



### **Plain Language Summary for Bill 34: Trespass to Property Act**

The Government is introducing a Trespass to Property Act. The purpose of the proposed Bill is to enhance public safety and private property protections. To achieve this, the Bill will address significant gaps in trespassing law by creating a new law intended to govern trespass to private property, to schools, and to certain types of private interests on public lands such as leases.

The Bill will establish trespassing as a territorial offence. It will also:

- Establish penalties for trespassing that include fines up to \$10,000 and prison terms of up to six months;
- Set out ways of giving notice for trespassing, including the types of signs that are sufficient for giving notice, and for types of property where no notice is required;
- Set out arrest provisions for trespassing; and,
- Give legal occupiers of land, such as owners and renters, a simplified method for obtaining payment for damages caused by trespassers, while still letting them seek additional damages through the existing civil system.

The Bill will also ensure that trespassers must give their name and address and create aggravating factors for sentencing if an individual does not leave the property within a certain time after being directed to do so in some circumstances. It will also allow for granting limited permission to access a premises.

The Bill will protect Indigenous rights by ensuring land, resources, and self-government agreements take precedence over the legislation, and ensuring that the proposed Act will be interpreted in accordance with recognition and affirmation of existing Indigenous and treaty rights.

For additional information or questions, contact:

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