

Statement of Consistency

Bill No. 29-20(1)

First Responders Workers' Compensation Amendment Act

Private Member's Public Bill

Sponsoring Member: Mr. Kieron Testart, MLA for Range Lake

Explanatory Note

The [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation Act](#)¹ (*UNDRIP Implementation Act*) came into force on October 6, 2023.

Subject to certain exceptions, section 8(2) of the *UNDRIP Implementation Act* requires the sponsor of a private member's bill, before second reading, to "table a Statement of Consistency prepared by the Law Clerk of the Legislative Assembly indicating whether or not, in their opinion, the bill is consistent with the Declaration² and the rights recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*." [Section 35\(1\)](#) of the *Constitution Act, 1982* provides "The existing aboriginal and treaty rights of the aboriginal peoples of Canada are hereby recognized and affirmed."

A Statement of Consistency may help inform public and Legislative debate on a bill. The requirement for one appears in the *UNDRIP Implementation Act* under the heading "Consistency of Laws with Declaration", which includes section 6(1): "The Government of the Northwest Territories shall, in collaboration and cooperation with Indigenous peoples, take all reasonable measures to ensure that the laws of the Northwest Territories are consistent with the Declaration". While a private member is not the Government, section 6 and the Act as a whole inform the Statement of Consistency.

The Statement of Consistency is not a comprehensive analysis of all conceivable inconsistencies of a bill with the Declaration and section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*. The bill may be amended after second reading as it passes through Committee and the House. And it is the Assembly as a whole, not the Member acting individually or the Government, that may enact the bill into law. Through representatives elected to this Assembly, Indigenous peoples and Indigenous Governments or Organizations have an opportunity to participate in that legislative process. Additional considerations relevant to

¹ SNWT 2023, c. 36.

² As defined in the Act, "Declaration" means the *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples* set out in the Schedule to the Act.

the consistency of a bill with the Declaration or section 35 rights may arise during that process.

Analysis of the bill

The bill proposes amendments to the *Workers' Compensation Act*, allowing for certain presumptions for coverage for firefighters and front-line and emergency-response workers. The bill would apply to all such workers fitting the definitions equally.

The bill does not directly address any rights recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982* or the Declaration.

Statement of Consistency

The Law Clerk has reviewed the bill for consistency with the Declaration and the rights recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*, as per section 8(2) of the *UNDRIP Implementation Act*. This review involved consideration of the context and words of the bill and the Act it would amend, as well as the context, object and intention of the *UNDRIP Implementation Act* itself.

In the Law Clerk's opinion, the bill is not inconsistent with the Declaration and the rights recognized and affirmed under section 35 of the *Constitution Act, 1982*.

LAW CLERK
Toby Kruger

May 28, 2025