



## **1. Statement of Policy**

The Government of the Northwest Territories will establish a department called the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs, under the direction of the Premier.

### **Mandate**

The mandate of the Premier and Department is to provide overall management and direction to the Executive branch of the Government of the Northwest Territories; ensure mutually respectful intergovernmental relations between the territorial government and Aboriginal, provincial, territorial, national and international governments are developed and maintained; and negotiate and implement land, resources and self-government agreements that address Aboriginal rights in the Northwest Territories.

## **2. Principles**

In directing the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs to carry out its mandate, the Premier will adhere to the following principles:

- (1) The interests, desires and aspirations of the residents of the Northwest Territories should be reflected in Government of the Northwest Territories' legislation, policies, strategic planning, intergovernmental relations, programs, and services.
- (2) Advice provided to Executive Council and its Committees should be objective and timely, with a government-wide perspective.
- (3) Northwest Territories residents should be fully informed of the public business of government.
- (4) Northwest Territories residents deserve demonstrable accountability for the conduct of government.
- (5) Aboriginal people of the Northwest Territories have rights, which should be defined, recognized and protected in a variety of forums.



- (6) The interests of the residents of the Northwest Territories should be best served by a negotiated resolution of Aboriginal rights, including land, resource and self-government agreements, and the political and constitutional development of the Northwest Territories.
- (7) The Government of the Northwest Territories' relationship with Aboriginal, provincial, territorial, national and international governments should be managed in a coordinated and coherent manner for the benefit of the Northwest Territories' residents, economy, governments and environment.

### **3. Scope**

This Policy applies to all employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

### **4. Authority and Accountability**

#### (1) General

This Policy is issued under the authority of the Executive Council. The authority to make exceptions and approve revisions to this Policy rests with the Executive Council. Authority and accountability is further defined as follows:

##### (a) Premier

The Premier is accountable to the Executive Council for the implementation of this Policy.

##### (b) Secretary to Cabinet

The Secretary to Cabinet is accountable to the Premier and responsible to the Premier for the administration of this Policy.

#### (2) Specific

##### (a) Executive Council



The Executive Council may approve a change to the mandate of the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs.

(b) Premier

The Premier is:

- (i) responsible for carrying out the mandate of the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs and shall preside over the operation of the Department; and
- (ii) authorized to carry out the duties described in this Policy in a manner the Premier deems appropriate for the efficient and economical fulfilment of the Department's mandate.

(c) Secretary to Cabinet

The Secretary to Cabinet is:

- (i) responsible for the management of the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs including the planning, administration and other functions necessary to further the Department's mandate; and
- (ii) accountable to the Premier for the proper conduct of the business of the Department.

## 5. Provisions

(1) Mandate Establishment

Pursuant to the Government Organization Policy, the mandate, including the authority, responsibilities and functions, of the Premier and the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs is established in this Policy.

(2) Duties of the Premier



The Premier shall develop and carry out programs and services in the Department as may be appropriate to fulfil the mandate of the Premier and the Department.

The Premier shall have charge of and be responsible for:

- (a) Ensuring all departments operate in a manner consistent with government policy, legislation, priorities and strategies.
- (b) Directing the activities of the Executive Council.
- (c) Managing the executive functions of government, including secretariat and administrative support to Executive Council committees and to the other Ministers.
- (d) Attending First Ministers' Conferences.
- (e) Ensuring the public is informed about government policies, activities, initiatives and programs and services.
- (g) Coordinating the government's approach to intergovernmental relationships with Canada, the provinces, the territories, Aboriginal and international governments.
- (h) Promoting the interests of the residents of the Northwest Territories through participation in the negotiation and implementation land claim, self-government and treaty land entitlement agreements.
- (i) Promoting a positive relationship with Aboriginal governments to ensure Aboriginal interests are fully considered in Government of the Northwest Territories policy development and program delivery.
- (j) Providing financial and administrative support to other government agencies or secretariats when required.

(3) Administration



The Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs shall be administered in such a manner as to ensure that government requirements as expressed in statutes, acts, agreements, regulations, policies and directives are satisfied.

## **6. Prerogative of the Executive Council**

Nothing in this Policy shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Executive Council to make decisions or take action respecting the Department of Executive outside the provisions of this Policy.

Premier and  
Chairman of the Executive Council