

**GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO MOTION 31-17(5)
ESTABLISHMENT OF OMBUDSMAN OFFICE**

Motion

The Legislative Assembly recommends that the Government introduce legislation that will establish an ombudsman as an independent and non-partisan statutory officer, forward legislation to establish an independent parliamentary ombudsman office with the mandate to investigate complaints about the practices and services of public agencies and to promote fair, reasonable, appropriate and equitable administrative practices and services;

AND FURTHER, that the Government, in designing the appropriate legislation, refer to the report produced by the Standing Committee on Government Operations and work closely with the Office of the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly to examine the options of both a stand-alone office and one that might combine with another statutory office of the Northwest Territories.

AND FURTHERMORE that the Government provide a response to this motion within 120 days.

GNWT Response

Legislation for an Ombudsman Office would require significant time and resources to develop, for both a new Act and consequential amendments to several other statutes and likely could not be ready for consideration during the life of the 17th Assembly. Moreover, there would also be significant challenges in identifying \$400,000 to \$600,000 for the ongoing annual funding of the Ombudsman Office, particularly since this was not originally identified as a priority of the 17th Legislative Assembly. The Government of the Northwest Territories will refer the matter of an Ombudsman Office for the consideration of the 18th Legislative Assembly.