



## **Intergovernmental Council Legislative Development Protocol**

**December 2, 2020 (YELLOWKNIFE)** – Today the Intergovernmental Council (IGC), comprised of leaders from nine Indigenous Governments and the Government of the Northwest Territories, unanimously agreed to adopt a Legislative Development Protocol that will guide future collaborative work on NWT land and resource legislation. A shared commitment to work together has been a hallmark of the NWT approach to the devolution of land and resource management from the federal government in 2014. The IGC was created at that time to formalize how NWT governments would work together to manage NWT lands and resources and includes a commitment for all devolution partners to work collaboratively on legislation of shared priority.

The protocol was developed in part based on lessons learned in the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly, during which the GNWT worked closely with Indigenous Government partners from across the Northwest Territories. A review of those processes led to shared desire for a more consistent process for the future development of NWT land and resource legislation.

Consistent with the Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Agreement on Lands and Resources Management, the protocol respects the jurisdictions and authorities of Indigenous Governments and the GNWT. This approach preserves the important role of the elected leaders of both Indigenous Governments and the Northwest Territories Legislative Assembly, while also providing a mechanism for collaboration and consensus-building.

The protocol is unique in Canada, and represents a progressive and forward-looking step in the development of future Northwest Territories lands and resources legislation. IGC partners agreed that ongoing collaboration is the key to responsibly and sustainably managing the lands, waters and natural resources of the Northwest Territories for the benefit of current and future generations.



## Intergovernmental Council of the Northwest Territories

### Quick

### Facts

- A key feature of the Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Agreement on Lands and Resources Management (IGA) is recognition and respect of Aboriginal and Treaty rights.
- The protocol is a significant step towards fully realizing the mutual promises made between devolution partners in the IGA.
- The protocol is the first agreement of its kind in Canada, and provides opportunities for collaboration in the development of both land and resource statutes and regulations, of the GNWT and Indigenous Governments.
- The protocol supports the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples by respecting, consulting and collaborating with Indigenous Governments on land and resource management.
- For more information, please visit <http://www.igcnwt.ca/>



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