

FINAL REPORT
ON THE MANDATE OF THE
GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

RAPPORT FINAL
MANDATE 2019 DU
GOUVERNEMENT DES TERRITOIRES DU NORD-OUEST
2019-2023

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Message from the Premier

At the beginning of the term of the 19th Legislative Assembly, all of the Members of the Legislative Assembly jointly identified 22 priorities to advance during the life of the Assembly. To uphold these priorities, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) made a series of commitments and actions within the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2019-2023 (the Mandate), released in February 2020. The Mandate outlines timelines and performance measures that allowed us to track and report on our successes and challenges.

As a government, we have worked closely with our colleagues, partners, and Northwest Territories (NWT) residents to make notable progress on the promises we made back in 2020. We advanced our initiatives despite the significant adversity our government, our partners and NWT residents faced through natural disasters and a global pandemic. I am particularly proud of how well we adapted our work to prioritize the health and well-being of the residents and communities of the NWT.

As described in this final report on the Mandate, our government was successful in fulfilling the majority of our commitments and actions towards supporting the Priorities of the 19th Legislative Assembly. Many of our commitments remain in progress as the timelines for these initiatives extend beyond the life of this Assembly. Others have been delayed due to unforeseen challenges and events, despite the progress that has been achieved to advance them to date.

I am grateful for all the support and effort we received in moving these initiatives forward and ensuring the continued success of this beautiful territory.

Caroline Cochrane
Premier of the Northwest Territories

Message de la première ministre

Au début de la 19e Assemblée législative, les députés ont conjointement fixé 22 priorités sur lesquelles travailler tout au long de la durée de l'Assemblée. Pour respecter ces priorités, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) a pris une série d'engagements et de mesures dans le cadre du « Mandat 2019-2023 du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest » (le « mandat »), déposé en février 2020. Ce mandat définit des échéanciers et des mesures de rendement qui nous permettent de suivre nos progrès et de rendre compte de nos succès et de nos difficultés.

En tant que gouvernement, nous avons travaillé en étroite collaboration avec nos collègues, nos partenaires et les résidents des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO) afin de réaliser des progrès notables et tenir les promesses faites en 2020. Nous avons avancé dans nos initiatives, en dépit de l'adversité marquante à laquelle notre gouvernement, nos partenaires et les Tenois ont été confrontés, entre catastrophes naturelles et pandémie mondiale. Je suis particulièrement fière de la façon dont nous avons réussi à adapter notre travail afin de mettre en premier

plan la santé et le bien-être des résidents et des collectivités des TNO.

Comme le décrit ce rapport final sur le mandat, notre gouvernement est parvenu à mettre en œuvre la plupart de ses engagements et mesures visant à appuyer les priorités de la 19e Assemblée législative. Plusieurs de nos engagements sont en cours, car les échéanciers qui y sont associés s'étendent au-delà de la durée de cette Assemblée. D'autres engagements accusent un retard en raison de difficultés et d'imprévus, et ce, malgré les progrès effectués pour les faire avancer.

Je suis reconnaissante pour tous les efforts consentis et tout le soutien reçu dans le cadre de la réalisation de ces initiatives et pour assurer la réussite continue de ce magnifique territoire.

Caroline Cochrane
Premier of the Northwest Territories

Executive Summary

On February 7, 2020, the Premier of the Northwest Territories (NWT) tabled the *Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories 2019-2023* (the Mandate) in the Legislative Assembly.

The Mandate reflects and builds on the 22 priorities established by the 19th Legislative Assembly at the beginning of its term. Flowing from these priorities is a series of commitments which the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) made to advance these priorities.

As a measure of accountability, the GNWT is required by the *Process Convention on Priority Setting and Reporting* to provide a final report on the actions undertaken to implement the mandate. This report provides an important tool for measuring progress and holding the government accountable to the Legislative Assembly and to all residents of the Northwest Territories.

Since the Mandate was tabled in February 2020, the GNWT initiated and carried out many significant actions in support of the Mandate in key areas such as:

- Strengthening relationships with Indigenous governments and advancing reconciliation.
- Providing improved social, economic, and governance supports for NWT communities and residents.
- Implementing efforts to grow, diversify, and sustain our economy and strengthen climate change action.

This Final Report outlines the reporting status of the commitments, actions, timelines, and performance measures for these areas in the Mandate.

The Final Report indicates that, of the 149 actions identified in the Mandate, the GNWT fulfilled 77% of its actions, 13% remain in progress, 9% are delayed, and 1 commitment was discontinued.

Sommaire

Le 7 février 2020, la première ministre des Territoires du Nord-Ouest a déposé le Mandat 2019-2023 du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) à l'Assemblée législative.

Le mandat reflète les 22 priorités qui ont été établies par la 19e Assemblée législative à ses débuts et s'appuie sur celles-ci. Le GTNO a mis en place une série d'engagements pour faire avancer ces priorités.

Conformément à la Convention sur le processus d'établissement des priorités et des rapports, le GTNO doit présenter, comme mesure de reddition de compte, un rapport final sur la réalisation du mandat. Ce rapport constitue un outil important pour évaluer les progrès effectués et obliger le gouvernement à rendre des comptes à l'Assemblée législative et aux résidents des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

Depuis le dépôt du mandat en février 2020, le GTNO a entrepris et réalisé de nombreuses mesures importantes pour le soutenir, dans des domaines clés tels que :

- Le renforcement des relations avec les gouvernements autochtones et la poursuite de la réconciliation;
- L'apport d'un meilleur soutien social et économique ainsi qu'en matière de gouvernance pour les collectivités et les résidents des TNO;
- La mise en œuvre d'efforts pour développer, diversifier et soutenir notre économie et renforcer la lutte contre le changement climatique.

Le rapport final souligne l'état des engagements, initiatives, échéances et mesures de rendement pour chacun de ces domaines, dans le cadre du mandat.

Le rapport final indique que sur les 149 mesures identifiées dans le mandat, le GTNO en a réalisé 77 %; 13 % sont en cours, 9 % ont été retardées et un engagement a été abandonné.

Summary of Major Accomplishments

Below are the highlights of key actions taken to advance the commitments in the Mandate (from February 2020 to August 2023):

Strengthening Relationships with Indigenous Governments and Advancing Reconciliation:

- Focused on resolving outstanding issues with the use of expert facilitators and direct engagement among elected leaders. This included the establishment of the NWT Council of Leaders and the Modern Treaty and Self-Government Partners forum.
- Reviewed, updated, and published territorial principles and interests to reflect the GNWT's new priorities and mandate.
- Improved accountability and oversight for Indigenous Reconciliation by establishing a Special Joint Committee on Indigenous reconciliation between Cabinet members and Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly.
- Identified, prioritized, and strengthened key actions to further implement UNDRIP, including working with Indigenous governments to advance the work needed to create and implement UNDRIP legislation and action plan.
- Two final agreements initialled and parties engaged in discussions on tri-partite implementation plans.

Providing Improved Social, Economic and Governance supports for NWT Communities and Residents:

Housing

- Bolstered the resources needed to increase the stock of quality, energy-efficient, and affordable housing, especially for vulnerable persons. This included working with partners to increase funding for housing programs, as well as working with the private sector and Indigenous governments to improve the availability of private market and public housing options.
- Addressed home repair barriers to assist low-income seniors and disabled individuals with aging in place, and improved the availability of educational resources, building materials, and repair services in remote communities.
- Advanced work to transition individuals and/or families to home ownership by increasing options to sell or lease-to-own existing housing units.

Regional decision making

- Ensured that the GNWT decision-making reflects a full understanding of communities and regions by reviewing existing delegations of authority, developing a workplan for change in partnership with Regional Management Committees, supported by training and education.

Municipal funding gap

- Advanced work to reduce the municipal funding gap by \$5 million. This included efforts to refine the funding models, providing communities new opportunities to raise additional revenues through land

transfers, and supporting municipalities in identifying options to enhance own source revenues and efficiencies in programming and service delivery.

Children and families

- Ensured better coordinated services for children and their families by advancing work to implement a child-focused and family-centered approach to improving early childcare outcomes.
- Advanced work to implement the Healthy Family Program review to ensure our programs and services respect the cultural needs of children and youth.
- In collaboration with partners, expanded community-based and family friendly programming to provide greater supports for parents.
- Advanced work to streamline early childhood development funding across government.
- Developed a 2030 Early Learning and Childcare Strategy to increase availability and reduce costs of childcare in communities, and advanced work to implement the Early Childhood Infrastructure Funding.
- A review is underway of income assistance and housing programs to allow for the delivery of licenced childcare programs and to better utilize GNWT infrastructure for early childhood program space.
- Reviewed ECE grants and funding programs to provide supports for NWT students pursuing post-secondary programs that produce qualified childcare educators.

- Worked with partners to support communities in tailoring early learning and childcare programs to meet community needs. This included reviewing funding models and policies, and providing recommendations for the 2030 Early Learning and Childcare strategy.
- Advanced work with partners to identify and begin addressing impediments to student success and promoting the value of education. This includes work underway to modernize the *Education Act*, and developing new programming to help schools and parents address concerns about social passing.

Seniors

- Increased supports for seniors to stay in their homes and communities by amending Housing NWT policies to allow more low-income seniors access to housing supports, increasing the Seniors Home Heating Subsidy, and establishing an age-friendly community funding stream. Additionally, an NWT Seniors Strategic Framework was developed, and work was completed to be able to launch a new Income Assistance program for Seniors and Persons living with disabilities.
- Work is ongoing to review ways to help protect seniors from abuse or neglect and review training options on the issue for GNWT staff.

Health care

- Advanced efforts to reduce the number of vacancies and the reliance on locums by developing an HR plan, establishing a dedicated health and social services recruitment team, and implementing renewed recruitment and retention strategies, policies, and practices.

Mental health and addictions

- Delivered On-the-Land Healing Programs and established e-mental health options as part of efforts to increase the availability of proven approaches to mental wellness and addictions recovery.
- Advanced efforts to improve services for individuals with addictions by establishing a Peer Support Fund to increase community-based peer support programs, established access to alcohol programming and continuing efforts to increase access to transitional housing for those returning from addictions treatment and medical detox.
- Strengthened community counselling services by providing standardized screening and assessment tools, increasing support and counselling training to staff, and reducing wait times for access by 79%.

Implementing Efforts to Grow, Diversify and Sustain Our Economy and Strengthen Climate Change Action:

Energy and climate change

- Ongoing implementation of the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework and the 2030 Energy Strategy.
- 2022-25 Energy Action Plan released in December 2022 and includes new funding for enhanced Arctic Energy Alliance programs and services improving energy conservation and efficiency.
- Engagement on the renewed energy strategy has started.
- Improved coordination and communication for climate change by establishing the NWT Climate Change Council.
- Worked with national and international organizations to advocate for the consideration of the unique NWT and Northern Perspectives on climate change impacts, adaptation, and mitigation.
- Integrated climate change considerations and improved accountability in GNWT decision-making processes.
- Supported efforts to reduce reliance on diesel generation by advancing planning of transmission line projects and wind power projects.
- Expanded the reach of energy conservation and efficiency initiatives by working with partners such as Arctic Energy Alliance and Northwest Territories Power Corporation.

Employment

- Reviewed employment opportunities and programming to increase seasonal, part-time, and full-time employment in small communities. This included exploring opportunities associated with the established and candidate protected areas, reviewing options to allow for appropriate home business opportunities within public housing units, developing new programs to fund and support community-led makerspaces and new mentorship programs to support emerging entrepreneurs, as well as adjusting Housing NWT policies to encourage residents of small communities to learn a trade.

Strategic infrastructure

- Advanced the development of the Mackenzie Valley Highway, the Slave Geological Province Corridor, and the Taltson Hydro Expansion Project, by working on establishing collaborative partnerships with Indigenous governments, securing additional federal funding, and advancing project planning work. This includes the start of construction of Phase 1 of the Prohibition Creek Access Road - this project demonstrates a commitment to community capacity building through the contracting approach.
- Supported the development of fast and reliable broadband internet services for the NWT communities by securing funding, advancing planning work to increase internet speeds, and advancing work on the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk fibre line.
- Advanced work to modernize NWT airport infrastructure and implement airport master plans.

Economic development

- Worked with Indigenous and community governments on regional economic development plans to support economic growth.
- Supported the development of local capacity and planning for tourism in the NWT.
- Advanced the knowledge economy by working with a broad range of partners to create an Innovation Action Plan.
- Established a working group with the private sector that provided policy and regulatory recommendations to encourage entrepreneurship by reducing red tape.
- Reviewed the Mining Incentive Program and increased funding to attract and support early-stage and advanced exploration projects.
- Assessed feasibility of local natural gas supply projects to increase local supply and production.
- Supported the development of Regional Mineral Strategies with several Indigenous Governments to enhance Indigenous participation in the resource sector.

Food security

- Supported the development of the food industry by advancing work to review and amend the regulatory frameworks, and the Northern Food Development program.
- Completed the Hay River Fish Plant.
- Worked with Indigenous Governments and Indigenous Organizations to increase country food harvesting through the development of a Harvesters Mentorship Program, and reviewing and implementing changes to the Community Harvesters Assistance Program and Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur program.

- Worked with Canada to increase the flexibility of the Nutrition North Program.

Procurement

- Worked to strengthen GNWT procurement policies and practices through the GNWT procurement review and quarterly reporting.
- Increased awareness of GNWT contracting opportunities through training opportunities and the launch of a vendors' website.
- Worked to improve the participation in BIP by NWT companies by actively encouraging and supporting NWT businesses in applying for BIP status.
- Initiated a review of the competitiveness of the NWT's mining fiscal regime to better maximize benefits from the development.
- Worked to increase the success in meeting objectives under socio-economic agreements by conducting an independent review, hosting a forum with stakeholders, and meeting annually with senior officials of NWT mines.
- Worked to increase opportunity for equity participation with local and Indigenous Governments in economic development projects by implementing intergovernmental partnerships.

Polytechnic university

- Advanced work to transform Aurora college into an accredited and independent polytechnic university by implementing the Aurora College Transformation Implementation Plan, working with partners to develop a three-year strategic plan, completing a regional needs assessment plan, continuing work to complete an institutional quality assurance review, and working with the federal government to access infrastructure funding for the campuses.

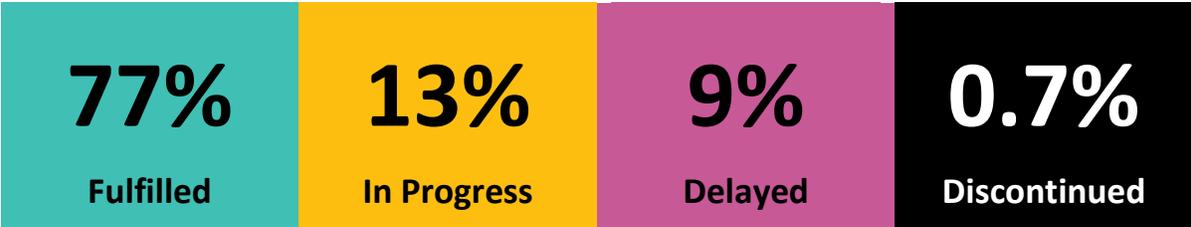
Comprehensive Status Reporting Table

A comprehensive status reporting table has been developed (Appendix A) with input from GNWT departments that tracks the final status of the commitments, actions, timelines, and performance measures outlined in the Mandate. The status categories and explanations are as follows:

Fulfilled	Commitment or action is fully in place or is ongoing in nature and is well on track.
In Progress	Commitment or action is on track and is expected to be fulfilled within the term of the 19 th Legislative Assembly, or progress is being made but the commitment is ongoing in nature.
In Planning	Commitment or action has not yet started.
Delayed	Commitment or action is not on track due to significant delays or issues, and there is risk that it may not be fulfilled.
Discontinued	Commitment is no longer being pursued.

The table also includes further detail on the work that has been undertaken to date, and/or any challenges the GNWT is facing in advancing the commitment or action.

The Final Report indicates that, of the 149 commitments and actions identified in the Mandate, 77% were fulfilled, 13% remain in progress, 9% are delayed, and 1 commitment (0.7%) was discontinued.



Appendix: Comprehensive Status Reporting Table

Increase the number of affordable homes and reduce core housing need

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Increase the stock of quality, energy-efficient and affordable housing, especially for vulnerable persons, by over 100 units over four years	Fulfilled	Work with partners, including the federal and Indigenous governments, to increase funding for housing programs	Beginning Winter 2020, ongoing annual reporting	New funding is secured for housing programs	NWT communities and Housing NWT have fully utilized the \$60 million carve-out for the National Housing Co-Investment Fund (NHCF). Housing NWT has provided support and contributions to several Indigenous Governments (IGs) and NGOs to successfully access application-based funding from CMHC programs. Funding is flowing directly to NWT IGs from Canada for their own housing priorities. Housing NWT received additional housing funding from CIRNAC of \$25 million in 2021, and a further \$60 million over 2022-23 for housing construction and programs.
	Fulfilled	Work with the private sector and Indigenous governments to improve the availability of private market and public housing options		An average of 25 units built per year over four years	Housing NWT supported numerous Indigenous proponents applying for federal programs, such as the National Housing Co-Investment Fund and Rapid Housing Initiative. Housing NWT has also supported Indigenous proponents through its own programs, like the Community Housing Support Initiative.
	Fulfilled	Address home repair barriers to assist low income seniors and disabled individuals with aging in place	Policy changes implemented Summer 2021, completed Spring 2022	Low income seniors and disabled individuals able to access housing repairs	Policy changes took effect in January 2021, including removing the requirement for insurance and land tenure, and only counting seniors' income for program eligibility for senior homeowners.
	Fulfilled	Improve the availability of educational resources, building materials, and repair services in remote communities	Completed Winter 2021	Educational resources for home repairs developed	Housing NWT's Renewal has placed an increased focus on increasing the availability and accessibility of educational resources. This work has also been discussed with the NWT Council of Leaders (COL) Housing Working Group and will result new pilot programs. Housing NWT is in the final stages of developing a Tenant Handbook for public housing tenants for release before the end of the 19th Legislative Assembly.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	In Progress		Beginning Summer 2022, completed Fall 2023	Building repair and building material planning completed	Housing NWT's Renewal with the COL Housing Working Group has explored the possibility of a new program that would rebate a percentage of the cost of shipping building materials for individual private home builders in rural and remote communities when a home has reached substantial completion and it will be the builder's sole residence. Housing NWT will be bringing this new program forward as a pilot project for 2024-25 Initiative funding when that opportunity becomes available.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)			Residents in at least 3 remote communities better able to access local building supplies and repairs	Housing NWT has selected three communities (Aklavik, Déljñe, and Lutsel K'e) for this pilot project. Materials to assist private homeowners in responding to emergency situations are being ordered and are expected to be delivered by Fall 2023/Winter 2024.
Transition 100 individuals and/or families to home ownership	Fulfilled	Increase options to sell or lease-to-own existing housing units	Winter 2020	Lease-to-own policy developed and promoted	Amendments have been made to the existing homeownership program. Lease-to-own arrangements have improved terms to better allow residents to purchase homes. The sale of public housing has been promoted through program incentives.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)			An average of 25 lease-to-own/home ownership agreements signed each year over four years	103 applications have been received under the Homeownership Initiative Program: 35 have reached approval, 32 are being processed and 23 applications were withdrawn by the applicant or incomplete. Housing NWT also received 165 applications under the Home Purchase Program, 17 have been approved, 34 are being processed and 50 applications were withdrawn by the applicant or incomplete. Housing NWT expects to reach this goal by the end the 19th Legislative Assembly.

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

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Focus on resolving outstanding issues with the use of expert facilitators and direct engagement among elected leaders	Fulfilled (ongoing)	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	Facilitators continue to be used in negotiations regarding the southeast NWT. The parties continue to explore solutions to negotiations that are focused on resolving outstanding issues. Negotiations matters are a standing agenda item at bilateral meetings between the GNWT and Indigenous governments. Reports on negotiations continue to be shared with regular MLAs.
	Fulfilled			Two agreements concluded	The Parties have concluded legal reviews of two draft Final Agreements, and have engaged in discussions on the tri-partite Implementation Plans. The two Final Agreements were initialed in May 2023.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)	Build stronger, more collaborative relationships with Indigenous governments through engagement and relationship building	Ongoing	Increase in meetings and more collaboration expressed in reporting	<p>Two NWT leaders' forums have been established: the NWT Council of Leaders (NWTCOL), which includes all NWT IGs; and the Modern Treaty and Self-Government Partners (MTSGP) forum, which includes IGs with modern treaty and self-government agreements in the NWT.</p> <p>The NWTCOL has held 4 regular meetings and 2 special meetings on priority areas identified by IGs including mental health and addictions, and climate change. MTSGP has held 2 meetings. Bilateral meetings between the GNWT and IG partners have also continued, demonstrating open discussions and opportunities to strengthen commitments. The NWTCOL collaboration has also added to amplifying the voice of Northerners with the federal government and other jurisdictions.</p> <p>A number of topic-specific working groups have been established at the officials level, and work continues on development of an internal database to improve awareness, monitoring and status reporting on treaty implementation.</p>

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Review, update, and publish territorial principles and interests to reflect the GNWT's new priorities and mandate	Fulfilled	Establish internal Working Group to review principles and interests	Summer 2020	Internal Working Group established and Terms of Reference developed	An internal working group has been formed and Terms of Reference developed.
	Fulfilled		Spring 2021	Principles and interests updated and published	A territorial principles and interests document and a summary of the negotiating mandates were published in May 2022. Principles and interests will be updated based on feedback and recommendations.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)		Beginning Summer 2021	Reporting on implementation of recommendations	The review process and any reporting that EIA undertakes will be dependent on feedback or any recommendations received on the Principles and Interests. The document has been shared with IGs and released publicly; however, there has not yet been any specific feedback received to date or measures to report on arising from the invitation to provide comments.
Improve accountability and oversight for Indigenous Reconciliation	Fulfilled	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	Terms of Reference have been developed and the Special Committee on Reconciliation and Indigenous Affairs (SCRIA) has been established.
	Delayed		Beginning Winter 2020 and ongoing	Reporting on implementation of recommendations	The SCRIA tabled its final report on the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) and Negotiating Agreements on February 28, 2023. EIA is considering how to implement the recommendations made in the report.

Implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Identify, prioritize, and strengthen key actions to further implement UNDRIP	Fulfilled	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	Summer 2020	Terms of Reference developed	Terms of Reference have been developed for the NWT COL, as well as for the working group of officials that reports to the NWT COL.
	Fulfilled		Summer 2020	Working Group with Indigenous governments established	A working group was established to focus on the implementation of UNDRIP in the NWT. NWT COL approved the recommendations made by the working group on next steps. The MOU has been approved by the NWT COL and will guide the collaborative work of implementing UNDRIP. EIA continues to actively work with IG partners to advance implementing legislation expected to be completed within the 19th Legislative Assembly.
	Delayed		Summer 2022	Implementation plan completed	Work to develop an Implementation Plan is ongoing and is being done collaboratively with IGs and organizations. The development of an action plan is also a requirement under the United Nation Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation Act.
	In Progress		Ongoing	Reporting on program changes provided	Program changes will be contemplated based on the priorities identified by IGs in the Implementation Plan. Reporting on program changes can begin once the Implementation Plan is complete.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)	Collaborate with the federal government and Indigenous governments to support Canada's efforts to implement UNDRIP		Federal process informs NWT action plan and implementation, including program changes	The federal government has passed legislation to implement UNDRIP at the federal level. The GNWT was engaged, as were NWT Indigenous Governments.

Increase regional decision-making authority

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Ensure that the GNWT decision making reflects a full understanding of communities and regions	Fulfilled	Amend existing delegations of authority to empower regional and community staff, and provide training to ensure staff are aware of their decision-making authority	Winter 2020	Departmental review completed and decision-making authority amended	An initial departmental review is complete and a work in partnership with Regional Management Committees (RMCs) on actions to increase and improve regional decision-making authority is ongoing.
	Fulfilled		Summer 2021	Training program developed	Regional Senior Managers (RSMs) have been engaged and identified the need for training tools on financial management and human resources authorities. Training modules on those topics have been developed and rolled out. Human resources authorities training modules have been completed and are currently being delivered, beginning in Fall 2021. Financial management training modules have been completed and have been delivered beginning early 2022.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)		Fall 2021	Implementation plan announced	Training delivery began in Fall 2021 and is ongoing. Since Fall 2021, each of the five regions has received a training session on each of the following topics: Cabinet in Consensus Government/Cabinet Processes, Human Resources Manual, and Humans Resources Approval Authorities. 46 staff (approximately 92%) participated in the training. Training tools will be delivered to RSMs through RMC once every 3 years.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)		Beginning Fall 2021 and ongoing	Staff training provided	A work plan was developed in partnership with RMCs on actions to increase and improve regional decision-making authority. Throughout 2022, an external consultant facilitated further engagements with RSMs and RMCs and compiled recommendations which were presented to Deputy Ministers on November 16, 2022. A checklist of best practices has been developed based on the recommendations for departments to guide the development of processes and procedures that will support increased regional decision-making.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)		Beginning Summer 2022 and ongoing	Regions and communities express more decision-making authority	

Reduce the municipal funding gap

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Reduce the funding gap by \$5 million	Fulfilled (ongoing)	Increase GNWT funding to municipal governments	Budgets 2021, 2022 and 2023	Fiscal capacity for communities improved each year	Since 2020-21, MACA has received funding to reduce the municipal funding gap. \$5 million in funding has been allocated as follows: - \$2,594,000 for Community Public Infrastructure Funding in 2020-21 - \$740,000 for Water and Sewer Funding in 2021-22 - \$1,666,000 for Operations and Maintenance Funding in 2022-23 and 2023-24
Refine funding model to ensure continued fairness and transparency	In Progress	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	MACA has finalized proposed amendment to the funding policies (Water and Sewer Funding Policy; Community Public Infrastructure Policy; Operations and Maintenance Funding Policy) and is undertaking further engagement with the NWT Association of Communities and the Local Government Administrators of the NWT. Funding allocations using the amended policies is anticipated in 2024-25.
Provide communities new opportunities to raise additional revenue and reduce or stabilize the cost of delivering core programs and services	Fulfilled	Develop a process guide for the transfer of lands within municipal boundaries	Winter 2021	Process guide for the transfer of lands within municipal boundaries completed	A process guide for the transfer of public land to the City of Yellowknife has been finalized, and a general process guide for NWT municipalities has been developed and provided to NWTAC and tax-based communities. Within the 19th Assembly, between 2019-2023 the value of land transferred to community governments is \$2,567,800.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)	Work with communities to identify options to enhance own source revenues and find efficiencies in program and service delivery	Beginning immediately	Fiscal capacity for communities improved through own source funding	MACA is providing new opportunities for own-source revenue through the transfer of lands to community governments within municipal boundaries for those communities that are interested in and have the capacity to take over responsibility. MACA has developed governance and management tools to assist community governments in the decision to acquire certain public lands transfers and the accompanying land management responsibilities, which will provide community governments the knowledge to increase own-source revenue and thereby improving their fiscal capacity. These tools will be made available to all community governments in August 2023.

Strengthen the government's leadership and authority on climate change

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Implement the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework and 2030 Energy Strategy	Fulfilled (ongoing)	Carry out the action plans established under these strategies.	Work is underway, continuing through 2030	Actions are monitored and completed	Significant work is underway to implement the 2030 Climate Change Strategic Framework (CCSF), the 2019-2023 CCSF Action Plan, and the 2030 Energy Strategy. The third Climate Change annual report outlines progress made on the actions of the CCSF, Energy Strategy and Carbon Tax during 2021-22. All 132 Action Items comprising the CCSF Action Plan are complete, on-going, or in progress. The GNWT released the 2022-2025 Energy Action Plan in December 2022, identifying 68 actions and initiatives for stabilizing energy costs and improving energy security while reducing territorial greenhouse gas emissions, and initiated its five-year review of the 2030 Energy Strategy in 2023-24. The CCSF Action Plan will undergo an independent review in 2024 to support the development of the 2025-2029 action plan.
Improve coordination and communication for climate change	Fulfilled	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	The NWT Climate Change Council (NWTCCC) has met 13 times since it was established in March 2021. Meetings will continue to be scheduled quarterly. The NWTCCC has identified initial priority areas of focus including mitigation, community adaptation planning, impacts on the environment, impacts on people, and information sharing and outreach. Recent work has included engagement on an NWT (Adaptation) Risks and Opportunities Plan; gaining Council perspectives for GNWT input to the National Adaptation Strategy and Canada's Climate Change Science and Knowledge Plan; sharing experiences and knowledge from attending COP27; exploring the potential of regional climate change adaptation positions for the NWT; providing input into the 2022-2025 Energy Action Plan; and sharing federal funding opportunities related to climate change. The NWTCCC also created the NWT Climate Youth Advisory Group (March 2023) which has met twice and had its first in-person meeting in June 2023.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
<p>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>	<p>Fulfilled</p>	<p>Work with territorial and Indigenous government partners to advocate for NWT and Northern perspectives at national and international organizations and forums</p>	<p>Beginning immediately and ongoing</p>	<p>Recommendations provided to national and international organizations to guide their work</p>	<p>The GNWT continues to take opportunities to advocate for NWT and northern perspectives on climate change. In 2022, the Department sent a delegation including multiple Indigenous and youth representatives to the 27th Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Sharm-El Sheikh, Egypt. In partnership with the Government of Yukon and Indigenous delegates, the NWT delegation hosted a session on Northern Climate Resiliency Through Partnerships at the Canada Pavilion. While at COP27, the delegation also participated in bilateral meetings to discuss Northern climate action priorities with other provinces, territories, and the federal government. In January 2022, the GNWT provided input into Canada’s 2030 Emissions Reduction Plan under the Canadian Net-Zero Accountability Act to ensure the Northern context is understood and supported. GNWT also provided comprehensive input into Canada’s National Adaptation Strategy in February and July 2022, and Canada’s Climate Change Science and Knowledge Plan in August 2022.</p>
	<p>Fulfilled</p>	<p>Work with Nunavut and Yukon to develop joint statement on climate change and the North</p>	<p>Beginning immediately, ending Fall 2020</p>	<p>Joint statement is issued</p>	<p>The Pan-Northern Leaders’ Climate Change Statement was issued during the Northern Premiers Forum in Whitehorse on May 9, 2022. The statement was endorsed by Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations across the three territories. The joint statement calls for a united voice across the territories to advocate for adequate, flexible federal support to address climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts in the North.</p>

Ensure climate change impacts are specifically considered when making government decisions

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Integrate climate change considerations and improve accountability in GNWT decision-making processes	Fulfilled	Update GNWT decision-making tools to ensure they include climate change considerations	Fall 2020	Decision-making practices demonstrate consideration of climate change impacts	Executive Council and Financial Management Board decision-making instruments have been amended to incorporate climate change considerations. The Department has developed a guide to support departments in integrating climate change considerations into GNWT decisions and has reviewed submissions and provided analysis where requested by departments. The guide may be updated from time to time based on climate change best practices and lessons learned.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)	As part of annual reporting on Climate Change Action Plan progress, identify all climate change considerations in GNWT decision-making processes	Beginning Fall 2021 and ongoing	Annual report tabled in the Legislative Assembly	The 2021-22 integrated climate change annual reporting was tabled during the Fall 2022 sitting of the Legislative Assembly. It summarizes how the GNWT considered climate change in applicable decisions. The 2022-23 Climate Change Annual Report is under development.

Increase employment in small communities

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Increase seasonal, part-time, and full-time employment in small communities by 125	Fulfilled	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	An interdepartmental Working Group was established in 2021 to review existing employment programs, develop a logic model to reflect existing programs and identify gaps/needs, and recommend approaches to bridge those gaps. Should a new program be developed, funding would need to be secured.
	Fulfilled		Fall 2020	30 new jobs	The Small Community Employment Support (SCES) Program provides funding to 32 communities for wages, which may be used to create new jobs or sustain jobs from year to year. SCES funded 409 positions in small communities in 2022-23, 509 positions in 2021-22, 566 positions in 2020-21 and 750 in 2019-20. Starting April 1, 2022 Community Labour Market Development Plans provide a structured multi-year approach to career development and labour market planning within each community. Numbers of new jobs are not tracked year over year; some positions may be created and then funded again the following year.
	Fulfilled		Fall 2021	30 new jobs	
	Fulfilled		Fall 2022	30 new jobs	
	In Progress		Fall 2023	35 new jobs	

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	Fulfilled	Support new employment in collaboration with Indigenous governments, including opportunities associated with established and candidate Protected Areas	Beginning immediately		Territorial Protected Areas are generating new full-time, part-time and seasonal/casual employment in small communities. As of June 2023, there are 93 jobs associated with Territorial Protected Areas, consisting of 3 full time and 1 seasonal compliance and enforcement positions with the GNWT and 89 positions outside the GNWT, such as in the field of Indigenous guardianship.
	Fulfilled	Amend the NWT Housing Corporation policies to allow appropriate home business opportunities within their units	Complete Summer 2020	Tenants in public housing have access to home business opportunities	Under the renewal process, Housing NWT has reviewed its policies and will collaborate with ECE to pilot licensed childcare in public housing through a pilot project. Housing NWT will use the results of the pilot project to consider further appropriate home business opportunities within public housing units.
Prepare residents for current and future job and business development opportunities	Fulfilled	Develop new mentorship programs to support emerging entrepreneurs	Fall 2022	Mentorship program in place	The Emerging Entrepreneurs Business Mentorship Program (pilot) was approved and implemented in April 2023-24. The first intake of applications occurred on May 31, 2023.
	Fulfilled	Introduce a new program to fund and support community-led makerspaces	Fall 2021	Makerspace Program developed	Makerspaces in the NWT continue to be supported by the GNWT, with continued coordination with other partners including the federal government.
	Fulfilled		Fall 2023	3 makerspaces implemented in communities	An Arts, Crafts and Technology Micro-Manufacturing Centre in Inuvik is fully operational as is Makerspace Yellowknife, with funding from the GNWT and Canada. There are currently six makerspaces across the NWT that are either in the early stages of discussion or development, including Łutselk'e and Tuktoyaktuk, or now in operation.
Support small communities in developing skilled tradespeople	Fulfilled (ongoing)	The NWT Housing Corporation will leverage opportunities that encourage residents of small communities to learn a trade	Beginning Spring 2020 and ongoing	Number of journeypersons and apprentices in small communities identified and increased by 15%	Housing NWT introduced a requirement, effective July 2020, for general contractors to hire at least one NWT apprentice in new construction contracts. Between July 2020 to June 2022, Housing NWT's new construction contracts have supported 47 apprenticeship work assignments. Housing NWT also continues to work closely with Local Housing Organizations to provide up to 12 apprentice opportunities each year.

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

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
<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>In Progress</p>	<p>Establish collaborative partnerships with Indigenous governments</p>	<p>Fall 2020</p>	<p>Partnership agreements completed, implemented, monitored, and progress reported on</p>	<p>Implementation of the MOU for Cooperation on the Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH), signed with Sahtu Secretariat Inc. (SSI) in 2019, is ongoing. A Contribution Agreement is in place to support community engagement activities in the region. The SSI-GNWT Steering Committee met in December 2022, and SSI and INF have agreed to collaborate on updating the MVH Business Cases and lobbying Canada for funding to advance construction.</p> <p>GNWT and Pehdzeh Ki First Nation (PKFN) leadership met in December 2022, and efforts continue to formalize a collaborative working relationship through an MOU. A contribution agreement was formalized to support establishment of a working group, a community liaison position, Traditional Knowledge studies and engagement activities in 2022, and discussion are planned towards renewing for 2023.</p> <p>An MOU on the Taltson Hydro Expansion Project was signed with the Akaitcho Dene First Nations (ADFN), Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NWTMN) and Salt River First Nation (SRFN) in June 2021, establishing a Steering Committee to provide direction on key action areas including a draft Taltson Preliminary Business Case. SRFN has since withdrawn from the process. It is hoped that a path forward acceptable to all parties will be established.</p> <p>Discussions continue with the Tłı̨chq̓ Government and ADFN with regards to the Slave Geological Province Corridor project. INF is working to establish Contribution Agreements with the YKDFN and the LKDFN to support their involvement in the project moving forward.</p>

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	In Progress	Undertake work required for the Environmental Assessment and regulatory processes for the MVH and the SGPC	Fall 2023 (MVH) Winter 2024 (SGPC)	Work completed and submitted	<p>A comprehensive Developers Assessment Report for the MVH project is under development for submission to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) in 2023.</p> <p>Regulatory applications for the Prohibition Creek Access Road (PCAR) were approved in 2020. Construction of PCAR Phase 1 began in November 2022, with completion anticipated in Fall 2023. Phase 2 construction may commence once additional regulatory authorizations for work at the Christina Creek crossing and funding are secured.</p> <p>Cost estimates are being updated and regulatory applications for the Great Bear River Bridge (GBRB) project are under development for submission to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board.</p> <p>The regulatory process for the Mount Gaudet Access Road (MGAR), for which regulatory applications were submitted in August 2020, is currently on hold during discussions with the PKFN. INF and PKFN are developing a schedule and workplan for 2023 for resuming the regulatory process.</p> <p>The regulatory application for the first phase of the Slave Geological Province Corridor (SGPC) project, the Lockhart All-Season Road, is under development. Land Use Permit and Water Licence applications will be submitted for preliminary geotechnical work in 2023.</p>
	Fulfilled (ongoing)	Develop the business case for the Taltson Project	Spring 2020	Business case completed and submitted	The MOU signed in June 2021 with ADFN and NWTMN and subsequent Steering Committee direction helped facilitate the completion of a Preliminary Business Case in May 2022. The full Business Case for the project was completed in June 2023, and has been shared with Indigenous partners.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	In Progress	Undertake work to enable the Taltson Project environmental and regulatory processes	Winter 2024	Work completed and submitted	Transmission line routing and baseline data collection for regulatory applications are underway. Project definition, including a preferred transmission line route, is required prior to a regulatory application. Several studies for this project have been completed or are currently ongoing. In November 2021, a proposed process for transmission line routing was prepared for Steering Committee consideration. In February 2022, Steering Committee narrowed technically viable options from 4 to 2. Preferred route selection is expected in 2023, pending updated cost estimates and route criteria evaluation.
	In Progress	Undertake work to enable a construction decision on the Taltson Project	Fall 2024	Work completed and submitted for decision	CIRNAC has committed \$20 million to support project definition and feasibility stage work. A Preliminary Business Case was prepared and shared with Standing Committee, Indigenous Partners and the Canada Infrastructure Bank to support ongoing discussions. A technical review of costs and risks for transmission line options is underway, and a business case presenting an initial commercial assessment has been developed.
	In Progress	Work with the Federal government to secure funding for large infrastructure projects.	Ongoing	Funding for construction of each project secured prior to construction starting	<p>Significant funding from Canada has been secured and accessed. Investments including GNWT contributions include: \$40 million for environmental and planning studies for the SGPC; \$70 million for replacement of the Frank Channel Bridge; \$20 million to support project definition and feasibility stage work on the Taltson project; \$140 million for the environmental planning and assessment of the MVH and the construction of the GBRB and MGAR; and \$28 million for the Phase 1 construction of the PCAR.</p> <p>Systemic cost increases and inflationary pressures are negatively impacting major infrastructure projects. INF continues to seek additional funding commitments from Canada so that previously approved, larger strategic initiatives may advance to construction.</p>

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Support the development of fast and reliable broadband internet services for NWT communities	In Progress	Complete Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk fibre link	Fall 2021	Fibre link completed	The GNWT has received preliminary funding approval from Canada to receive 75% capital dollars towards the Inuvik-to-Tuktoyaktuk fibre line project. Ongoing engagement with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation has been maintained to ensure alignment on expectations and overall project success. A conceptual design within the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway right-of-way has been developed, and formal engagement and consultation activities have begun supporting the drafting of a regulatory application. The project is on track for construction during Summer 2024.
	Fulfilled	Work with the federal government and private organizations to secure funding	Fall 2021 and ongoing	Funding secured	Funding has been secured for the Whati Fibre Line project. The Tłı̄chq Government oversaw the construction of this project which was completed in Fall 2022.
	Fulfilled	Advance work to support fast and reliable broadband internet services in all NWT communities	Summer 2021	Business cases completed for 3 communities	The GNWT has completed a costed plan indicating how all NWT communities will receive the minimum standard of internet speed (50 Mbps download and 10 Mbps upload) by the end of 2023.
	Fulfilled		Winter 2022	All business cases completed for communities not yet connected to fibre	

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
<p>Modernize NWT airport infrastructure</p>	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>Complete construction of a new terminal building, runway extension, and drainage upgrade at the Inuvik airport</p>	<p>2024</p>	<p>Construction completed</p>	<p>With funding secured for the new Inuvik air terminal building under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, INF is in discussions with Delta North Alliance (DNA) prior to negotiating pricing and other contract details. The GNWT has also secured funding from the Department of National Defence for the Inuvik Airport runway extension and under the federal Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund. Three contracts totalling approximately \$125 million have been successfully negotiated with a joint venture comprised of DNA and EGT Northwind, and two of the contracts, about 34% of the total contract work has been completed. A contract for advanced electrical work has been awarded through public tender and work is set to begin in Summer 2023. The overall project schedule and cost are continually being reviewed to inform next steps and future discussions with Canada.</p>
	<p>In Progress</p>	<p>Complete runway and drainage upgrades in Sachs Harbour, Sambaa K'e, Aklavik, and Hay River airports</p>	<p>2024</p>	<p>Construction completed</p>	<p>Following runway and drainage upgrades in 2020, a site visit to the Sambaa K'e airport was conducted in August 2022 to scope additional work required, the completion of which was delayed in Fall 2022 due to weather. Pending site accessibility, the work will be re-scheduled for the late Summer/early Fall 2023.</p> <p>The Sachs Harbour drainage project that began in Summer 2020 and was delayed due to equipment issues in the summer of 2021 progressed in Summer 2022. Some granular work remains and is anticipated to be completed in November 2023.</p> <p>The following three projects to modernize NWT airport infrastructure with federal Airport Capital Assistance Program funding have been substantially completed with minor deficiencies to be addressed prior to Summer 2023: \$2 million for drainage at the Yellowknife Airport, estimated for completion in the fall of 2022; \$3.2 million for airfield lighting at the Fort Simpson Airport; and \$12 million for overlay at the Fort Smith Airport.</p> <p>Runway and drainage upgrade projects were also completed at the Aklavik and Hay River airports in 2020.</p>

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	In Progress	Implement Airport Master Plans to ensure airports meet the needs of communities and regions	Ongoing	Plans implemented, monitored, and progress reported on	<p>The GNWT hired a consulting firm to develop the final 20-Year Yellowknife Airport Master Plan, which would combine elements of background technical studies and market and economic analysis studies already completed, for completion in April 2023. The Terms of Reference for the Yellowknife Airport Economic Advisory Committee (EAC) were updated in Fall 2021, and the new board was established in February 2022. The EAC provided comments on the draft Airport Master Plan and recommended the need for a Strategic Plan. The Department is reviewing how to include the YZF strategic plan into the NWT Airport Strategy framework.</p> <p>INF is committed to develop a strategic framework for developing master plans for the NWT's system of airports. A Request for Proposals will be issued for this work by the end of October 2023.</p>

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

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Work with Indigenous and community governments to identify and advance economic opportunities	Fulfilled	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	Local facilitators supported engagement activities with stakeholders in Summer/Fall 2022, to discuss regional economic opportunities and challenges. Indigenous Governments are being engaged through bilateral discussions. Plans were drafted by a consultant drafted the plans; they are expected to be released in Summer 2023.
Increase tourism in the NWT with a focus on increasing tourism outside Yellowknife	Fulfilled	Include tourism potential and community planning within regional economic plans	Beginning Spring 2020, completed Summer 2023	Tourism included in regional economic plans	Tourism potential will be highlighted in the regional economic development plans scheduled for release in Summer 2023, and tourism development opportunities outside of Yellowknife is a focus in the Tourism 2025: Roadmap to Recovery strategy.
	Delayed	Work with Indigenous and community governments to develop regional, tourism-based promotional campaigns	Beginning Winter 2020; First plans completed Winter 2021; All plans completed Spring 2024	2 regional tourism plans per years starting 2021	NWT Tourism is working closely with regional ITI staff to promote and highlight regional specific tourism marketing initiatives. Beginning in April 2023, ITI regional staff have communicated and consulted with IGs and community governments on areas of importance with respect to regional tourism objectives.
	Delayed	Support the development of local capacity and tourism infrastructure and programs across the NWT	Beginning immediately and ongoing	Visitor spending increased by 10%, visitation increased by 15% with at least 5% growth in the number of Tourism Operator Licenses outside Yellowknife	Ongoing investments are being made into local capacity and tourism products and infrastructure through tourism business programming. Targets are expected to be difficult to achieve until tourism numbers begin to return to pre-pandemic levels. The GNWT has provided \$10 million in programming supports to help tourism and accommodation businesses during the COVID-19 pandemic. With the lifting of restrictions on leisure travel into the NWT as of March 2022, the current focus is on rebuilding the territory's tourism economy.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Advance the knowledge economy	Fulfilled	Work with a broad range of partners to create a Knowledge Economy Action Plan	Beginning Fall 2020, completed Fall 2022	Action plan developed, implemented, monitored, and progress reported on annually	Engagement with stakeholders and partners to advance this work concluded in Fall 2021 and culminated in a "What We Heard" report tabled in 2022. Based on stakeholder feedback, the planned Knowledge Economy Action Plan has been rebranded as an "Innovation" Action Plan, for which an outline and performance measurement plan was developed in the Fall 2022 and a mid-term evaluation scheduled to be completed in Fall 2024.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)		Annually beginning Fall 2021		
Encourage entrepreneurship by reducing red tape and regulatory burdens on small businesses	Fulfilled (ongoing)	Establish a working group with the private sector that will provide policy and regulatory recommendations to eliminate unnecessary administrative burdens on small businesses	Beginning Fall 2020, completed Fall 2022	Working Group established and recommendations used to guide actions	The Red Tape Reduction Working Group worked to address examples of red tape generated through the GNWT website, an e-mail address and a survey. A progress report to April 2022 was posted on the Red Tape webpage and GNWT provided a response to recommendations within the report. The Working Group continues to monitor GNWT progress on identified issues and continues to try to raise awareness with small business that the Working Group exists to help eliminate red tape.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)		Fall 2022		

Increase resource exploration and development

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Attract and support both early-stage and advanced exploration projects	Fulfilled	Complete a review of the Mining Incentive Program and identify new ways to support advanced projects	Beginning Spring 2020, completed Fall 2020	Review completed and recommendations used to guide actions	The review of the Mining Incentive Program and the development of a response to the recommendations have been completed. Advanced projects are being supported and other recommended actions are being implemented.
	Fulfilled	Increase funding for mining incentive programs by 50% over the next four years	Winter 2020	Increase 10%	Program funding was increased to support a wider range of projects in 2020-21, including those at more advanced exploration stages.
	Fulfilled		Winter 2021	Increase 15%	Due to a one-time federal investment, the 2021-22 budget for the Mining Incentive Program was increased by 50 percent to \$1.5 million.
	Fulfilled		Winter 2022	Increase 15%	An increase of 30 percent was approved for 2022-23, bringing the program's budget to \$1.3 million.
	Fulfilled		Winter 2023	Increase 10%	An additional increase of 20 percent was approved for 2023-24. The program's annual budget will be \$1.5 million for 2023-24 and beyond.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)		Completed Winter 2023	Number of early-stage exploration projects increased and advanced exploration projects progressing	With its approved budget increase, a larger number of early-stage exploration projects may be supported under the Mining Incentive Program. With the exception of 2022-23, the total number of early-stage and advanced exploration projects supported by the program has steadily increased since its introduction in 2014-15.
Increase local supply and production of natural gas	Fulfilled	Assess the feasibility of local gas supply projects and the export of liquefied natural gas	Fall 2020	Review commenced	An external consultant completed a pre-feasibility economic analysis to export Mackenzie Delta natural gas to Asia. The study results are positive and are being discussed with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	Fulfilled (ongoing)	Support development of local natural gas suppliers where feasible	Beginning Summer 2021 and ongoing	Imports of petroleum products reduced	The GNWT has been supporting the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation since 2017 as it develops the Inuvialuit Energy Security Project, including providing significant financial support to complete engineering and design work. Work to increase awareness of the potential of local gas resources in the South Slave/Dehcho has been underway since 2020, with a final analysis completed in August 2020.
Enhance Indigenous participation in the resource sector	Fulfilled (ongoing)	In collaboration with Indigenous governments, develop and implement the 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	The Inuvialuit and Gwich'in governments completed regional mineral strategies in 2020, which they plan to implement. ITI is gauging interest from other IGs in developing additional regional strategies. The Tłı̨chǫ Government received funding in 2019-20 and 2020-21 to undertake policy analysis to inform the development of its own mineral policy or regional strategy.

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

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Reduce reliance on diesel generation	In Progress	Advance the Hay River to Fort Providence transmission line	Fall 2020	Project milestones set and achieved, and diesel consumption in non-hydro communities reduced	Federal funding has been secured for the Fort Providence/Kakisa Transmission Line Project from Hay River to Fort Providence through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program. Progress continues on engineering and planning, consultation and engagement, and the environmental program to inform the Land Use Permit application, which is anticipated to be submitted to the Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board in Summer 2023.
	Delayed	Finalize engineering and design work for the Whatì transmission line	Fall 2021		Engagement with the Tłı̨chǫ Government was initiated in 2021. A planning study was undertaken and completed in partnership with the Tłı̨chǫ Investment Corporation in late 2022. Canada has provided a \$1.2 million grant to advance the 30% detailed design phase to be initiated in late 2023.
	Delayed	Advance Fort Simpson liquefied natural gas power plant	Fall 2020		Front end engineering work is completed on the liquefied natural gas project. NTPC put this project on hold pending the completion of a climate change risk mitigation study, which determined that the existing diesel plant should be relocated due to flooding risks. NTPC has prepared a capital cost estimate to relocate the plant. Funding is being identified for the relocation aspect of the project.
	In Progress	Complete Inuvik wind power and energy storage project	Fall 2023		Turbine erection and Battery Energy Storage System is underway. Commissioning is anticipated for late Summer 2023.
	Discontinued	Advance Sachs Harbour wind power and energy storage project	Fall 2020		Due to the poor wind resources, the harsh environmental conditions, and the community's indication that they do not desire to advance the project, the project is not being advanced. The GNWT will continue to search for potential renewable energy sites in communities across the NWT, including small wind, as per the 2030 Energy Strategy.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
<p>Expand the reach of energy conservation and efficiency initiatives</p>	<p>Fulfilled (ongoing)</p>	<p>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</p>	<p>Beginning Spring 2021 ongoing</p>	<p>Access by individuals in small and remote communities to initiatives increased</p>	<p>The GNWT continues to work with Arctic Energy Alliance (AEA) on the delivery of programs and services and to track and report on results achieved by community.</p> <p>In 2022-23, the GNWT provided over \$6.16 million in funding, which provided for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -2,438 energy efficiency rebates; -174 home energy audits; -5 deep home energy retrofits; -26 community woodstoves installed, -11 electric vehicles rebates, 5 charging stations; and -36 alternate energy rebates. <p>The 2022-2025 Energy Action Plan released in December 2022 includes new funding for enhanced AEA programs and services improving energy conservation and efficiency in the NWT. The AEA has added capacity for energy audits and created a new program aimed at low-income households and energy poverty.</p>

Ensure government procurement and contracting maximizes benefits to residents and businesses

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
<p>Strengthen GNWT procurement policies and practices</p>	<p>Fulfilled (ongoing)</p>	<p>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)</p>	<p>Review begins Summer 2020, completed Summer 2022</p>	<p>Procurement policies and practices are updated</p>	<p>The Independent Panel's report was released in September 2021 and is being used to inform ongoing engagement with IGs and IOs, Standing Committee, and stakeholders as the GNWT updates procurement policies and practices. Further consultation with IGs is required before making any revisions or introducing any new preferential procurement policies.</p> <p>In November 2022, the GNWT released a workplan that addresses a number of the recommendations in the Independent Panel's report. The workplan outlines activities the GNWT will undertake over the next twelve months to improve procurement processes and practices by the end of the 19th Legislative Assembly. The activities outlined seek to improve government procurement's transparency and accountability and increase the benefits of government procurement for Indigenous and NWT businesses.</p> <p>The GNWT issued a report on procurement in July 2023 to wrap up the work of this mandate item. The report outlines not only the progress anticipated for the 19th assembly but a plan that captures the remaining recommendations from the panel's report and other concerns. The work of updating procurement policies and practices is built into the ongoing business process and will continue.</p>

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	Fulfilled	Review existing policies and procedures to ensure timeliness of payments.	Completed Fall 2021	Standard processing times for GNWT contractors reported	FIN created quarterly reports to track the timing of payments by GNWT departments, Housing NWT and the NTHSSA since 2020 to assist with identifying issues, track trends and flag opportunities for improvements. Over the last three years, the timing of payments have fluctuated from 80%-85% being paid within the time parameters of 20 days for BIP Businesses and 30 days for all other Businesses. The Department of Finance has used this data to support improved processes to identify potential late payments including creating new reports to identify payments past due, identify any payments that are in error, improve training to processing staff, and to look at processes to see if opportunities exist to streamline. The data collected through this process has been integral in supporting these changes and the value of assessing this information assists in the continued improvement in supporting the GNWT Suppliers.
Increase awareness of GNWT contracting opportunities	Fulfilled	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	A plan was developed to increase the number of workshops and open forums by 35 percent in 2020-21 and an additional 15 percent in 2021-22.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)		Beginning Fall 2021 and ongoing	Number of training and open forums identified and increased	The GNWT delivered 35 workshops for vendors in 2021-22 and 2022-23. The delivery of workshops are ongoing on an annual basis.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)	Provide a one-stop shop for vendors online	Beginning Fall 2020, completed Fall 2022	Utilization of the one-stop shop for vendors online tracked and increased	The online one-stop shop website for vendors was launched on May 19, 2022. Updates and improvements continue to be made on an ongoing basis.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
<p>Improve participation in BIP by NWT companies</p>	<p>Fulfilled (ongoing)</p>	<p>Actively encourage and support NWT businesses in applying for BIP status</p>	<p>Beginning immediately, completed Fall 2022</p>	<p>The number of BIP-registered businesses increased by 20%</p>	<p>As of April 1, 2023, 1,293 businesses were registered in the BIP Registry. FIN, with support from ITI, continues to deliver “Completing Business Incentive Policy Forms” workshops in-person and virtually. Six sessions were delivered in 2022-23, and seven sessions were delivered in 2021-22. GNWT regional staff continue to cross-reference business licences in their communities to the BIP Registry, invite non-BIP businesses to apply and offer assistance with the paperwork, if needed. Staff have also travelled to Fort Smith and Fort Simpson in March 2023, and are planning to visit Inuvik in October 2023.</p>

Adopt a benefit retention approach to economic development

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Maximize benefits from development while maintaining competitiveness	Fulfilled	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	Independent review begins	A benchmarking report on the mining fiscal regime was released in April 2020.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)		Completed Spring 2022	Competitiveness Report completed and recommendations compiled and used to guide actions	A discussion paper and accompanying research paper were released for public engagement in early 2022. Public engagement for the review of royalties, as part of regulation development for the Mineral Resource Act, was open until the end of July 2022. A "What We Heard Report" was released in early 2023. Policy development and financial modeling of royalty regime recommendations to occur in Summer 2023, followed by an independent third-party review of the financial modeling results. Final recommendations on royalties are expected to be released to the public in late 2023. Aboriginal Consultation of the draft regulations is expected to take place in Winter/Spring 2024, with the public posting of royalty regulations in 2024.
Increase the success in meeting objectives under socio-economic agreements	Fulfilled	Conduct an independent review and develop recommendations to increase the success of objectives set out in socio-economic agreements.	Spring 2022	Review completed	An independent review was completed, and the Evaluation Report was released in May 2022. This report was released publicly, along with a shortened Summary Report in December 2022.
	Fulfilled	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	Fall 2022	Forum held and recommendations developed	The Socio-Economic Forum was held in December 2022. It was a workshop style event with breakout groups to discuss critical topics on the SEA Redesign.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	Fulfilled (ongoing)	Meet annually with senior officials of NWT mines to review the actions identified from the forum and objectives set out in socio-economic agreements	Beginning Fall 2023 and ongoing	Annual meetings held	The GNWT holds annual meetings with senior officials of the NWT every year as part of the existing SEA commitments. Actions identified at the forum and objectives set in SEAs will be part of the agenda in senior official meetings in 2023 and into the future. Senior official meetings were held in January and February 2023, and will continue on an annual basis.
Increase opportunities for equity participation with local and Indigenous governments in economic development projects	Fulfilled (ongoing)	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	Beginning in Spring 2020, the GNWT has continued bilateral discussions with IGs, NWTCOL and MTSGP on economic measures chapters, regional economic development plans, and participation in procurement review implementation.

Improve early childhood development indicators for all children

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Ensure better coordinated services for children and their families	Fulfilled	Implement a child-focused and family-centred approach to improving early childhood outcomes by strengthening collaboration among departments and service providers to integrate service delivery.	Fall 2020	Stakeholder engagement begins	ECE held discussions with IGs and IOs and engagement sessions with community based ELCC partners, including licensed programs, in Spring 2021 to develop the 2030 Early Learning and Child Care Strategy, released in February 2022. As part of the project to develop an approach for Early Childhood Development (ECD)-Integrated Service Delivery, further stakeholder engagement was completed. HSS developed a Reproductive, Perinatal, Infant Health Working Group to identify gaps in service delivery and to develop an enhanced model of care. A social marketing campaign is being finalized to increase access to the Well Child Program and to support culturally safe care. A literature review is underway to list interventions with potential for high impact in eliminating child poverty. A scoping review will be conducted to identify strategies to increase seamless care for children and families accessing early interventions services through various organizations.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)		Fall 2021	Integrated service delivery approach developed	An ECD Working Group was established to develop a child-focused and family-centred integrated model for ECD. The ECD working group is operating under a Memorandum of Understanding between HSS and ECE. Activities and approaches were completed to support the implementation of ECD-ISD: population needs assessment, cross jurisdictional scan, and a literature review. Stakeholder engagement, capacity building and implementation approach and materials of integrated service delivery within the early childhood system were completed in November 2022. Demonstration sites using community-based teams and purpose-designed capacity-building tools will be selected and implementation of integrated approaches to service delivery centred on children and families is planned for 2024.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	Fulfilled (ongoing)		Winter 2021 and ongoing	Wait times for access to assessment and rehabilitation services for children reduced	HSS established standard wait time reporting between the NWT regional rehabilitation teams located in the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) and the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority (HRHSSA) in January 2023. HSS will continue to collect and monitor rehabilitation wait times to determine if there is a reduction in future years.
Ensure our programs and services respect the cultural needs of children and youth	Delayed	Implement the recommendations from the Healthy Family Program review, including developing a made-in-the-North curriculum for the program	Summer 2021	New curriculum, evaluation, and reporting criteria developed	A made-in-the-North program curriculum and toolkit prototype, Families Together: Weaving Wellness and Wisdom was submitted by Hotii ts'eeda to HSS in June 2021. Based on the re-designed program and prototype, program goals were finalized. A revised program is being implemented across all sites based on the principles designed through engagement with staff, families and communities. From 2021-2024, the program is being expanded to: Łutselk'e, Fort Resolution, Fort Providence, Aklavik, Ndilq /Dettah. A float position in the Dehcho will provide service to Wrigley, Sambaa K'e, and Jean Marie River. HSS is currently finalizing the program curriculum framework, and the existing prototype will be completed in 2024 to align with the program principles.
	Fulfilled		Beginning Fall 2021 and ongoing	Training provided for Family Support Workers	A training series was piloted for Healthy Family Program (HFP) staff in February and May-June 2022, focused on the science of early childhood development, relationship-based practice, workplace wellness, and trauma-informed care. A HFP worker scope and competency framework will be finalized in January 2023. Regional training was delivered from October to December 2022.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)		Ongoing	Families report satisfaction with the Healthy Family Program	A family satisfaction survey and a comprehensive evaluation were completed between January and April 2022, and included data reflective of participant-rated experiences and satisfaction with the HFP. The recommendations will inform the ongoing implementation of the renewed HFP and continuous quality improvement efforts. Family satisfaction will be collected annually as part of the implementation and impact evaluation frameworks.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Provide greater supports for parents	Fulfilled	In collaboration with Indigenous governments, community governments, and other stakeholders, expand community-based and family-friendly programming	Beginning summer 2020 and ongoing	Availability of community-based, family-friendly programming identified and increased	The HFP was expanded to Fort Resolution and Łutsel K'e, a float position was added to the Dehcho region, and supervisor position added to the Sahtu region. Funding is provided for the Northern Birthwork Collective (2020-21, 2022-23) to develop an Indigenous Doula Training Program and model for the delivery of a NWT doula/birthworker program. Supporting Child Inclusion and Participation funding is available to support the inclusion of children with identified developmental needs in early learning programming, and for communities to develop "Caregiver and Tot" style programming. In 2022-23 an early childhood stream was established under the Healthy Choices fund which provided a total of \$75,000 to four community-based organizations for projects related to childhood wellness and development.
	Delayed	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	Spring 2021 and ongoing	Single window for grants is established, monitored and progress reported on	The establishment of a 'single window' to provide funding to projects to promote ECD and parenting support was explored through the ECD ISD Working Group. This work included expanding upon the GNWT Funders Table review to determine funding from past investment in ECD projects. To test funding that targets ECD projects, an ECD funding stream was included in the launch of the Healthy Choices Fund for 2022-23 and four community-based organizations received funding through this stream. While the single window fund for ECD has not been established, the exploration to date supports any work undertaken in the future to bridge differences in departmental funding approaches and priorities to advance potential single window access for funding specific to ECD. ECE has modified the delivery of Supporting Child Inclusion and Participation (SCIP) with multi-year contribution agreements for Community Programs (i.e., family and tot programming).
	Fulfilled (ongoing)			Early Development Instrument results improved	Early Development Instrument data collected annually; results are seen as trends over time.

Advance universal childcare by increasing availability and affordability

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Increase availability and reduce the costs of childcare in communities	Fulfilled	Develop a 2030 Early Learning and Childcare Strategy in consultation with stakeholders that considers both the availability of childcare spaces in communities and reduction of childcare costs to families	Fall 2021	2030 Early Learning and Childcare Strategy developed for tabling	ECE conducted engagement with IGs and IOs and key stakeholders in May-June 2021. Findings were used to inform the development of the 2030 Early Learning and Child Care Strategy, which was released in February 2022.
	Fulfilled	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 ongoing	Program implemented	Early Childhood Infrastructure Funding (ECIF) was implemented in August 2020 and funds projects throughout the territory that support the preservation, expansion and/or creation of new licensed early learning and child care spaces.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)		Fall 2021 to Fall 2023	Average of 25 new spaces added and an average of 3 centres renovated each year	Increases to licensed spaces are tracked annually. ECIF has funded single and multi year projects during this reporting period. Through ECIF, ECE funded all eligible projects submitted that supported the preservation, expansion and/or creation of new licensed early learning and child care spaces. Through ECIF and other funding streams, ECE supported the creation of 72 licensed spaces during this reporting period and is on track to meet the target of 300 net new licensed spaces by 2025-2026.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)	Amend our income assistance and housing programs to allow for delivery of licensed	Fall 2020	Policy changes completed	On April 1, 2023, Housing NWT and ECE announced a two-year pilot project that allows licensed home based programs to open in public housing units in non-market communities where no licensed child care currently exists.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	In Progress	childcare programs	Fall 2021 to Fall 2023	Average of 20 licenced childcare spaces added each year	During the pilot project a monitoring, evaluation and accountability (MEA) plan will be developed with support from FIN and in collaboration with Housing NWT. The MEA plan will help support evaluation of the pilot and determine next steps. ECE has completed a review of its Income Assistance (IA) program and will be launching the enhanced and new programs in September 2023. The IA program will be increasing the earned income exemptions to further encourage applicants to seek employment while receiving IA benefits.
	In Progress	Better utilize GNWT infrastructure for early childhood program space	Spring 2021 and ongoing	Childcare spaces considered in renovations and/or new builds	ECE is working toward amending the Northwest Territories Schools Capital Standards and Criteria (JK-12) to specifically include child care spaces in certain conditions where predetermined criteria are met.
Provide support for NWT students to pursue post-secondary programs that produce qualified childcare educators	Fulfilled (ongoing)	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	Spring 2023	Number of qualified childcare educators increased by 5% per year	<p>The ELCC Funding Programs Review completed in Spring 2021 evaluated funding subsidies, the Early Childhood Staff Grant, and the Early Childhood Scholarship program. The review was released in December 2021. ECE responded by adapting the scholarship eligibility to meet identified student needs including funds available for part-time enrollment. Call for scholarship applications for the 2023-24 academic year will close September 15, 2023. The 2022-23 Scholarships have been awarded. ECE continues to provide funding to support access to in-person and distance delivery of post-secondary education in ELCC through contributions to Aurora College and College Nordique de Francophone. As students are enrolled in early childhood education programs that are two or more years long, it is not yet possible to calculate the percentage increase in the number of qualified childcare educators.</p> <p>ECE has completed a review of the Student Financial Assistance program to ensure the benefits support NWT students with achieving their post-secondary goals, with a focus on removing barriers to post-secondary education for Indigenous students, and to ensure benefit levels cover 80% of the average costs of post-secondary education. Changes are in effect for the 2023-24 academic year.</p>

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
<p>Work with partners to support communities to tailor early learning and childcare programs to meet community needs</p>	<p>Fulfilled</p>	<p>Review and amend existing policies and funding models of early childhood programs</p>	<p>Spring 2021</p>	<p>Review completed</p>	<p>The policy review is complete and amendments to existing policies and funding models are being considered as part of implementation of the 2030 ELCC Strategy. The GNWT continues to work with Canada to improve early learning and child care across the NWT. This work has included finalizing the extension of the bilateral agreement on early learning and child care (2021-2025), finalizing a one-year workforce development fund (2021-2022), and finalizing the Canada-wide Early Learning and Child Care Agreement to enhance accessibility, affordability and inclusivity. ECE is developing a merged Action Plan that reflects the areas of investment and focus for both federal agreements for 2022-2023. New approaches to funding will be implemented by 2024-2025. ECE has held and will be continuing discussions with Indigenous Governments and organizations along with community-based ELCC partners on the new funding approaches.</p>
	<p>Fulfilled</p>	<p>Provide recommendations to the development of the 2030 Early Learning and Childcare Strategy</p>	<p>Spring 2021</p>	<p>Recommendations considered in 2030 Early Learning and Childcare Strategy</p>	<p>The recommendations from the policy review were used to inform development of the 2030 ELCC Strategy, and future approaches to funding early learning and child care programs.</p>

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

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
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	Delayed	Modernize the Education Act and review education funding framework	Beginning Summer 2020, completed Fall 2023	Education Act updated	Following engagement in 2021, ECE is taking a phased approach to Education Act modernization. ECE is proposing Phase 1 amendments to the Act in the 19th Assembly. Bill 81, An Act to Amend the Education Act, No. 2 was introduced in March 2023 and is undergoing Standing Committee review. Collaboration with IGs, education bodies, stakeholders and the public about the future of education system structure and governance will continue beyond the 19th Legislative Assembly as part of Phase 2. ECE will continue to research and engage with Education Authorities to identify improvements to the schools funding framework that will align with Education Act modernization.
	Fulfilled	Ensure distance learning opportunities are available in all NWT communities	Completed 2022-23 school year	All small communities have access to distance learning	19 out of 20 small community schools are able to offer Northern Distance Learning (NDL) as of the 2021-22 school year. Remaining schools are not yet prepared to offer NDL as they feel their student population was negatively impacted by COVID-19. The number of courses available through NDL increased to 30 during 2021-22 school year. Annual performance reports are produced every November. A final evaluation of program is planned for 2025.
	Fulfilled	Implement a pilot program to support training for classroom assistants	Winter 2020	Program developed	ECE entered into a partnership with Douglas College in British Columbia to provide an NWT-specific Education Assistance and Inclusion Certificate pilot program beginning in January 2022.
	Fulfilled		Spring 2021-22 school year	Pilot project implemented	Five semesters of the pilot have been completed. There are three semesters remaining; one for the cohort that began in January 2022 and three for the cohort that joined in September 2022. Due to the staggered completion of the pilot, all participants will graduate together in June 2024.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
<p>Address concerns about social passing</p>	<p>Fulfilled</p>	<p>Implement new programming to assist schools and parents when making decisions about student placement, promotion to the next grade, or retention</p>	<p>Fall 2021-22 school year</p>	<p>Programming implemented, monitored, and progress reported to guide actions to address social passing concerns</p>	<p>School and public tools including Annual Grade Transition Process sections for the revised School Handbook, fact sheets (Peer Group Placement and Process for Grade Transitions), and an FAQ have been released publicly and given to Education Bodies for trial use in spring 2023 and may be updated based on feedback from superintendents. The 2023-2024 school year will see full implementation of these tools.</p>

Enable seniors to age in place with dignity

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Increase supports for seniors to stay in their homes and communities	Fulfilled	Work with Indigenous governments, community governments, support agencies, and families to identify gaps in existing resources	Summer 2021	Gaps identified	A community-based engagement work plan was finalized in December 2021, and used to inform the development of the NWT Seniors' Strategic Framework. An NWT Survey was opened for input from seniors, older adults, their families and caregivers, Indigenous governments, community governments and organizations serving seniors, in addition to in-person and virtual engagement sessions between May and October 2022. Engagement findings and themes related to gaps are included in an appendix to the draft NWT Seniors' Strategic Framework with an anticipated delivery in August 2023.
	Fulfilled	Amend Housing NWT policies to allow more low income seniors access to housing supports	Beginning Summer 2021	10% more seniors have access to housing programs	Policy changes took effect in January 2021 to assess only seniors' incomes for home repair program eligibility and exclude all other family members. Lower assessed income will allow more seniors to access programs. Preliminary program intake figures indicate that the changes have increased participation in homeownership repair programming.
	Fulfilled	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	Senior Home Heating Subsidy rates increased in April 2020 to assist with 80% of the average cost of heating a home. In September 2022, ECE provided an additional one-time payment to assist with the increased cost of living. Beginning April 1, 2024, the Senior Home Heating Subsidy will be provided in monthly allotments from September to April to ensure seniors receive assistance during the coldest months.
	Fulfilled	Create a separate Income Assistance program tailored to seniors and persons with disabilities	Winter 2022	Program established, implemented, monitored, and progress reported on	Engagement on the program with key IA program stakeholders was completed in March 2022 and a What We Heard Report was developed and shared with the public. Feedback received through the engagement and Client Satisfaction Survey has informed changes to the new IA program for seniors and persons with disabilities. ECE is finalizing systems changes and regulations. The new and revised IA programs are expected to be announced in August, with the changes taking effect September 2023.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Fund actions that enhance inclusion, safety, and removal of community-level barriers to aging in place	Fulfilled	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	In 2022-23, an Age-Friendly Communities funding stream of \$250,000 was established under the umbrella of the Healthy Choices Fund. Six community-based seniors' projects are being supported with this funding in 2022-23. \$310,000 has been allocated to Age-Friendly Communities funding in 2023-24.
Help protect seniors from abuse or neglect	Fulfilled	Review and implement regulatory and service delivery changes required to protect seniors	Beginning Spring 2020, completed Winter 2023	Regulatory changes implemented	<p>Engagement to inform the Seniors' Strategic Framework included discussions around elder abuse. Information about elder abuse and gaps in existing resources, gathered through the Seniors' engagement activities from May to October 2022, is being used to inform the analysis of regulatory and service delivery approaches to elder abuse.</p> <p>The FPT Seniors Abuse Working Group completed a jurisdictional scan of legislation. This scan resulted in a Comparative Chart identifying legislation across Canada and legal definitions of elder abuse and neglect.</p> <p>Building on the learnings from the Seniors' Strategic Framework engagement activities, discussions were held with key government stakeholders in Spring 2023 and a focused literature review also occurred. These activities were conducted to complete the analysis of regulatory and service delivery approaches to elder abuse and to inform a report outlining the findings, analysis, and recommendations for change. The resulting report is to be completed by August 2023.</p>
	Fulfilled	In collaboration with stakeholders, launch a public awareness campaign focused on educating seniors on their rights	Fall 2021	Awareness campaign launched	A public awareness campaign was completed as of March 31, 2023. Advertising included web, social media, and traditional print ads. Posters and fact sheets were also developed with updates to HSS website content. The campaign deliverables were updated to mark World Elder Abuse Awareness Day on June 15. Advertising ran the week of June 12, 2023. Print resources have been mailed out to community stakeholders.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	Delayed	Increase training to GNWT staff providing programs and services to identify signs of abuse	Beginning Fall 2021 and ongoing	Employee training provided	There is an NTHSSA-wide policy (Policy # 05-04-V1) that requires abuse, mistreatment and neglect training for "all NTHSSA employees, members of the medical community, students, and other persons acting on behalf of NTHSSA)." Work resumed in spring 2023. Review of training options has commenced; however training will be not be implemented before the end of the 19th Assembly.

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

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Support the development of the food industry	Delayed	Review and amend regulatory framework to remove barriers that impede NWT residents from developing food production businesses	Completed Fall 2022	Regulatory changes implemented	A review of the agriculture regulatory framework was completed and actions are being reviewed to determine next steps. HSS is developing new meat safety regulations under the Public Health Act to allow for local meat production and sales. A commercial fisheries capacity building engagement strategy is also in progress. The Meat Safety Regulations will not be completed by the end of the 19th Assembly.
	Delayed	Implement a meat inspection regulatory framework for locally produced and sold meat products	Spring 2023	Locally produced meat is available for purchase	Research on regulatory requirements and the development of a discussion paper have been completed. Feedback has been received on the proposed regulations and a "What we Heard" document was released in May 2022. Regulations are anticipated to come into force in 2023-24. As drafting progresses, further research of standards, labelling procedures and training requirements for both operators and Environmental Health Officers are being undertaken. Consultations are currently underway on the design of the next policy framework which will replace the Canadian Agricultural Partnership. The regulation drafting will be completed but consultation will not be completed before the end of 19th assembly due to delays from COVID and capacity challenges.
	Fulfilled	Complete construction of a fish plant in Hay River	Fall 2023	Fish plant construction completed	Final commissioning of the fish plant is expected to be completed in July 2023, with the opening planned for August 2023. ITI continues to provide funding towards administration and financial support services to support the fish plant's operations.
	Fulfilled (ongoing)	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	Based on a formal program evaluation completed in 2021-22, improvements to the NFDG guidelines were released in April 2023. A program funding policy was also prepared to support the delivery of the revised NFDG guidelines. The revised guidelines and new funding policy provide concise program description and definitions, simplified eligibility criteria, and new program elements intended to increase the local food production.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Increase country food harvesting	Fulfilled (ongoing)	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	<p>In 2022, The Trapper Mentorship pilot program was very successful and oversubscribed. The success of the pilot has led ECC to expand the pilot to a harvester mentorship program that will allow seasoned harvesters to pass on the skills, knowledge and benefits of land-based harvesting, including food security, sharing traditional knowledge and language, and monitoring of our environment and wildlife.</p> <p>ECC is working IGs and IOs on the design of the Harvester Mentorship Program. The expanded program is expected to launch in Fall 2023. Knowledgeable land-based harvesters and trappers will be partnered with committed apprentices learning everything that contributes to a meaningful harvest experience creating positive impacts and wellness.</p> <p>Broad engagement on the Community Harvesters Assistance Program and the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program is now complete. A final program evaluation report for GMVF will be released in August 2023.</p> <p>The CHAP review report was released in Spring 2023. The GNWT has begun implementing the majority of recommendations in the CHAP report, including refining program guidelines, supports for out of community members, updating and increasing the funding formula, and increasing awareness about the program.</p>
Work with Canada to increase the flexibility of the Nutrition North Program to better serve NWT residents	Fulfilled	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	<p>The GNWT engaged with Canada to advocate for more flexibility in the Nutrition North Program. In 2021-22, 6 additional NWT communities were added to Nutrition North's retail subsidy eligibility list. Since the start of the pandemic, Canada also launched new programs that were co-developed with Indigenous partners under the umbrella of Nutrition North: the Harvesters Support Grant (2020), the Food Security Research Grant (2022) and the Community Food Programs Fund (2022). During the pandemic, the GNWT worked closely with Nutrition North, Second Harvest and Food Banks Canada to help Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations and local groups delivering food charity in the NWT benefit from the federal Surplus Food Rescue Program.</p>

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

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Increase the availability of e-health, on the land, and other proven approaches to mental wellness and addictions recovery	Fulfilled	Conduct an international jurisdictional review of service delivery for isolated and remote communities	Winter 2020	Review completed	A jurisdictional review of provincial and regional alcohol strategies was completed to inform the alcohol strategy process in the NWT.
	Fulfilled	Partner with and support Indigenous governments and community stakeholders in the delivery of programs	Fall 2021	Availability of local treatment services identified and increased	Work continues with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations to deliver On-the-Land Healing (OTL) Programs for mental wellness and addictions recovery. In 2021, HSS evaluated the OTL program, resulting in 13 recommendations most of which have been completed or are in progress. As of January 15, 2023, 13 agreements are in place, all of which provide funding for mobile addictions treatment.
Improve services for individuals with addictions to reduce number of returns to treatment and increase length of time between treatments	Fulfilled	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	The Peer Support Fund was established in 2021-22 to help deliver community-level peer support programs. Annual funding includes \$50,000 for peer support training and \$180,000 to support basic needs for peer support program delivery (i.e. refreshments, rental space etc.). Two agreements are in place for 2022-23. Enhanced engagement and promotion of the fund continue and more agreements are expected. HSS continues to accept and track applications.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	In Progress	Increase access to transitional housing for those returning from addictions treatment	Fall 2023	9 transitional housing units added in several communities	<p>As a result of an Expression of Interest issued in December 2021, the GNWT is working with four NWT communities to develop transitional housing service delivery models which will assist in identifying resource needs/requirements and inform budgeting decisions. HSS will continue to actively support the organizations in their model development work. This work is intended to lead to commitments to move forward with programs from all four organizations. High level standards/guidelines and an approach to monitoring have been drafted.</p> <p>To move forward with program development, the Department is working with Housing NWT to determine resource requirements in advance of the business planning cycles and to support the use of the funding recently secured through the City of Yellowknife's Reaching Home funding. It is anticipated that by August 2023, there will be a Yellowknife property acquired by the GNWT to facilitate next steps of a Yellowknife service provider to provide Transitional Housing for Addiction Recovery Program (THARP) services. HSS continues to work with Housing NWT to secure funding for THARPs in the other three communities that have expressed interest in running a program.</p>

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	Delayed	Establish medical detox and managed alcohol programming	Spring 2023	Program developed and hospitalizations for alcohol reduced by 30%	<p>Access to Alcohol: The Alcohol Distribution Services in the Northwest Territories: Lessons Learned report was finalized in October 2021. The MAP Standards Manual was implemented as of April 1, 2022. HSS signed a contract for 2022-23 with the Yellowknife Women’s Society to provide a MAP as part of the Spruce Bough supported housing program. As of 2023, it was established that MAPs have requirements for specified medical oversight which have been demonstrated to not be necessary for effective service delivery and would not be replicable in many NWT communities. Therefore, the GNWT has shifted to an Access to Alcohol approach, that continues to support a harm reduction in a safe setting, limiting intoxication levels and the consumption of non-beverage alcohol. NTHSSA has established a contract with the Yellowknife Women’s Society to continue an Access to Alcohol Program (AAP) provided at Spruce Bough in 2023-24. The program operates on short term funding; however, NTHSSA will work with HSS on a longer term plan that aligns with the recommendations in the Supported Living Review. HSS is in the process of updating previous MAP Standards to AAP Standards. NTHSSA will also be developing AAP policies and procedures in accordance with the AAP Standards. A policy for managed alcohol was also drafted and is currently in use at Stanton Hospital Acute Care.</p> <p>Medical Detox: NTHSSA has completed work to improve services for clients medically detoxing in hospital settings, such as policy revisions and staff education. Ongoing work includes development of clinical tools for practitioners and resources for clients and families who are seeking information or accessing services. Additional financial and human resources are required to formalize any approach to both in-hospital and community medical detox. Currently, medical detox is provided at acute care sites with oversight by medical services. Work is underway determine resources needs and to secure funding.</p>

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Strengthen community counselling services	Fulfilled	Provide standardized screening and assessment tools, incorporating more traditional healing approaches	Fall 2022	Standardized screening / assessment tools developed	Standardized suicide risk assessment tools and standardized approaches to care were developed and implemented in updated Community Counselling Program (CCP) Standards in April 2021. As a part of the CCP Standards update and in alignment with a SC2.0 approach to care, screening, intake and assessment tools were removed as precursors to care. An Indigenous Advisory Body was established to advise on how to incorporate Indigenous tradition, culture and healing practices into the health care system.
	Fulfilled	Increase support and counselling training opportunities for staff	Beginning Spring 2021 and ongoing	Training opportunities for staff increased by 20%	Work is underway to provide multiple and ongoing training and professional development opportunities for staff in trauma-informed, culturally respectful and recovery-oriented practices. The annual CCP conference was held virtually in October 2021 and an in-person conference was held in January 2023. Baseline and methodology to best track and report on training opportunities for CCP staff has been developed.
	Fulfilled	Reduce wait times for access	Fall 2023	Wait times identified and reduced by 30%	Wait lists for the CCP were eliminated in March 2020 and same-day access was made available. In partnership with the Canadian Institute for Health Information, a standardized mechanism to track wait times was established. The median wait time for 2018-19 was 18 days. In 2021-22 the median wait time was 5 days.

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

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Reduce the number of vacancies and the reliance on locums	Fulfilled	Work with employees and partners to identify the factors contributing to retention challenges and make recommendations	Fall 2020	Review completed	<p>A review of factors contributing to recruitment and retention challenges was completed during the development of the 2021-2024 NWT Health and Social Services System HR Plan.</p> <p>The HR Plan was developed with the guidance and support of: the NWT HSS System HR Plan Working Group and input from surveys including the Employee Engagement and Satisfaction Survey and the Worklife Pulse Survey. The Plan was developed through a consolidation of work plans from across the HSS System in key human resource areas, in addition to recommendations from the working group and other stakeholders.</p>
	Fulfilled	Establish a dedicated health and social services recruitment team for the NWT	Winter 2020	Dedicated recruitment team established	The HRU within the Department of Finance has been established and is fully staffed.
	Fulfilled	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	<p>Programs and new strategies include: efforts to provide more efficient hiring; promotion of HSS system professions among northern students and youth; newly launched Medical Residency Program; Graduate Transition Program; and a HSS Bursary Program. New developmental initiatives include: New Employee Orientation Program; Strategic Onboarding Framework; Staff Engagement Surveys; and Exit Interviews. The Learning Management System was recently launched at Stanton and work continues on the launch to the remainder of the HSS System. The NTHSSA recently completed its Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Action Plan as part of a GNWT-wide effort to increase Indigenous representation in the workplace.</p>

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	Fulfilled	Implement comprehensive labour force planning for health human resources to identify demand and develop career pathways for key health and social service professions	Spring 2021	Labour force planning implemented, monitored and progress reported on	A 3-year HSS System HR Plan to identify labour force needs and recruitment and retention strategies was launched in June 2022. The plan includes detailed succession planning with existing employees, professional development and advancement opportunities.

Create a polytechnic university

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
Transform Aurora college into an accredited and independent polytechnic university over the next six years	Fulfilled	Complete an implementation plan that will outline the overall transformation process	Summer 2020	Implementation plan completed, monitored, and progress reported on	The Aurora College Transformation Implementation Plan was released in October 2020. The Aurora College Transformation website allows residents to follow progress and provide feedback. Quarterly reports are developed and publicly available. Monitoring and reporting will be ongoing throughout the transformation.
	Fulfilled	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	The Aurora College Strategic Plan Strengthening the Foundation and Planning for Change (2020-2023) was released in October 2020.
	Fulfilled	Complete a regional needs assessment and release a capital plan for the polytechnic university	Fall 2021	Capital plan completed and submitted	The GNWT and Aurora College developed a Facilities Master Plan (FMP) that was released in September 2022. The FMP outlines a strategic vision for the future needs of a polytechnic university and provides a road map for the enhancement and expansion of current Aurora College facilities and inform annual capital decisions.
	In Progress	Complete an institutional quality assurance review	Fall 2023	Quality assurance review completed, monitored, and progress reported on	Aurora College and ECE have increased capacity to support the quality assurance process. Aurora College Working Groups and Project Teams are implementing changes to meet quality assurance requirements. The recently amended Aurora College Act will support an arm's length relationship from government and help meet quality assurance requirements. The newly reinstated Board of Governors submitted a formal request to become a university to the Minister of ECE in June 2023, which has formally initiated the quality assurance process with the Campus Alberta Quality Council.

What we will do	Status	How we will do it	Timeline	How we will demonstrate progress	Progress to Date
	In Progress	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	The establishment of co-investment partnerships and the implementation of strategies to engage with the federal government are continuing. Aurora College and the GNWT have developed a Socioeconomic Profile Report to substantiate the long-term gains expected to result from investments in post-secondary education and the transformation of Aurora College into a polytechnic university. The GNWT continues to seek additional funding from federal engagement to conduct planning studies for student housing, student services, and academic buildings across the three campus communities.