



17th Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories

Standing Committee on Government Operations

Report on the Review
of the Office of the
Northwest Territories
Languages Commissioner
Annual Reports for 2011-2012,
2012-2013 and 2013-2014

Chair: Mr. Daryl Dolynny

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

REPORT ON THE REVIEW OF THE OFFICE OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LANGUAGES COMMISSIONER ANNUAL REPORTS 2011-2012, 2012-2013 AND 2013-2014

It is the mandate of the Standing Committee on Government Operations to meet annually with the Statutory Officers of the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories to publicly review the annual reports of the statutory officers.

The Northwest Territories Languages Commissioner's Annual Report for 2011-2012 was prepared when Ms. Sarah Jerome was the Languages Commissioner for the Northwest Territories. Although the report was signed off on October 1, 2012, it was not tabled until June 4, 2014 [TD 106-17(5)], after Ms. Jerome's term was completed on May 10, 2013. This prevented the Standing Committee on Government Operations from meeting with Ms. Jerome to discuss her report.

There was a vacancy in the office from May 10 - December 1, 2013, when Ms. Snookie Catholique's term as the new Northwest Territories Languages Commissioner took effect. The Annual Report for 2012-2013, prepared in the absence of a Languages Commissioner, constitutes a summary review of the operational budget for the office.

The Office of the Northwest Territories Official Languages Commissioner Annual Report, 2013-2014 was signed off by Ms. Catholique on October 1, 2014 and tabled on November 5, 2014 [TD 181-17(5)]. The departure of the Languages Commissioner from office, coupled with logistical challenges presented by the demands on the Standing Committee's schedule, rendered it impossible for the Standing Committee to meet with the Languages Commissioner to discuss the 2013-2014 report.

Owing to the unusual circumstances surrounding the production and tabling of these three reports, the Standing Committee opted not to conduct public reviews. The Standing Committee is confident that, with the appointment of a new Languages Commissioner, routine reviews of the annual reports of that office will resume during the 18th Legislative Assembly.