



MAY 16 2017

MR. DANIEL MCNEELY  
MLA, SAHTU

**Oral Question 717-18(2): Land Lease Assessments and Consultations**

I am pleased to provide further detail related to your questions in the Legislative Assembly on March 8, 2017, regarding consultations on amendments to the two lands acts. Specifically, you requested whether the Department would have preliminary discussions with stakeholders and whether a draft schedule of consultation could be provided to members.

Land administration in the NWT is primarily governed under two acts – the *Commissioner's Land Act* and the *Northwest Territories Lands Act*. The *Northwest Territories Lands Act* is the one that was mirrored at Devolution. It is a mandate commitment of the 18th Legislative Assembly to advance the territorial vision of land and resource management, in accordance with the Land Use and Sustainability Framework, by evolving our legislative, regulatory and policy systems. This commitment includes, among other initiatives, developing and proposing amendments to the *Commissioner's Land Act* and the *Northwest Territories Lands Act*.

The two acts developed independently over decades to address distinct geographical areas and types of land use, so they are quite different from each other today. The differences between them, now that they are managed by one Department, can present challenges for land management and administration. With both acts now under the GNWT, we have an opportunity to improve how the two acts work together.

Over the winter, the Department of Lands reviewed the two acts and is now finalizing an Engagement Paper. This paper will facilitate discussions later this summer with Indigenous governments and organizations, stakeholders and the general public. Engagement activities will include open houses in regional centres, presentations or meetings upon request, and online engagement with written submissions. The Department will coordinate wherever possible with other engagement or consultation processes, including those related to legislative proposals by other GNWT departments.

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The Engagement Paper will be shared with the Standing Committee on Economic Development and the Environment, for information, and then the Intergovernmental Council on Land and Resource Management prior to its release to a broader audience.

The Department then plans to develop a Legislative Proposal for Cabinet and Standing Committee's consideration in the fall of 2017.



Louis Sebert  
Minister of Lands

c. Mr. Tim Mercer, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Mr. David Hastings, Legislative Coordinator

Mr. Willard Hagen, Deputy Minister, Lands