

FOR RELEASE
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Government of Yukon tables a new Legal Profession Act

The Government of Yukon tabled Bill No. 14 yesterday, which will replace the existing Legal Profession Act with modernized and updated legislation.

The original *Legal Profession Act* was passed in 1985 and has changed little since then, despite significant changes in legal practice.

The proposed new Act is in step with changes in law, technology and governance – ensuring that the legal profession is regulated by the same best practices found in other Canadian jurisdictions.

Quotes

"The *Legal Profession Act* regulates the legal profession in the public interest. Yukoners deserve a new Legal Profession Act that is current, responsive and protects their rights."

–*Minister of Justice Tracy-Anne McPhee*

"The *Legal Profession Act* needed revision so our members are delighted to see a new Act introduced. The hard work of many people has created flexible and modern legislation that will guide the profession well for years to come."

–*Law Society of Yukon president James R. Tucker*

Quick facts

- The new Act deals with such matters as governance; professional competence and discipline; insurance requirements; compensation fund; and stronger deterrents, including penalties for unauthorized practice.
- The Law Society of Yukon formally requested that the Yukon government update the Act several times since 2010 because its officials found the old Act increasingly difficult to use and unresponsive to modern fact situations.
- A new Legal Profession Act delivers on a commitment made in the Premier's Mandate Letter to Minister McPhee, dated Jan. 6, 2017. In it, the Premier directed the Minister to "work with the Yukon Law Society ... to protect the public's interests by preparing legislation that updates the Legal Profession Act and regulations."

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