



Plain Language Summary for Bill 11: An Act to Amend the Motor Vehicles Act

The Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Infrastructure is developing an amendment to the *Motor Vehicles Act* to update and clarify the ways in which the Registrar of Motor Vehicles can share information about drivers, vehicles, and holders of general identification cards.

The *Motor Vehicles Act* requires vehicles to be registered and drivers to be licenced in the NWT. It puts the Registrar of Motor Vehicles in charge of the registration and licensing process. The Act also allows the Registrar to issue general identification cards to people who do not hold a driver's license.

The amended Act will:

- Protect consumers purchasing used cars from false vehicle histories;
- Help government agencies track statistical information about the NWT population;
- Reduce fraud by non-residents claiming to live in the NWT; and
- Reduce red tape and administrative burden for the Registrar's office.

The amended Act contains the following changes:

- Allow consumers to independently verify the history of a used vehicle before buying it;
- Allow the Registrar to enter agreements with other government agencies to share the names of driver's licence holders and general ID holders (without releasing those names publicly);
- Allow the Registrar to use facial recognition technology when verifying licence photos;
- Move the requirement for general IDs to have a photo from the Act to the regulations;
- Require insurers and governments to use prescribed forms when requesting data; and
- Remove the Registrar's obligation to certify documents that were not created by their office.

The amended Act was developed by researching all suggestions about information-sharing that had been made to the Department in recent years. This includes requests by workers in the licence issuing office, territorial and federal government agencies, and the private sector. Only suggestions that would provide a benefit to the public and were in line with best practices of Canadian governments were grouped together into the Legislative Proposal. The Department also wrote to the Information and Privacy Commissioner and provided a summary to the Access Privacy Office.

Some provisions of the amended Act will require additional work before they come into effect. Amendments to two regulations are in development to enable new provisions in the Act. Other provisions will require the Registrar to negotiate information-sharing agreements with other government bodies before data can be shared.

For additional information or questions contact:

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