

Implementing the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in the Northwest Territories

How will Bill 85 affect the Northwest Territories' business, mining, and exploration sectors?

Making meaningful change in the sustainable development of NWT natural resources

Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UN Declaration) can make a meaningful and positive change to how Indigenous peoples, communities, and businesses participate in the sustainable development of the Northwest Territories' natural resources.

Across Canada, there are increasingly more examples of how Indigenous peoples and industry are harnessing new opportunities to work alongside in partnership to create mutual benefits.

Setting the stage for partnership

Bill 85: The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation Act (the Act) calls for developing and implementing an Action Plan to achieve the objectives of the UN Declaration in partnership and cooperation with Indigenous peoples. The Action Plan will identify priority areas for implementing the UN Declaration that can help close socio-economic gaps and promote greater prosperity for Indigenous peoples and all Canadians.

Will there be immediate changes?

The *Act* does not immediately create any new obligations or regulatory requirements. The business, exploration, and mining sectors will continue to be required to meet procedural requirements contained in existing legislation and integrated systems under the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*.

Bill 85 does not propose amending or repealing any existing territorial laws that do not align with the UN Declaration. Measures to align the laws of the Northwest Territories with the Declaration will require a collaborative process that identifies amendments to existing laws or the development of new laws and policies, and would proceed through the usual legislative processes in cooperation and collaboration with the IGOs of the Northwest Territories.

For more information about the UN Declaration, go to
www.eia.gov.nt.ca/un-declaration