



**Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Committee
Report 24-18(3): Report on the Review of Bill 48: Post-Secondary Education Act**

Background

The Standing Committee on Social Development (SCOSD) presented Committee Report 24-18(3): "Report on the Review of Bill 48: *Post-Secondary Education Act*" (Report) on August 12, 2019. The proposed legislation creates a process of recognition that will ensure the effective governance and quality assurance of all post-secondary institutions and their programs.

Committee's Report contains four recommendations for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) which address both how ECE will engage stakeholders during development of the regulations and the manner in which the Minister will respond to institutions seeking formal recognition under the legislation.

On August 14, 2019, the Report was considered in Committee of the Whole and all four recommendations were adopted.

Recommendation 1

That the Department of Education, Culture and Employment consult stakeholders in the development of the eligibility requirements by which application for status as a post-secondary institution will be measured.

GNWT Response

The Department accepts the recommendation and commits to continued engagement with stakeholders during the development of regulations, including those pertaining to eligibility requirements.

There have already been several opportunities for post-secondary education stakeholders to provide input into the legislative process and the Department will seek their input to assist with the development of regulations concerning application for status as a post-secondary institution.

Recommendation 2

That the Department of Education, Culture and Employment target a comprehensive group of interested stakeholders in the development of regulations concerning the recognition of Indigenous institutions.

GNWT Response

The Department accepts the recommendation and commits to engagement with a comprehensive group of interested stakeholders in the development of regulations concerning the recognition of Indigenous institutions. The Department will engage with stakeholders during development of regulations more broadly and this is expected to include some discussion of Indigenous institutions.

Recognition as an Indigenous Post-Secondary Institution under the *Post-Secondary Education Act* will formally acknowledge the unique nature of the institution and should reflect the Indigenous values, cultures and histories of the Northwest Territories.

Recommendation 3

That the Department of Education, Culture and Employment develop regulations containing a requirement that the Minister provide reasons, in writing, for his or her decisions under the Act.

GNWT Response

The Department accepts the recommendation and will develop regulations that require the Minister to provide, in writing, reasons for his or her decisions under the Act.

Recommendation 4

The Standing Committee on Social Development requests to the extent it is possible before the dissolution of the 18th Assembly and for the public record, that government provide a response to this recommendation, even of a preliminary nature, that Committee may publicly disclose.

GNWT Response

The Department accepts the recommendation and is pleased to provide a timely response.