



# **Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly**

## **Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure**

Review of  
*Bill 16: An Act to Amend the Dog Act*

February 16, 2011  
Yellowknife, Northwest Territories

Chair: Mr. David Ramsay, MLA Kam Lake

## **STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

### **Chair**

Mr. David Ramsay, MLA Kam Lake

### **Committee Members**

Mr. Jackie Jacobson, MLA Nunakput, Deputy Chair  
Mr. Bob Bromley, MLA Weledeh  
Mr. David Krutko, MLA Mackenzie Delta  
Mr. Norman Yakeleya, MLA, Sahtu

### **Regular Members**

Ms. Wendy Bisaro, MLA, Frame Lake  
Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, MLA Hay River South  
Mr. Glen Abernethy, MLA, Great Slave  
Mr. Kevin Menicoche, MLA, Nahendeh

### **Witnesses**

Hon. Robert McLeod, Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs  
Mr. Mike Aumond, Deputy Minister, MACA  
Ms. Laura Gareau, Director of Corporate Affairs, MACA  
Mr. David Kravitz, Manager of Community Governance, MACA  
Ms. Kelly McLaughlin, Legislative Counsel, Justice

### **Committee Staff**

Ms. Jennifer Knowlan, Committee Clerk  
Ms. Sheila MacPherson, Law Clerk  
Ms. Colette Langlois, Director of Research  
Ms. Alicia Tumchewics, Committee Researcher

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURE**  
**Review of Bill 16: *An Act to Amend the Dog Act***  
**February 16, 2011**  
**Yellowknife, Northwest Territories**  
**12:29 p.m.**

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Dave Ramsay):** Thanks, everybody. I'd like to call the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure back to order. The next order on our agenda today is the review of Bill 16: *An Act to Amend the Dog Act*. I'd like to welcome Minister Robert C. McLeod back to our proceedings this afternoon and your staff as well. I'd also like to welcome anybody else who has joined us here this afternoon. What I'd like to do first is introduce the committee members we have in attendance. We have Mr. Krutko, MLA Mackenzie Delta; Mr. Bob Bromley, MLA Weledeh; Mr. Norman Yakeleya, MLA Sahtu; Mr. Jackie Jacobson, our deputy chair of the committee, MLA Nunakput; myself, David Ramsay, MLA Kam Lake, chair of EDI. As well, we've got a great deal of interest from other Members as well that have joined us. Mr. Kevin Menicoche, MLA Nahendeh; Ms. Wendy Bisaro, MLA Frame Lake; Mr. Glen Abernethy, MLA Great Slave; also, Mrs. Jane Groenewegen, MLA Hay River South.

Today the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Infrastructure is holding a clause-by-clause review of Bill 16: *An Act to Amend the Dog Act*. Minister Robert C. McLeod, Minister of MACA, will now open the proceedings on Bill 16. Following the Minister, Members may make comments on the bill. I'd like to welcome Minister McLeod. Thanks again for joining us today. I'd ask you to please introduce your staff for the record. Minister McLeod.

**HON. ROBERT MCLEOD:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I have with me today Mr. Mike Aumond, deputy minister of MACA; Ms. Laura Gareau, director of corporate affairs; Mr. David Kravitz, Manager of Community Governance; and we also have with us Kelly McLaughlin, legislative counsel, Department of Justice; as well as my executive assistant, Mr. Rob Collinson.

Mr. Chair, I understand that the staff have been working on a number of additional amendments to the proposed *Dog Act*. I look forward to discussing these amendments in more detail with committee as they are introduced. I'll keep my comments very brief, Mr. Chair, because I know we all want to get into the meat of the amendments.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you very much, Mr. Minister. We had public hearings a little bit earlier. We introduced the staff, but my apologies to the staff; I forgot to introduce them here for the record. To my far left is Ms. Alicia Tumchewics, committee researcher; Ms. Sheila MacPherson, law clerk; Ms. Colette Langlois, director of research; to my right, Ms. Jennifer Knowlan, committee clerk.

With that, I know Mr. Yakeleya has a motion, Mr. Minister, to defer the clause by clause and I'll let him move that, but before I go to Mr. Yakeleya, I just wanted to make a few comments on behalf of committee.

We do have some committee members that are awaiting word back from their communities to the proposed amendments to the *Dog Act*. As you mentioned in your opening comments, Mr. Minister, there are a number of amendments to the proposed amendments. In the time I've been here, almost eight years, what would seem a small piece of legislation has gotten so much traffic. I've never received more e-mails or phone calls on any one item other than the proposed amendments in this bill. We've been around the Northwest Territories. We've been to Inuvik, Fort Smith, Hay River, here in Yellowknife. We've had tremendous turnout. The public is very interested in how this is playing itself out. We were just in Fort Smith last Thursday night and we had the largest turnout of any of our public hearings. In Fort Smith there was close to 60 people there.

From the committee's standpoint, we'd like a little bit more time to go over the amendments that we have to the amendments. We want to make sure that the committee puts its best effort forward and gets the best legislation on the floor of the House that we possibly can and that all the concerns of members of this committee are fully and duly addressed in doing that. We beg your indulgence in us looking at pushing this off just a little bit.

You know, I do believe that we do need to get this on the floor of the House and passed by this Assembly during this sitting. I'd still look forward to that taking place. We'll try our best to make sure that that happens. I'll go to Mr. Yakeleya.

**Motion to Defer Clause-by-Clause Review of Bill 16: *An Act to Amend the Dog Act***

**MR. YAKELEYA:** Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move that the clause-by-clause review of Bill 16: *An Act to Amend the Dog Act*, be deferred until further notice.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Thank you, Mr. Yakeleya. The motion is on the floor. The motion is in order. To the motion.

**SOME HON. MEMBERS:** Question.

**CHAIRMAN (Mr. Ramsay):** Question is being called.

---Carried

Thanks, committee. Again, thank you very much, Mr. Minister. We appreciate all the work that your staff, your department has put into the amendments that are before us. We'll be in touch, thank you.

I'd like to thank everybody else that is in attendance this afternoon. Thank you.

---ADJOURNMENT