



GOVERNANCE AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS DEPUTY MINISTERS' COMMITTEE TERMS OF REFERENCE

AUTHORITY

This Terms of Reference is established under the authority of the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) Senior Management Committee of Deputy Ministers.

MANDATE

The mandate of the Governance and Indigenous Affairs Deputy Ministers' Committee (the Committee or GIA DMC) is to provide an interdepartmental focus to identify issues, coordinate policy, track efforts and as appropriate, provide direction and timelines to inform recommendations to the Governance and Indigenous Affairs Committee of Cabinet (GIA COC) with respect to the GNWT's focus on:

- (a) advancing Indigenous reconciliation and the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;
- (b) working in partnership with Indigenous governments and the federal government to advance reconciliation in the Northwest Territories;
- (c) supporting Indigenous governments to develop their capacity;
- (d) supporting cultural education and Indigenous Languages;
- (e) advancing Aboriginal Rights negotiations in the Northwest Territories;
- (f) tracking, monitoring and providing overall guidance on government progress in advancing the Priorities of the 20th Legislative Assembly;
- (g) recommending whole-of-government approaches and priorities for consideration by Cabinet and/or the Financial Management Board;
- (h) working in partnership with other governments;
- (i) leveraging federal support for government and territorial priorities;
- (j) ensuring that government policies and initiatives are communicated in a manner that promotes awareness, openness, and accountability;
- (k) communications approaches to and implications of government initiatives related to governance, intergovernmental and Indigenous relations; and

(l) any other activities with governance and/or whole-of-government implications that do not fall within the mandate of another Committee of Cabinet.

CHAIR AND DM LEAD

The Deputy Minister (DM) of Executive and Indigenous Affairs is the Chair of the Committee and the DM Lead for the GIA COC. The Deputy Minister of Justice is the Vice-Chair of the Committee and the Vice-DM Lead for the GIA COC.

COMPOSITION

The Committee comprises the:

- Deputy Minister of Executive and Indigenous Affairs
- Deputy Minister of Finance
- Deputy Minister of Justice
- Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment
- Deputy Minister of Environment and Climate Change
- Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services
- Deputy Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment
- Deputy Minister of Infrastructure
- Deputy Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs
- President of Housing Northwest Territories
- Associate Deputy Minister of Housing Northwest Territories

QUORUM

The Chair, or the Vice-Chair, and any two individuals appointed to the Committee will constitute a quorum.

OPERATIONS

The Committee:

- (a) will remain informed of emerging issues and challenges related to the Committee's mandate;
- (b) will review, coordinate and monitor actions undertaken to address the issues and challenges that fall within the mandate of the Committee or as otherwise directed;
- (c) may establish subcommittees to help carry out the Committee's operation;
- (d) may establish meeting procedures and policies necessary to the committee's operations;
- (e) will meet monthly or as required at the call of the Chair;
- (f) will record direction given and track related actions, as appropriate;
- (g) will report to the Senior Management Committee of Deputy Ministers, as needed.

(h) will ensure Ministers are briefed before the meeting of the Governance and Indigenous Affairs Committee-of-Cabinet.

(i) will bring departmental staff as they deem appropriate to listen to the Committee's discussions and assist in the implementation of the Committee's direction.

OPERATIONAL SUPPORT

Cabinet Secretariat and Government Communications of the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs will provide the Committee with operational support.

Cabinet Secretariat:

- will support the Chair and the Vice-Chair to prepare for GIA DMC and GIA COC meetings;
- will, following each Committee meeting, submit for the information of its members and that of designated staff a brief summary of the discussions including a list of key action items; and
- will provide interdepartmental coordination on matters related to the Committee's work, including coordinating the meetings and work of subcommittees.

Government Communications:

- will provide high-level strategic communications advice at Committee meetings; and
- will lead thematic overarching communications planning as required by the Committee.



Feb 19, 2024

Date

Secretary to Cabinet