

Standing Committee on
Social Development



Committee Transition Overview and Considerations

Standing Committee on Social Development

The Standing Committee on Social Development considers the following matters with respect to the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment; Health and Social Services; Justice; and Housing Northwest Territories:

- A. Review multi-year business plans and budgets, bills, boards and agencies, including the Status of Women Council and programs for seniors, youth, and persons with disabilities;
- B. Review departmental performance, including that of boards and agencies;
- C. Consider issues related to homelessness; and
- D. Consider any other matter referred by the House.

Total Number of Meetings: 213

Key Reviews and Reports (Appendix B)

Total Number of Bills Reviewed: 32

Total Number of Reports: 19

Committee Initiatives: 3

- Housing and Homelessness Prevention
- Suicide Prevention
- Child and Family Services Act Statutory Review

Recommendations for follow-up in the next assembly:

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

Education Act, Phase 2

- Engage with ECE to create a stakeholder plan that prioritizes meaningful engagement and face-to-face meetings with Indigenous governments, youth, students, community members, and elders.
- Engage with ECE to draft new, aspirational legislation for its next iteration of the Education Act that takes a holistic, trauma-informed, and culturally responsive approach to education that is accountable to all NWT communities, its residents, and youth.
- Engage with ECE to follow-up on the 2020 Office of the Auditor General report *Early Childhood to Grade 12 Education in the Northwest Territories – Department of Education, Culture and Employment* deliverables.

Housing & Homelessness

- Engage with Housing NWT to develop a government lease program with Northern private, Indigenous, and non-governmental organizations to develop financing options.

- Engage with Housing NWT to establish multi-year funding for emergency shelters, transitional housing with wrap around sobriety and mental health supports and supported living housing with managed alcohol and harm reduction programs.
- Engage with Housing NWT to forgive arrears for Residential School survivors as an act of reconciliation; and to develop a strategy to forgive arrears.
- Engage with EIA to follow-up on recommendations made in Committee's report *Supporting Pathways to Housing NWT Residents*.

Trauma, Healing, & Substance Abuse

- Engage with HSS to establish a territorial based substance healing and abuse recovery centre.
- Engage with HSS to honour TRC Call to Action #21 and provide funding for the establishment of an Indigenous led healing centre.
- Engage with the Premier for an all of government approach to ensure the GNWT follows up on recommendations made in Committee's report *Strengthening Community Supports, Lifting Youth Voices*.

Children and Youth

- Engage with the Premier and HSS to keep the pressure on the GNWT to declare the overrepresentation of Indigenous children and youth in Child and Family Services a crisis and develop a whole of government response in partnership with Indigenous governments.
- Engage with MACA to increase funding for children and youth to attend sports through subsidies and vouchers for sports equipment, registration fees and sporting events.
- Engage with HSS to expand its suite of programs and services for youth aging out of care to find housing and other needed supports to transition successfully out of Child and Family Services.
- Engage with ECE to renew the commitment to universal childcare for NWT residents.

Women, Gender Equity, & 2SLGBTQIPA+

- Engage with the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women to develop legislation that meaningfully advances gender equity and achieves gender equality amongst women, girls, and the 2SLGBTQIPA+ that is inclusive of gender expression; sexuality; ethnicity; age; disability; political status; employment status; and/or geographic location.
- Engage with ECE and the Minister Responsible for Youth to protect 2SLGBTQIPA+ and trans youth.

Natural Disasters and Health

- Engage with HSS to understand the impacts of natural disasters brought on by climate change and their affect on residents' physical and mental health. For example, the impact of forest fire smoke on the development of children, the impact of disruption and loss of way of Indigenous life (loss of hunting, food security) on the mental health of Indigenous persons, etc.

- Engage with the Premier to ensure an all of government approach is done to examine how the forest fire evacuations in summer 2023 exasperated the vulnerabilities of specific populations including those experiencing homelessness on increasing their probabilities for permanent displacement from the NWT.

Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

- Engage with the Premier and the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women to ensure the GNWT implements its Action Plan on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (released November 2022).
- Engage with Justice to develop trauma informed and culturally safe Missing Persons legislation that is informed by meaningful engagement with Indigenous governments, Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls advocates, non-governmental organizations and NWT residents.

Appendix A

Standing Committee on Social Development Bills: 32

- Bill 94: Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2023
- Bill 82: Legal Profession Act
- Bill 81: An Act to Amend the Education Act, No. 2
- Bill 80: Dental Hygienists Profession Statute Amendment Act (PMB- CC)
- Bill 79: An Act to Amend the Judicature Act
- Bill 77: Nursing Profession Act
- Bill 75: Council of Women and Gender Diversity Act
- Bill 72: Opioid Damages and Health Care Cost Recovery Act
- Bill 68: An Act to Amend the Child Day Care Act
- Bill 65: Builders' Lien Act
- Bill 57: Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2022
- Bill 56: An Act to Amend the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act
- Bill 48: Arbitration Act
- Bill 47: An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act, No. 2
- Bill 41: Justice Administration Statutes Amendment Act
- Bill 40: An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act
- Bill 39: An Act to Amend the Post-secondary Education Act
- Bill 38: Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2021
- Bill 37: An Act to Amend the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act
- Bill 36: An Act to Amend the Territorial Court Act
- Bill 31: An Act to Amend the Pharmacy Act
- Bill 30: An Act to Amend the Aurora College Act
- Bill 25: An Act to Amend the Education Act
- Bill 20: An Act to Amend the Employment Standards Act
- Bill 19: An Act to Amend the Student Financial Assistance Act
- Bill 18: An Act to Amend the Legal Profession Act
- Bill 17: An Act to Amend the Corrections Act
- Bill 15: Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2020
- Bill 14: An Act to Amend the Securities Act
- Bill 13: An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act
- Bill 12: An Act to Amend the Apprenticeship, Trades and Occupational Certification Act
- Bill 10: Temporary Variation of Statutory Time Periods (COVID-19 Pandemic Measures) Act

Total Number of Reports Read: 19

- Report on Bill 75: Council for Women and Gender Diversity Act (Sept 29, 2023)
- Report on Bill 82: Legal Profession Act. (Sept 27, 2023)
- Report on Bill 77: Nursing Profession Act (Sept 27, 2023)
- Report on Bill 80: Dental Hygienists Profession Statutes Amendment Act. (Sept 27, 2023)
- Report on Bill 81: An Act to Amend the Education Act, No. 2 (Sept 27, 2023)
- Report on Bill 65: Builders' Lien Act (Sept 27, 2023)
- Report on Lifting Youth Voices: Recommendations on Suicide Prevention (March 27, 2023)
- Report on Review of Bill 68: An Act to Amend the Child Day Care Act (March 09, 2023)

- Report on Homelessness Prevention: Supporting Pathways to Housing NWT Residents (March 07, 2023)
- Interim Report on Bill 65: Builders' Lien Act (Feb 27, 2023)
- Report on Bill 48: Arbitration Act (Oct 25, 2022)
- Report on Bill 40: An Act to Amend the Medical Profession Act (May 31, 2022)
- Report on the Review of Bill 39: An Act to Amend the Post-Secondary Education Act (March 30, 2022)
- Report on the Child and Family Services Act – Lifting NWT Children, Youth and Families: An All of Territory Approach to Keeping Families Together (March 29, 2022)
- Report on the Review of Bill 30: An Act to Amend the Aurora College Act (Nov 30, 2021)
- Report on Housing Phase One: Needs for NWT Homeowners and Private Landlords (June 02, 2021)
- Report on the Review of Bill 20: An Act to Amend the Employment Standards (March 10, 2021)
- Report on the Review of Bill 13: An Act to Amend the Interpretation Act (March 02 2021)
- Report on Long-Term Post-Pandemic Recovery: Recommendations to the GNWT (June 09, 2020)