

**GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES RESPONSE TO MOTION  
6-17(5) – STRENGTHENING MUNICIPAL ENFORCEMENT OF LIQUOR LAWS**

**Motion**

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the honourable Member for Inuvik Boot Lake, that this Legislative Assembly recommends that the Minister of Finance undertake discussion and amendments to the *Liquor Act* or other legislation, as required, to provide municipal enforcement officers with the authority to enforce liquor infractions;

AND FURTHER that the Government of the Northwest Territories provide a comprehensive response to this motion within 120 days.

**GNWT Response**

The Departments of Finance and Justice are currently undertaking a legal review of the *Liquor Act* and other legislation to determine what should be amended if a decision is ultimately made to provide municipal bylaw officers with the authority to enforce provisions of the *Liquor Act*. The legal review is expected to be completed at the end of March 2014, at which time the GNWT would be in a position to identify the legislative amendments required, if any.

The City of Yellowknife has approached the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) seeking authority for its Municipal Enforcement Division to enforce certain provisions of the *Liquor Act*. In response the Departments of Finance and Justice have had discussions with the City of Yellowknife, as well as the RCMP, and the discussions between these parties are ongoing.

Once the GNWT has completed the legal review, representatives from the GNWT will meet internally to discuss possible amendments, and will again meet with representatives City of Yellowknife, the RCMP and any other community seeking to provide its municipal enforcement officers with authority to enforce provisions of the *Liquor Act*, to determine if changes are feasible. There are a number of practical issues such as training, arrest protocols, detention of prisoners and liability concerns that have to be looked at in depth prior to the taking of a final decision to propose legislative amendments.