



Government of
Northwest Territories

June 11, 2024

ROBERT HAWKINS
MLA, YELLOWKNIFE CENTRE

Oral Question 170-20(1) Regulation of E-Scooters

This letter is a follow up to the Oral Question you raised on May 24, 2024, regarding the Regulation of E-Scooters.

I was asked to examine my authority as Minister and issue a directive to clarify the definition of the term "vehicle" as stated in the Northwest Territories Motor Vehicle Act. I committed to reporting back to the House before the end of this session.

The legal scope of the word "vehicle" is defined by the Motor Vehicles Act. That definition can only be changed by the Legislative Assembly – meaning an Act amendment would be required. The same is true for the definition of motor vehicle, motorcycle, bicycle, and all-terrain vehicle.

As Minister, I have little flexibility to create new categories of vehicles. Regulation-making powers in the Motor Vehicles Act allow the Commissioner to define which motorized two-wheeled vehicles require a motorcycle licence or a class-5 licence. The Commissioner might also have some flexibility to redefine what qualifies as "skateboards". Unfortunately, I have no data suggesting that either of these actions would improve the safety of e-scooter users or other users of roads and sidewalks.

The issue of micro-mobility is of great interest across Canada, and some of our provincial partners are developing and actively testing new approaches to identify best practices. The Northwest Territories will continue to work with our national partners to develop more comprehensive policies for regulating micro-mobility and we anticipate that reports on the outcomes of pilot projects will inform everyone as we go forward.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Caroline Wawzonek'.

Caroline Wawzonek
Minister of Infrastructure

c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
Director, Legislative Affairs and House Planning