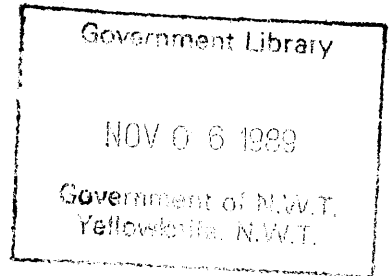


LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL ACT



Statement of Purpose

The purpose of this Bill is to establish the Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories; to set out the objects and powers of the Council; to provide for the appointment of members to the Council; to limit the personal liability of members of the Council; to provide for the designation of a President and two Vice-Presidents of the Council; to permit the Council to hire its own employees; to establish the fiscal year of the Council; to provide for the tabling of an annual report; to consequentially amend the *Financial Administration Act* by adding the Council to Schedule A of that Act; and to repeal the *Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act*.

IMPORTANT

This Bill is tabled for public review. This proposed Act does not represent the final policy of the Government of the Northwest Territories and is subject to change after public review and comment. Furthermore, changes of a technical nature can be expected to prepare the Bill for introduction in the Legislative Assembly.

STATUS OF WOMEN COUNCIL ACT

The Commissioner of the Northwest Territories, by and with the advice and consent of the Legislative Assembly, enacts as follows:

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Definitions	1. In this Act,	
"Council"	"Council" means the Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories established under subsection 2(1);	10
"member"	"member" means a member of the Council.	
Establishment of Council	2. A council called the Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories is established by this Act.	15
Objects	3. (1) The objects of the Council are as follows: (a) to develop public awareness of issues affecting the status of women; (b) to promote a change in attitudes within the community in order that women may enjoy equality of opportunity; (c) to encourage discussion and expression of opinion by residents of the Northwest Territories on issues affecting the status of women; (d) to advise the Minister on issues that the Minister may refer to the Council for consideration; (e) to review policies and legislation affecting women and to report its findings to the relevant government departments or agencies; (f) to provide assistance to the Minister in promoting changes to ensure the attainment of equality of women; (g) to provide the appropriate assistance to organizations and groups whose objectives promote the equality of women.	20 25 30
Powers	(2) The Council may (a) receive and hear submissions and suggestions from individuals and groups concerning the status of women; (b) research matters relating to the status of women; (c) suggest research areas in relation to matters relating to the status of women that may be studied by any interested person; (d) recommend and participate in programs concerning the status of women; (e) recommend legislation, policies and practices to improve equality of opportunity for women and to improve the status of women; (f) publish any reports, studies or recommendations that the Council considers advisable; (g) present reports to the Minister to be laid before the Legislative Assembly; (h) contract and be contracted with in the name of the Council; and (i) make by-laws to regulate the affairs of the Council.	35 40 45
Composition	4. (1) The Council shall be composed of not fewer than five and not greater than nine members, as the Minister considers appropriate.	50
Appointment	(2) The Minister shall appoint a member for a term of not less than one year and not more than three years, to be determined at the time of appointment.	



EXPLANATORY NOTES

New Act

Representation	(3) Where possible, members shall be representative of the women of the Territories and their interests, the cultural diversity of the Territories, the regions of the Territories and Territorial women's organizations.	5
Limit	(4) A member who has served on the Council for two consecutive terms is ineligible for reappointment.	
Vacancy	(5) Where there is a vacancy on the Council and the remaining number of members is less than five, (a) the Minister shall, within 90 days of the vacancy occurring, fill the vacancy; and (b) where the vacancy occurs because the term of a member has expired, the member shall remain in office until the vacancy is filled.	10
Remuneration	5. The members shall be paid the remuneration and expenses that the Council determines.	15
Debts and obligations	6. (1) The members are exempt from personal liability for the debts and obligations of the Council.	20
Liability	(2) No action or other proceedings for damages shall be brought against a member for any act done in good faith in the execution or intended execution of the powers or duties of the member.	25
President, Vice-Presidents	7. (1) The Minister shall designate one member as President and two members as Vice-Presidents of the Council.	30
Duties of President	(2) The President is the chief executive officer of the Council and shall direct its activities and co-ordinate its work.	30
Authorization of Vice-President by President	(3) Where the President is or expects to be temporarily absent, incapacitated or unable to act, the President may authorize one of the Vice-Presidents to act as President during the absence, incapacity or inability to act of the President.	35
Authorization of Vice-President by Council	(4) Where (a) the office of the President is vacant, or (b) the President is absent, incapacitated or unable to act and the President is unable to authorize a Vice-President to act as President, the Council may authorize one of the Vice-Presidents to act as President during the absence, incapacity or inability to act of the President, or until the office of the President is filled, as the case may be.	40 45
Hiring and remuneration of employees	8. (1) The Council may (a) employ the persons required to carry out the powers and duties of the Council; and (b) determine the remuneration to be paid to its employees.	50
Deeming provision	(2) The employees of the Council are not persons employed in the public service of the Northwest Territories.	55

Place of meetings	9. (1) The Council may hold its meetings in any place in the Northwest Territories.	
Number of meetings	(2) The Council shall meet at least two times in a year.	5
Funding	10. The Council may receive grants, contributions and donations for carrying out the purposes of this Act.	
Fiscal year	11. The fiscal year of the Council is the period beginning on April 1 in one year and ending on March 31 in the following year.	10
Annual report	12. (1) Before July 1 of each year, the Council shall submit to the Minister an annual report consisting of (a) a general summary of the activities of the Council during the preceding fiscal year; and (b) the report of the auditor for the preceding fiscal year.	15
Laying of report before	(2) The Minister shall lay a report received under subsection (1) before the Legislative Assembly within 10 days after the opening of the first session of the Legislative Assembly after the report is received.	20

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CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT

Financial Administration Act

	13. The <i>Financial Administration Act</i> is amended by this Act by adding the following to Schedule A: "8.1. The Status of Women Council of the Northwest Territories, established under the <i>Status of Women Council Act</i> ".	30
Repeal	14. The <i>Advisory Council on the Status of Women Act</i> is repealed by this Act.	35
Commencement	15. This Act or any portion of this Act shall come into force on a day or days to be fixed by order of the Commissioner.	40

EXPLANATORY NOTES

CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENT

Financial Administration Act

Clause 13

Section 8.1 is new.

Clause 14

This section is a repeal provision.

Clause 15

This section is a coming into force provision.