- D. Coordinate Committee public consultation efforts with respect to budget and fiscal matters;
- E. Coordinate Committee strategic planning efforts;
- F. Monitor and evaluate Ministerial performance issues;
- G. Consider issues related to land claims and self-government negotiations;
- H. Consider issues related to public engagement and transparency efforts by standing and special committees;
- I. Consider issues related to federal and international relations;
- J. Consider the budgets and financial management of any boards and agencies that are outside the responsibility of any Standing Committee; and
- K. Consider any other matter referred by the House.

Total Number of Meetings:

Priorities and Planning= 11, Accountability and Oversight Committee= 276

Key Reviews and Reports (Appendix A)

Operations Expenditures: 15

Infrastructure Expenditures: 15

Board Of Management Legislative Initiatives: 6

Special Committee on Reconciliation and Indigenous Affairs Reports: 2

Rules and Procedures Reports: 6

Committee Initiatives: 3

- Budget Negotiations
- COVID-19 Response
- Disaster Response

Recommendations for follow-up in the next assembly:

The 20th Assembly's AOC should consider the following committee priorities and processes from the last Assembly:

- *Collaborative Efforts in Budget and Policy Negotiations*
 - Committee wished to highlight the successes in policy and budget negotiations seen through AOC. The 19th Assembly has seen Regular Members and Executive Council work well together compared to other assembly. This is further supported by the collaboration seen amongst members of AOC.
 - Committees wishes to highlight those collaborative efforts, particularly with budget negotiations, was both in the ability of Committee to add funding and subtract funding throughout the capital and operational budgets. This was through true consensus amongst policy goals that Committee was able to work through and engage with the government on.
 - Through a more collaborative process AOC was able to advocate for an additional \$30million in operational and capital spending over the course of the Assembly while simultaneously advocating for new policy direction and focus of the government in a variety of areas. Some of these improvements included important supports to municipal governments, mental health and additions programming, focus on the affirmative action policy update, support for homeless shelter funding, increasing the tobacco tax rates, funding for on the land programming, and a new and more accurate way of spending capital dollars.
 - Committee is also responsible for additional benefits to evacuees during the wildfire season of 2023. Through collaboration and united action, Committee was able to increase the overall supports provided to residents who were evacuated from their homes and to businesses who faced closures due to natural disasters.

- *Policy on Attendance and Participation by Video and Phone Conference*
 - In the Winter of 2019, AOC confirmed their Video and Phone Conference Policy. This Policy allowed for the ability of Members to dial into Committee meetings virtually. The policy was timely given the COVID-19 Pandemic and highlighted how a balance between in-person and virtual is key to ensure Committee business can continue at a meaningful pace.
 - Although Committee weeks are still seen as necessary as a great deal of work is completed in those weeks, the ability to have shorter and more frequent meetings through virtual participation gives flexibility to Committees and how they conduct their business.

- *Consensus Government Process Convention*
 - Although only one Bill has now moved through the Consensus Government Process Convention, Committee hopes to see more partnership between Committee, the Government, and Indigenous

Governments to ensure this process is better streamlined and collaborative.

- Committee encourages a strong working relationship through all partners in an effort to ensure this process as efficient and effective as possible.

- *Open and Transparent Government*
 - Committee hopes to increase transparency and communication through their work and the work of government. It was noted that Committee can at times visit communities during or on the heels of Governments engagements on similar topics.
 - Committees encourages a collaborative discussions occur between staff at the assembly and Government departments in an effort to ensure that the timing of these engagements can be more meaningful for both government and committee. It was noted that engaging too quickly after or before one another impacts the willingness of community participation into important policy matters.

- *Federal Engagement*
 - Committee wishes for regular members to be more involvement with federal engagement efforts made by Cabinet. This includes the ability to meet with federal ministers when they visit constituencies.
 - Committee also wishes for better communication from Executive Council on all Federal-Provincial-Territorial (FPT) engagements, particularly with bi-lateral or multi-lateral government agreements. FPT and Bi-lateral meeting agendas should be shared in advance of these meetings so that Committee can contribute to the engagements.
 - Additionally, Committee should be able to participate in FPT engagements, particularly when federal and provincial Ministers are visiting the Northwest Territories.

Appendix A

Supplementary Estimates/ Operations Expenditures: 35

- Bill 101: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures and Borrowing Authorization), No. 3, 2023-2024
- Bill 100- Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2024-2025
- Bill 99- Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2023-2024
- Bill 96- Supplementary Appropriation Act (operations expenditures), No. 1, 2023-2024
- Bill 95- Supplementary Appropriation Act (infrastructure expenditures), no. 2, 2023-2024
- Bill 89- Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) 2023-2024
- Bill 88- Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2023-2024
- Bill 87- Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2022-2023
- Bill 86- Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 3 2022-2023
- Bill 71: Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2023-2024
- Bill 70: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2022-2023
- Bill 69: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2022-2023
- Bill 55: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2022-2023
- Bill 54: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2022-2023
- Bill 51: Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) 2022-2023
- Bill 50: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2021-2022
- Bill 49: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2021-2022
- Bill 45: Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) 2022-2023
- Bill 44: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures and Borrowing Authorization) No. 4, 2020-2021
- Bill 43: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) No. 2, 2021-2022
- Bill 42: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures) No. 2, 2021-2022
- Bill 35: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 1, 2021-2022
- Bill 34: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2021-2022
- Bill 28: Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) 2021-2022
- Bill 27: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2020-2021
- Bill 26: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 3, 2020-2021
- Bill 22: Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), 2021-2022
- Bill 21: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2020-2021
- Bill 9: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 2, 2020-2021
- Bill 8: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 2, 2020-2021
- Bill 7: Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures) 2020-2021
- Bill 5: Interim Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), 2020-2021
- Bill 4: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 1, 2020-2021
- Bill 2: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Operations Expenditures), No. 4, 2019-2020
- Bill 1: Supplementary Appropriation Act (Infrastructure Expenditures), No. 3, 2019-2020

Board of Management Bills: 6

- Bill 90: An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No. 5
- Bill 73: An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act, No.4
- Bill 59: An Act to Amend the Elections and Plebiscites Act
- Bill 58: An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act

- [Bill 11: Legislative Assembly Officers Standardization Act](#)
- [Bill 6: An Act to Amend the Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act](#)

Special Committee on Reconciliation and Indigenous Affairs Reports: 2

- [A Northwest Territories Approach to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Negotiating Agreements \(Feb 28, 2023\)](#)
- [Interim Report: What We Heard About the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Negotiating Agreements \(Mar 30, 2022\)](#)

Rules and Procedures Reports:2

- [Report on Remote Sitings \(Nov 3, 2020\)](#)
- [Report on Motion 5-19\(2\): Referral of Point of Privilege Raised By Member For Monfwi on March 10, 2020 \(Feb 9, 2021\)](#)
- [Report on the Chief Electoral Officer's Report on the Administration of the 2019 Territorial General Election \(Feb 23, 2021\)](#)
- [Report on the Review of the Chief Electoral Officer's Auxiliary Report: Issues Arising from the 2019 Territorial Election \(Oct 13, 2022\)](#)
- [Report on the Review of the Rules of the Legislative Assembly \(May 30, 2023\)](#)
- [Report on the Review of the Rules of the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, No. 2 \(Oct 3, 2023\)](#)