

FOR RELEASE
April 25, 2017

Government strengthens laws to protect the rights of transgender Yukoners

A bill that will protect transgender and other gender-diverse Yukoners from discrimination was tabled today in the Yukon Legislative Assembly.

Amendments to the *Vital Statistics Act* will remove the requirement for sex reassignment surgery before a person can change the gender on their birth registration. Amendments to the *Human Rights Act* will prohibit discrimination on the grounds of gender identity and gender expression.

Quotes

"The Government of Yukon is committed to ensuring that its laws, policies and practices treat everyone equally. These changes ensure that LGBTQ2 Yukoners have the rights they deserve."

–Minister of Health and Social Services Pauline Frost

"All Yukoners have the right to be free from discrimination and harassment because of their gender identity or gender expression. Our laws will soon be a better reflection of Yukon's rich diversity."

–Minister of Justice Tracy-Anne McPhee

Quick facts

- The amendments will also allow for the introduction of a gender-neutral marker on birth certificates. An 'X' marker will be allowed for people who are born intersex, or for people who choose not to be male or female on their birth certificate.
- Gender identity is our internal and individual experience of gender. It is our sense of being a woman, a man, both, neither, or anywhere along the gender spectrum. A person's gender identity may be the same as, or different from, their birth-assigned sex.
- Gender expression is how a person publicly presents their gender. This can include behaviour and outward appearance such as dress, hair, makeup, body language and voice.

Contact:

Sunny Patch
Cabinet Communications
867-393-7478
sunny.patch@gov.yk.ca

Michael Edwards
867-667-8539
Communications, Health and Social Services
michael.edwards@gov.yk.ca

Tyler Plaunt
Policy and Communications, Justice
867-667-3221
tyler.plaunt@gov.yk.ca

News Release #17-079



Stay up to date with the latest Yukon government news by subscribing to our RSS feed here:
<http://www.gov.yk.ca/news/rss.html>. Or follow us on Twitter @yukongov.