



**Government of the Northwest Territories Response to
Motion 37-19(2): Creation of a Northwest Territories Food Security Strategy**

Motion

THEREFORE I MOVE, that the Government of the Northwest Territories develop a Food Security Strategy by engaging Northwest Territories residents, harvesters, and agricultural producers, develop a coordinated and comprehensive approach to programs and services with specific targets, actions and timelines;

AND FURTHER, that the Premier appoint a Minister responsible for Food Security to lead this work;

AND, FURTHERMORE, that the Food Security Strategy include the following:

The Government of the Northwest Territories prioritize the development of a Food Security Strategy based on lessons learned from community-based food security initiatives and to complete this strategy in 12 to 18 months;

The Government of the Northwest Territories begin interdepartmentally advancing food security by identifying principles for NWT food security over the next four months;

The Government of the Northwest Territories coordinate the income assistance review with the development of a Northwest Territories Food Security Strategy to ensure the most vulnerable residents have access to affordable and nutritious food;

The Government of the Northwest Territories review the effectiveness of all Government of the Northwest Territories food security funding programs as based on the principles for achieving Northwest Territories food security and to revise program funding where necessary over six to 12 months;

The Government of the Northwest Territories implement community-based food security coordinators in the most food insecure communities in the Northwest Territories;

The Government of the Northwest Territories remove all of its legislative regulatory barriers over the next 12 months to facilitate regional sharing of harvested meat or other food products;

The Government of the Northwest Territories pilot an initiative immediately that improves the effectiveness of community-based freezers, kitchens, and food preparation and food storage programs in the highest risk communities and use this experience to inform the development of the food security strategy;

The Government of the Northwest Territories develop and implement tracking of local food production, set specific targets to improve food security; and,

The Government of the Northwest Territories develop and implement a Northwest Territories food security website with email and phone contacts immediately so there is a clear point of contact in the Government of the Northwest Territories to track community concerns and advance initiatives;

AND FURTHERMORE, that the Government respond to this motion within 120 days.

GNWT Response

The GNWT agrees that food security is a priority, and with the intent of this Motion. The Minister of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) is the lead Minister for the food security mandate of the 19th Assembly. ITI is continuing to work very closely with its food security partner departments, which also have responsibility for aspects of the food security file, to advance interdepartmental coordination.

Any work to advance the food security file should build on the engagement, action items, and implementation already underway among GNWT food security departments, including the Department of Environment and Natural Resources' (ENR) Sustainable Livelihoods Action Plan, the Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) Anti-Poverty Strategy and ITI's Agriculture Strategy and Strategy for Revitalizing the Great Slave Lake Commercial Fishery, all of which deal with different aspects of food security. The Assistant Deputy Minister Food Security committee will be reviewing these strategies to see if there is a need to develop a new approach to address and advance any gaps.

Following in the intent of the Motion, the GNWT commits to have the food security departments of HSS, ENR, Executive and Indigenous Affairs (EIA), and ITI collaborate on the development of a strategic approach to food security and report back to the assembly on the development of a public facing single point of contact to improve departmental coordination and collaboration on food security initiatives in the Northwest Territories. As part of this approach, the Minister of ITI will also coordinate with the Ministers of HSS, ENR, and EIA on the creation of a term Senior Advisor, Food Security position, to be housed within one of the GNWT food security departments.

The GNWT has been using an interdepartmental approach to coordinate the various aspects of the food security mandate. Based on the recently completed inventory of GNWT food securities program and supports, much work is already underway. The GNWT will continue its coordinated interdepartmental approach but will also look to see what mechanisms can be used to make process improvements while utilizing existing resources.