

2019-2023



Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories






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A message from
the Premier of the NWT





I am pleased to present the Government of the Northwest Territories' Mandate for the 19th Legislative Assembly.

This mandate reflects the 22 priorities set by all members of the Legislative Assembly based on what Members heard from their constituents. The mandate will help guide and focus our work to deliver on the priorities over the term of this government. It describes what we will do, how we will do it, the time we think it will take, and how we will measure success.

The mandate, however, cannot be delivered alone. Teamwork and collaborative partnerships will be essential to meeting many of the actions and creating the lasting and meaningful change we are all seeking. We recognize the importance of dedication from the public service and how critical it will be to work closely with Indigenous governments, community governments, federal and inter-jurisdictional governments, and all Members of this Legislative Assembly. We recognize the need to build and strengthen relationships with non-government organizations, the private sector, and residents throughout the North. By working together on areas of shared priorities, we will advance our objectives and better serve the people of the Northwest Territories.

The job of this government is to help make improvements in the lives of the people we serve, and residents expect to see results. We will therefore track progress on the mandate commitments and table an annual report on all actions and results to date. Of course, not every action we will take to advance the mandate can be covered in this document, and there remains critically important work to be done that is not specifically addressed in the priorities. We will therefore also report further actions of significant interest, including important measures taken to address matters beyond the Legislative Assembly's priorities.

We also recognize that to better report and meaningfully measure progress, in many cases, we need to establish indicators and improve program evaluation. The work we do towards the ambitious goals set in this mandate will include the establishment of new indicators and a greater focus on program evaluation.

My Cabinet colleagues and I are committed to serving the people of the Northwest Territories and building a better future for all of us, in keeping with the priorities that have been expressed to us. I look forward to working with Members of the Legislative Assembly, our partners, and hearing from the people about how this government is making a difference.

Caroline Cochrane

Increase the number of affordable homes and reduce core housing need

To ensure the success and well-being of people and families, the number of NWT residents with adequate, affordable, and suitable housing must be increased.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
<p>Increase the stock of quality, energy-efficient and affordable housing, especially for vulnerable persons, by 100 units over four years</p>	<p>Work with partners, including the federal and Indigenous governments, to increase funding for housing programs</p> <p>Work with the private sector and Indigenous governments to improve the availability of private market and public housing options</p> <p>Address home repair barriers to assist low income seniors and disabled individuals with aging in place</p> <p>Improve the availability of educational resources, building materials, and repair services in remote communities</p>	<p>Beginning Winter 2020, ongoing annual reporting</p> <p>Policy changes implemented Summer 2021, completed Spring 2022</p> <p>Completed Winter 2021</p> <p>Beginning Summer 2022, completed Fall 2023</p>	<p>New funding is secured for housing programs</p> <p>An average of 25 units built per year over four years</p> <p>Low income seniors and disabled individuals able to access housing repairs</p> <p>Educational resources for home repairs developed</p> <p>Building repair and building material planning completed</p> <p>Residents in at least 3 remote communities better able to access local building supplies and repairs</p>
<p>Transition 100 individuals and/or families to home ownership</p>	<p>Increase options to sell or lease-to-own existing housing units</p>	<p>Winter 2020</p>	<p>Lease-to-own policy developed and promoted</p> <p>An average of 25 lease-to-own/home ownership agreements signed each year over four years</p>

This work will be led by the NWT Housing Corporation



Settle and implement treaty, land, resources, and self-government agreements

Concluding agreements with our Indigenous government partners will advance reconciliation, recognize and affirm Aboriginal and treaty rights, support program and service delivery by Indigenous governments, and set the stage for further economic development in the NWT.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Focus on resolving outstanding issues with the use of expert facilitators and direct engagement among elected leaders	Work with Indigenous governments to identify and resolve outstanding negotiating issues with the assistance of an independent facilitator	Ongoing	Quarterly reports provided to advisory committee
	Build stronger, more collaborative relationships with Indigenous governments through engagement and relationship building	Ongoing	Two agreements concluded Increase in meetings and more collaboration expressed in reporting
Review, update, and publish territorial principles and interests to reflect the GNWT's new priorities and mandate	Establish internal Working Group to review principles and interests	Summer 2020	Internal Working Group established and Terms of Reference developed
		Spring 2021	Principals and interests updated and published
		Beginning Summer 2021	Reporting on implementation of recommendations
Improve accountability and oversight for Indigenous Reconciliation	Establish a Special Joint Committee on Indigenous Reconciliation between Cabinet members and Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly	Summer 2020	Special Committee formed and Terms of Reference developed
		Beginning Winter 2020 and ongoing	Reporting on implementation of recommendations

This work will be led by the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs



Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

Implementing the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) within the constitutional framework of Canada will advance reconciliation.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
<p>Identify, prioritize, and strengthen key actions to further implement UNDRIP</p>	<p>Work with Indigenous governments to create and implement an action plan that identifies changes required in GNWT legislation and policies to best reflect the principles set out in UNDRIP</p> <p>Collaborate with the federal government and Indigenous governments to support Canada’s efforts to implement UNDRIP</p>	<p>Summer 2020</p> <p>Summer 2020</p> <p>Summer 2022</p> <p>Ongoing</p>	<p>Terms of Reference developed</p> <p>Working Group with Indigenous governments established</p> <p>Implementation plan completed</p> <p>Reporting on program changes provided</p> <p>Federal process informs NWT action plan and implementation, including program changes</p>

This work will be led by the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs with the support of all Departments and Agencies





Increase regional decision-making authority

Voices in all regions of the NWT need to be heard in discussions and decisions that affect them.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
<p>Ensure that the GNWT decision making reflects a full understanding of communities and regions</p>	<p>Amend existing delegations of authority to empower regional and community staff, and provide training to ensure staff are aware of their decision-making authority</p>	<p>Winter 2020</p> <p>Summer 2021</p> <p>Fall 2021</p> <p>Beginning Fall 2021 and ongoing</p> <p>Beginning Summer 2022 and ongoing</p>	<p>Departmental review completed and decision-making authority amended</p> <p>Training program developed</p> <p>Implementation plan announced</p> <p>Staff training provided</p> <p>Regions and communities express more decision-making authority</p>

This work will be led by the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs with the support of all Departments and Agencies



Reduce the municipal funding gap

Community governments are essential partners in delivering programs and services to meet the needs of NWT residents, and they require adequate resources for this vital work.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Reduce the funding gap by \$5 million	Increase GNWT funding to municipal governments	Budgets 2021, 2022 and 2023	Fiscal capacity for communities improved each year
Refine funding model to ensure continued fairness and transparency	Engage with the NWT Association of Communities to update funding policies and options for allocating any new investment by the GNWT	Beginning Spring 2020, completed in 2023	New funding allocated in consultation with NWT Association of Communities
Provide communities new opportunities to raise additional revenue and reduce or stabilize the cost of delivering core programs and services	<p>Develop a process guide for the transfer of lands within municipal boundaries</p> <p>Work with communities to identify options to enhance own source revenues and find efficiencies in program and service delivery</p>	<p>Winter 2021</p> <p>Beginning immediately</p>	<p>Process guide for the transfer of lands within municipal boundaries completed</p> <p>Fiscal capacity for communities improved through own source funding</p>

This work will be led by the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs with support from the Department of Lands

Strengthen the government's leadership and authority on climate change

Climate change is a significant challenge facing NWT residents and requires meaningful action and leadership.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Implement the <i>2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework</i> and <i>2030 Energy Strategy</i>	Carry out the action plans established under these strategies	Work is underway, continuing through 2030	Actions are monitored and completed
Improve coordination and communication for climate change	Establish the NWT Climate Change Council to include Indigenous Governments and organizations, community governments, and other external partners	Fall 2020	Terms of Reference developed and the NWT Climate Change Council is established
Work with national and international organizations to advocate for the consideration of the unique NWT and Northern perspectives on climate change impacts, adaptation, and mitigation	<p>Work with territorial and Indigenous government partners to advocate for NWT and Northern perspectives at national and international organizations and forums</p> <p>Work with Nunavut and Yukon to develop joint statement on climate change and the North</p>	<p>Beginning immediately and ongoing</p> <p>Beginning immediately, ending Fall 2020</p>	<p>Recommendations provided to national and international organizations to guide their work</p> <p>Joint statement is issued</p>

This work will be led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in collaboration with the Department of Infrastructure, the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs, and with additional support from all Departments



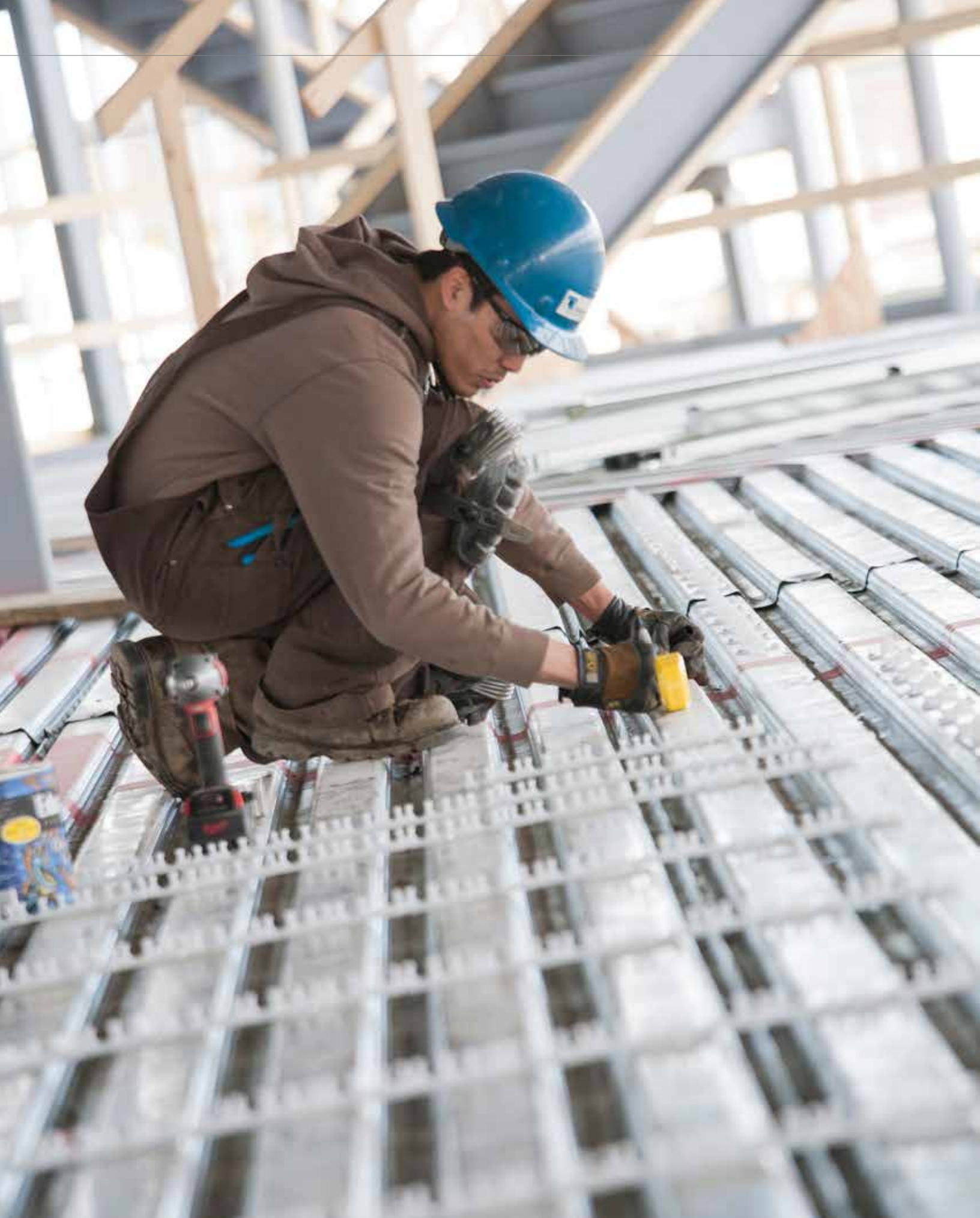


Ensure climate change impacts are specifically considered when making government decisions

Government decisions should consider the full range of climate change impacts, including changes in the natural environment, the associated increase in needs and costs related to infrastructure, and concerns related to human health, food security, and cultural well-being. Decisions should also be informed by potential economic development opportunities related to climate adaptation.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Integrate climate change considerations and improve accountability in GNWT decision-making processes	Update GNWT decision-making tools to ensure they include climate change considerations As part of annual reporting on Climate Change Action Plan progress, identify all climate change considerations in GNWT decision-making processes	Fall 2020 Beginning Fall 2021 and ongoing	Decision-making practices demonstrate consideration of climate change impacts Annual report tabled in the Legislative Assembly

This work will be led by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in collaboration with the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs and the Department of Finance



Increase employment in small communities

Meaningful employment should exist in all communities throughout the NWT.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Increase seasonal, part-time, and full-time employment in small communities by 125	Create a Working Group to review existing employment opportunities and develop new programs that prepare NWT residents from small communities for job opportunities	Winter 2020	Working Group is established
	Support new employment in collaboration with Indigenous governments, including opportunities associated with established and candidate Protected Areas	Fall 2020	30 new jobs
		Fall 2021	30 new jobs
Amend the NWT Housing Corporation policies to allow appropriate home business opportunities within their units		Fall 2022	30 new jobs
		Fall 2023	35 new jobs
Prepare residents for current and future job and business development opportunities	Develop new mentorship programs to support emerging entrepreneurs	Beginning immediately	
		Complete Summer 2020	Tenants in public housing have access to home business opportunities
Support small communities in developing skilled tradespeople	The NWT Housing Corporation will leverage opportunities that encourage residents of small communities to learn a trade	Fall 2022	Mentorship program in place
		Fall 2021	Makerspace Program developed
		Fall 2023	3 makerspaces implemented in communities
		Beginning Spring 2020 and ongoing	Number of journeypersons and apprentices in small communities identified and increased by 15%

This work will be co-led by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, with support from the NWT Housing Corporation and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

Make strategic infrastructure investments that connect and expand the economy or reduce the cost of living, including Highway, the Slave Geological Province Corridor, and the Taltson Hydro Project

These projects will provide the foundational infrastructure to support an improved quality of life and lower cost of support the expansion and diversification of the economy.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline
<p>Advance the development of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH), the Slave Geological Province Corridor (SGPC), and the Taltson Hydro Expansion (Taltson) Project</p>	<p>Establish collaborative partnerships with Indigenous governments</p> <p>Undertake work required for the Environmental Assessment and regulatory processes for the MVH and the SGPC</p> <p>Develop the business case for the Taltson Project</p> <p>Undertake work to enable the Taltson Project environmental and regulatory processes</p> <p>Undertake work to enable a construction decision on the Taltson Project</p> <p>Work with the Federal government to secure funding for large infrastructure projects</p>	<p>Fall 2020</p> <p>Fall 2023 (MVH) Winter 2024 (SGPC)</p> <p>Spring 2020</p> <p>Winter 2024</p> <p>Fall 2024</p> <p>Ongoing</p>
<p>Support the development of fast and reliable broadband internet services for NWT communities</p>	<p>Complete Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk fiber link</p> <p>Work with the federal government and private organizations to secure funding</p> <p>Advance work to support fast and reliable broadband internet services in all NWT communities</p>	<p>Fall 2021</p> <p>Fall 2021 and ongoing</p> <p>Summer 2021</p> <p>Winter 2022</p>
<p>Modernize NWT airport infrastructure</p>	<p>Complete construction of a new terminal building, runway extension, and drainage upgrade at the Inuvik airport</p> <p>Complete runway and drainage upgrades in Sachs Harbour, Sambaa K'e, Aklavik, and Hay River airports</p> <p>Implement Airport Master Plans to ensure airports meet the needs of communities and regions</p>	<p>2024</p> <p>2024</p> <p>Ongoing</p>

This work will be led by the Department of Infrastructure with support from the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment, and the Department of Finance

communities, the Mackenzie Valley

living for NWT residents, as well as

How We Will Demonstrate Progress

Partnership agreements completed, implemented, monitored, and progress reported on

Work completed and submitted

Business case completed and submitted

Work completed and submitted

Work completed and submitted for decision

Funding for construction of each project secured prior to construction starting

Fiber link completed

Funding secured

Business cases completed for 3 communities

All business cases completed for communities not yet connected to fiber

Construction completed

Construction completed

Plans implemented, monitored, and progress reported on





Increase economic diversification by supporting growth in non-extractive sectors and setting regional diversification targets

The NWT has untapped economic potential in areas including tourism, agriculture, and the knowledge economy. Supporting opportunities for economic diversification will create jobs and improve community resiliency.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Work with Indigenous and community governments to identify and advance economic opportunities	Establish regional economic development plans to support growth in all sectors of the economy, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, the knowledge economy, manufacturing, and arts	Beginning Spring 2020, completed Summer 2023	Regional plans are completed, implemented, and reported on annually
Increase tourism in the NWT with a focus on increasing tourism outside of Yellowknife	<p>Include tourism potential and community planning within regional economic plans</p> <p>Work with indigenous and community governments to develop regional, tourism-based promotional campaigns</p> <p>Support the development of local capacity and tourism infrastructure and programs across the NWT</p>	<p>Beginning Spring 2020, completed Summer 2023</p> <p>Beginning Winter 2020; First plans completed Winter 2021; All plans completed Spring 2024</p> <p>Beginning immediately and ongoing</p>	<p>Tourism included in regional economic plans</p> <p>2 regional tourism plans per year starting in 2021</p> <p>Visitor spending increased by 10%, visitation increased by 15% with at least 5% growth in the number of Tourism Operator Licences outside Yellowknife</p>
Advance the knowledge economy	Work with a broad range of partners to create a <i>Knowledge Economy Action Plan</i>	<p>Beginning Fall 2020, completed Fall 2022</p> <p>Annually beginning Fall 2021</p>	Action plan developed, implemented, monitored, and progress reported on annually
Encourage entrepreneurship by reducing red tape and regulatory burdens on small businesses	Establish a working group with the private sector that will provide policy and regulatory recommendations to eliminate unnecessary administrative burdens on small businesses	<p>Beginning Fall 2020, completed Fall 2022</p> <p>Fall 2022</p>	<p>Working Group established and recommendations used to guide actions</p> <p>Regulatory changes begin</p>

This work will be led by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment and the Department of Finance

Increase resource exploration and development

Renewed exploration activity is needed to restore levels of investment, partnership, employment, and growth in the NWT's economy.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Attract and support both early-stage and advanced exploration projects	<p>Complete a review of the Mining Incentive Program and identify new ways to support advanced projects</p> <p>Increase funding for mining incentive programs by 50% over the next four years</p>	<p>Beginning Spring 2020, completed Fall 2020</p> <p>Winter 2020 Winter 2021 Winter 2022 Winter 2023</p> <p>Completed Winter 2023</p>	<p>Review completed and recommendations used to guide actions</p> <p>Increase 10% Increase 15% Increase 15% Increase 10%</p> <p>Number of early-stage exploration projects increased and advanced exploration projects progressing</p>
Increase local supply and production of natural gas	<p>Assess the feasibility of local gas supply projects and the export of liquefied natural gas</p> <p>Support development of local natural gas suppliers where feasible</p>	<p>Fall 2020</p> <p>Beginning Summer 2021 and ongoing</p>	<p>Review commenced</p> <p>Imports of petroleum products reduced</p>
Enhance Indigenous participation in the resource sector	In collaboration with Indigenous governments, develop and implement Regional Mineral Strategies that promote investment and increase awareness of the NWT's regulatory system	Beginning Spring 2020, completed Summer 2023	Indigenous involvement, investment, and employment in the resource sector increased

This work will be led by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment





Reduce the cost of power and increase the use of alternative and renewable energy

The NWT’s relatively small population and expansive geography contributes to the high cost of power. Investment in alternative and renewable energy can reduce the reliance on diesel. Reducing the cost of power will require partnerships and strategic investments.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Reduce reliance on diesel generation	Advance the Hay River to Fort Providence transmission line	Fall 2020	Project milestones set and achieved, and diesel consumption in non-hydro communities reduced
	Finalize engineering and design work for the Whatì transmission line	Fall 2021	
	Advance Fort Simpson liquefied natural gas power plant	Fall 2020	
	Complete Inuvik wind power and energy storage project	Fall 2023	
	Advance Sachs Harbour wind power and energy storage project	Fall 2020	
Expand the reach of energy conservation and efficiency initiatives	Target energy conservation and efficiency initiatives to those most in need in partnership with key stakeholders, including the Arctic Energy Alliance and Northwest Territories Power Corporation	Beginning Spring 2021 ongoing	Access by individuals in small and remote communities to initiatives increased

This work will be led by the Department of Infrastructure



Ensure government procurement and contracting maximizes benefits to residents and businesses

Government procurement and contracting is a source of economic activity throughout the NWT, and residents and businesses should benefit as much as possible.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Strengthen GNWT procurement policies and practices	Work with NWT businesses to identify recommendations to strengthen GNWT procurement policies and practices, including the Business Incentive Policy (BIP), P3 projects, and the Northern Manufactured Products Policy (NMPP)	Review begins Summer 2020, completed Summer 2022	Procurement policies and practices are updated
	Review existing policies and procedures to ensure timeliness of payments	Completed Fall 2021	Standard processing times for GNWT contractors reported
Increase awareness of GNWT contracting opportunities	Increased training and open forums for vendors with special focus on the delivery of more procurement workshops	Completed Summer 2021	Plan to increase training and provide forums developed
	Provide a one-stop shop for vendors online	Beginning Fall 2021 and ongoing Beginning Fall 2020, completed Fall 2022	Number of training and open forums identified and increased Utilization of the one-stop shop for vendors online tracked and increased
Improve participation in BIP by NWT companies	Actively encourage and support NWT businesses in applying for BIP status	Beginning immediately, completed Fall 2022	The number of BIP-registered businesses increased by 20%

This work will be led by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment with support from the Department of Infrastructure and the Department of Finance

Adopt a benefit retention approach to economic development

NWT residents and businesses should benefit from economic development in the NWT to the greatest extent possible.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Maximize benefits from development while maintaining competitiveness	Conduct an independent review on the competitiveness of the NWT's mining regime and develop recommendations addressing mineral royalties, taxes, and direct and indirect economic returns	Fall 2020 Completed Spring 2022	Independent review begins Competitiveness Report completed and recommendations compiled and used to guide actions
Increase the success in meeting objectives under socio-economic agreements	<p>Conduct an independent review and develop recommendations to increase the success of objectives set out in socio-economic agreements</p> <p>Host a socio-economic forum with representatives from the mining industry, Indigenous governments, and the GNWT to identify ways to work together to increase the socio-economic benefits from resource development</p> <p>Meet annually with senior officials of NWT mines to review the actions identified from the forum and objectives set out in socio-economic agreements</p>	<p>Spring 2022</p> <p>Fall 2022</p> <p>Beginning Fall 2023 and ongoing</p>	<p>Review completed</p> <p>Forum held and recommendations developed</p> <p>Annual meetings held</p>
Increase opportunities for equity participation with local and Indigenous governments in economic development projects	Implement intergovernmental partnerships whenever appropriate in economic development opportunities	Spring 2020 and ongoing	Number of partnership agreements for economic development opportunities completed, implemented, monitored, and progress reported on

This work will be led by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment in collaboration with the Department of Finance

Improve early childhood development indicators for all children

A positive early childhood increases a child’s prospects for success later in life. Investments in early childhood can lower education costs, reduce crime rates and improve self-sufficiency and self-reliance.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Ensure better coordinated services for children and their families	Implement a child-focused and family-centered approach to improving early childhood outcomes by strengthening collaboration among departments and service providers to integrate service delivery	Fall 2020 Fall 2021 Winter 2021 and ongoing	Stakeholder engagement begins Integrated service delivery approach developed Wait times for access to assessment and rehabilitation services for children reduced
Ensure our programs and services respect the cultural needs of children and youth	Implement the recommendations from the Healthy Family Program review, including developing a made-in-the-North curriculum for the program	Summer 2021 Beginning Fall 2021 and ongoing Ongoing	New curriculum, evaluation, and reporting criteria developed Training provided for Family Support Workers Families report satisfaction with the Healthy Family Program
Provide greater supports for parents	In collaboration with Indigenous governments, community governments, and other stakeholders, expand community-based and family-friendly programming Streamline early childhood development funding across government by instituting multiyear funding and exploring the establishment of “single window” funding for grants that promote parenting and early childhood development	Beginning Summer 2020 and ongoing Spring 2021 and ongoing	Availability of community-based, family-friendly programming identified and increased Single window for grants is established, monitored, and progress reported on Early Development Instrument results improved

This work will be co-led by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Department of Health and Social Services



Advance universal childcare by increasing availability and affordability

Improving the availability of early learning and childcare programs that meet the specific needs of communities will help ensure children get the best possible start in life.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Increase availability and reduce the costs of childcare in communities	Develop a <i>2030 Early Learning and Childcare Strategy</i> in consultation with stakeholders that considers both the availability of childcare spaces in communities and a reduction of childcare costs to families	Fall 2021	<i>2030 Early Learning and Childcare Strategy</i> developed for tabling
	Implement a program that provides non-government organizations with funding for facility repairs, to address code issues, and to undertake retrofits to support new childcare spaces	Beginning Spring 2021	Program implemented
	Amend our income assistance and housing programs to allow for delivery of licensed childcare programs	Fall 2021 to Fall 2023	Average of 25 new spaces added and an average of 3 centres renovated each year
	Better utilize GNWT infrastructure for early childhood program space	Fall 2020	Policy changes completed
Provide support for NWT students to pursue post-secondary programs that produce qualified childcare educators	Evaluate Early Childhood Scholarships and Early Childhood Staff Grants to ensure it is providing adequate incentives to residents to enroll in early childhood programs. Review the Student Financial Assistance benefit levels to ensure residents have adequate funding to assist with the costs associated in obtaining a post-secondary education	Fall 2021 to Fall 2023	Average of 20 licenced child-care spaces added each year
		Spring 2021 and ongoing	Childcare spaces considered in renovations and/or new builds
Work with partners to support communities to tailor early learning and childcare programs to meet community needs	Review and amend existing policies and funding models of early childhood programs	Spring 2023	Number of qualified childcare educators increased by 5% per year
	Provide recommendations to the development of the <i>2030 Early Learning and Childcare Strategy</i>	Spring 2021	Review completed
		Spring 2021	Recommendations considered in <i>2030 Early Learning and Childcare Strategy</i>

This work will be led by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment

Increase student education outcomes to the same level as the rest of Canada

The NWT education system will require modernization and fundamental changes to focus resources and system-wide efforts on student learning and well-being. Students should have access to a high quality education regardless of the community they live in or the size of their school.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Work with Indigenous governments, community governments, families, and partners to identify and begin to address the impediments to student success and promote the value of education	Modernize the <i>Education Act</i> and review education funding framework	Beginning Summer 2020, completed Fall 2023	<i>Education Act</i> updated
	Ensure distance learning opportunities are available in all NWT communities	Completed 2022-23 school year	All small communities have access to distance learning
	Implement a pilot program to support training for classroom assistants	Winter 2020 Spring 2021-22 school year	Program developed Pilot project implemented
Address concerns about social passing	Implement new programming to assist schools and parents when making decisions about student placement, promotion to the next grade, or retention	Fall 2021-22 school year	Programming implemented, monitored, and progress reported to guide actions to address social passing concerns

This work will be led by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment





Enable seniors to age in place with dignity

Seniors are a valued part of our communities. We need to enable seniors to age in place with dignity.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Increase supports for seniors to stay in their homes and communities	Work with Indigenous governments, community governments, support agencies, and families to identify gaps in existing resources	Summer 2021	Gaps identified
	Amend NWT HC policies to allow more low income seniors access to housing supports	Beginning Summer 2021	10% more seniors have access to housing programs
	Increase the Seniors Home Heating Subsidy and review and reduce potential barriers for seniors in accessing the subsidy	Spring 2022	Seniors Home Heating Subsidy review completed and increased funding and criteria implemented
	Create a separate Income Assistance program tailored to seniors and persons with disabilities	Winter 2022	Program established, implemented, monitored, and progress reported on
Fund actions that enhance inclusion, safety, and removal of community-level barriers to aging in place	Establish an Age-Friendly Community Grant program that would enable seniors to remain in their homes and home community longer	Spring 2022	Program implemented, monitored, and reviewed annually
Help protect seniors from abuse or neglect	Review and implement regulatory and service delivery changes required to protect seniors	Beginning Spring 2020, completed Winter 2023	Regulatory changes implemented
	In collaboration with stakeholders, launch a public awareness campaign focused on educating seniors on their rights	Fall 2021	Awareness campaign launched
	Increase training to GNWT staff providing programs and services to identify signs of abuse	Beginning Fall 2021 and ongoing	Employee training provided

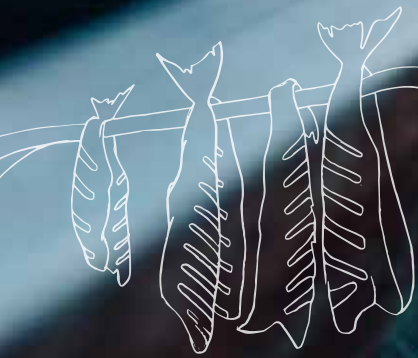
This work will be led by the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment, and the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation

Increase food security through locally produced, harvested, and affordable food

Increased local food production can support the GNWT’s goal to improve food security across the territory.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Support the development of the food industry	Review and amend regulatory framework to remove barriers that impede NWT residents from developing food production businesses	Completed Fall 2022	Regulatory changes implemented
	Implement a meat inspection regulatory framework for locally produced and sold meat products	Spring 2023	Locally produced meat is available for purchase
	Complete construction of a fish plant in Hay River	Fall 2023	Fish plant construction completed
	Review and amend the Northern Food Development Program, to ensure supports are provided for greenhouses and community gardens	Spring 2021	Supports for greenhouses and community gardens improved
Increase country food harvesting	Work with and support Indigenous governments to develop and deliver culturally-appropriate harvester support programs, such as a Harvester Mentorship Program	Summer 2022	New harvester support programs delivered
Work with Canada to increase the flexibility of the Nutrition North Program to better serve NWT residents	Work with Indigenous and community governments to make recommendations for improvements to the Nutrition North Program	Fall 2021	Recommendations provided to Canada to guide their work

This work will be led by the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment with support from the Department of Health and Social Services, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and the Department of Lands



Increase the number and variety of culturally-respectful, community-based mental health and addictions programs, including aftercare

To support the health and well-being of our residents, we need to put individuals and families at the center of care and value the unique needs of each person’s journey. Comprehensive care will integrate culture and community, promote collective action, and strengthen our approach with evidence of what works across the spectrum of mental health and addictions.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Increase the availability of e-health, on the land, and other proven approaches to mental wellness and addictions recovery	Conduct an international jurisdictional review of service delivery for isolated and remote communities	Winter 2020	Review completed
	Partner with and support Indigenous governments and community stakeholders in the delivery of programs	Fall 2021	Availability of local treatment services identified and increased
Improve services for individuals with addictions to reduce number of returns to treatment and increase length of time between treatments	Increase community-based peer support programs such as Alcoholics Anonymous and Wellbriety	Spring 2021	Number of individuals requiring a return to treatment is reduced and the length of time between treatment is increased
	Increase access to transitional housing for those returning from addictions treatment	Fall 2023	9 transitional housing units added in several communities
	Establish medical detox and managed alcohol programming	Spring 2023	Program developed and hospitalizations for alcohol reduced by 30%
Strengthen community counselling services	Provide standardized screening and assessment tools, incorporating more traditional healing approaches	Fall 2022	Standardized screening/assessment tools developed
	Increase support and counselling training opportunities for staff	Beginning Spring 2021 and ongoing	Training opportunities for staff increased by 20 %
	Reduce wait times for access	Fall 2023	Wait times identified and reduced by 30%

This work will be led by the Department of Health and Social Services





Increase the number of resident health care professionals by at least 20 percent

To be understood and receive the best care, people require an ongoing relationship with their health and social services professionals.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Reduce the number of vacancies and the reliance on locums	Work with employees and partners to identify the factors contributing to retention challenges and make recommendations	Fall 2020	Review completed
	Establish a dedicated health and social services recruitment team for the NWT	Winter 2020	Dedicated recruitment team established
	Review and implement renewed recruitment and retention strategies, policies and practices, including staff surveys	Winter 2020	New recruitment and retention strategies implemented, monitored and progress reported on
	Implement comprehensive labour force planning for health human resources to identify demand and develop career pathways for key health and social services professions	Spring 2021	Labour force planning implemented, monitored and progress reported on

This work will be led by the Department of Health and Social Services



Create a polytechnic university

Post-secondary education is essential to the social and economic development of the NWT. The transformation of Aurora College into a polytechnic university will help meet labour demands, support the knowledge economy by encouraging innovation, and attract new investments in Northern research.

What We Will Do	How We Will Do It	Timeline	How We Will Demonstrate Progress
Transform Aurora college into an accredited and independent polytechnic university over the next six years	Complete an implementation plan that will outline the overall transformation process	Summer 2020	Implementation plan completed, monitored, and progress reported on
	Engage with Indigenous governments and key stakeholders to develop a three year strategic plan for Aurora College that will shape the first phase of the transformation process	Fall 2020	Three year strategic plan released, implemented, and monitored
	Complete a regional needs assessment and release a capital plan for the polytechnic university	Fall 2021	Capital plan completed and submitted
	Complete an institutional quality assurance review	Fall 2023	Quality assurance review completed, monitored, and progress reported on
	Work with the federal government to access infrastructure funding for the campuses	Beginning immediately and ongoing	Number of campus improvement projects secured by federal funding

This work will be led by the Department of Education Culture and Employment in collaboration with Aurora College

If you would like this information in another official language, call us.

English

Si vous voulez ces informations dans une autre langue officielle, contactez-nous.

French

Kīspin ki nitawihtīn ē nīhīyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.

Cree

Tł̄chq̄ yatı k'èè. Dı wegodi newq̄ dè, gots'ō gonede.

Tł̄chq̄

ʔerihł'ís Dēne Sų́íné yatı t'a huts'elkēr xa beyáyatı theʔą ʔat'e, nuwe ts'ēn yóftı.

Chipewyan

Edı gondı dehgáh got'je zhatié k'èè edatł'éh enahddhę nıde naxets'é edahlı.

South Slavey

K'áhshó got'jne xədə k'é hederı ʔedłhtł'é yerınwę nıde dúle.

North Slavey

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijahch'uu zhit yinothan ji', diits'at ginohkhii.

Gwich'in

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqłuta.

Inuvialuktun

Ć'đĸ ħħ'ḅḅΔĸ ḂḂLJΔḂĸ ΔḅḅḂḂĸĸ'ḅḅḂḂḂḂ, ḂḂḂḂḂḂḂḂ ḂḂḂḂḂḂḂḂ.

Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.

Inuinnaqtun

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