



### **Plain Language Summary for Bill 33: National Indigenous Peoples Day Act**

The Government of the Northwest Territories, Department Executive and Indigenous Affairs (EIA; Department), is amending the National Aboriginal Day Act in order to better reflect the contributions of all First Nations, Inuit, and Métis peoples of Canada, as well as to remain consistent with federal naming convention and the Executive Council's cabinet operational guidelines on the use of the terms "Indigenous" and "Aboriginal."

National Aboriginal Day is an annual national celebration of the heritage, culture, and significant contributions of Indigenous peoples in Canada. June 21 was chosen as the date of this national celebration, due to the significance of the summer solstice, when many Indigenous peoples have historically celebrated their culture and heritage. In 2001, the Northwest Territories (NWT) passed the *National Aboriginal Day Act*, marking June 21 as a statutory holiday in recognition of National Aboriginal Day.

The amended Act will:

- Support a naming convention that is more respectful and inclusive of the Dene, Métis and Inuvialuit peoples of the Northwest Territories, and that is consistent with federal and internal naming conventions.

The new Act contains the following changes:

- The name of the *National Aboriginal Day Act*, and subsequently the name of National Aboriginal Day, will be changed to the *National Indigenous Peoples Day Act*, and respectively, National Indigenous Peoples Day.
- Consequential amendments will also result to other pieces of legislation that reference National Aboriginal Day as a 'holiday.'

#### Development process:

The change in naming from National Aboriginal Day to National Indigenous Peoples does not affect established or asserted Aboriginal or Treaty rights, and as such does not trigger a duty to consult. Nevertheless, notice of the proposed change in naming was given to Indigenous Governments with opportunity to provide input.

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