

2016-2017

ANNUAL REPORT **RAPPORT ANNUEL**
on Implementation of the Mandate of the GNWT / sur la mise en œuvre du mandat du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Le présent document contient la traduction française du résumé





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English

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French

Kĩspin ki nitawih̄tĩn ē nĩhĩyawih̄k ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.

Cree

Tłjchq yatı k'èè. Dı wegodı newq dè, gots'ō gonede.

Tłjchq

ʔerih̄t'ís Dēne Sųlıné yatı t'a huts'elkēr xa beyáyatı theʔą ʔat'e, nuwe ts'ēn yóltı.

Chipewyan

Edı gondı dehgáh got'je zhatıé k'èé edat'éh enahddhę nıde naxets'é edahıı.

South Slavey

K'áshshó got'jne xədə k'é hederı ʔedjht'é yerınwę nıde dúle.

North Slavey

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijāhch'uu zhit yinothan jı', diits'āt ginohkhii.

Gwich'in

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqłuta.

Inuvialuktun

Ć'bdł ɳɳ^{sb}Δ^c ʌɹLJΔ^{rc} Δɔ^bɳɳ^cɹ^{sb}Lɳ^{nb}, ɔ^{rc}ɳ^aɔ^c ɔ^{sb}ɳ^aɳ^{cb}ɳ^c.

Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarłutit.

Inuinnaqtun

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Introduction

On March 3, 2016, Members of the 18th Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted the *Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019*.

The territorial general election in November 2015 made it clear that residents view transparency and accountability as central to a well governed territory. The Mandate describes the strategic direction the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) plans to take to advance the priorities agreed upon by all Members of the 18th Assembly. The Mandate enhances transparency by clearly expressing to residents what the GNWT commits to do in order to address the collective priorities of the 18th Assembly. The Mandate also enhances accountability by ensuring that voters and Members of the Legislative Assembly can hold the GNWT to account in fulfilling these commitments.

The Mandate sets out approximately 200 distinct commitments the GNWT has made for advancing the priorities of the 18th Assembly over its four-year term. The Mandate is an important tool for measuring the success of the government and of the Legislative Assembly.

As a measure of accountability, the GNWT is required, by the Legislative Assembly's *Process Convention on Priority Setting and Reporting*, to report annually to the Legislative Assembly's Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning and to the public on progress made to implement the Mandate.

In addition to this annual report, the GNWT has developed and maintained a public website dedicated to tracking the GNWT's progress on implementation of the Mandate. At any time, residents can look at this website to get a better understanding of how the government is advancing its commitments as well as to assess overall progress to date on implementation of the Mandate.

To view the Mandate and track its implementation, visit mandate.exec.gov.nt.ca.

Summary of Major Accomplishments

Since the Mandate was adopted, the GNWT has made progress on a number of commitments under five major themes:

- Economy, Environment and Climate Change
- Education, Training and Youth Development
- Cost of Living
- Community Wellness and Safety
- Governance

Below are just some of the highlights of the GNWT's achievements in implementing commitments under the Mandate in its first year.

Economy, Environment and Climate Change

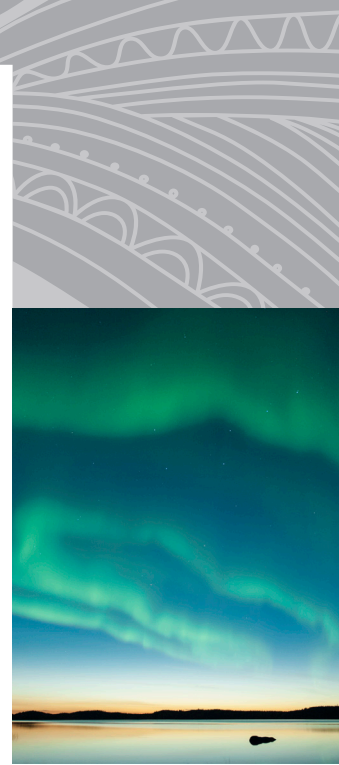
In the year since our Mandate was adopted, the GNWT has been working closely with the Government of Canada to secure federal investment for important infrastructure projects, an integral section of the Mackenzie Valley Highway near Canyon Creek and the Tłıchǫ All-season Road Project. The GNWT also recently released the *Skills 4 Success: 4-Year Action Plan 2016-2020* to fulfill its commitment to ensure the NWT's education and training system keeps pace with the changing dynamics of the labour market.

As part of the GNWT's commitment to combatting climate change, it has conducted extensive public engagement to inform the development of an NWT Energy Strategy and an NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework. These initiatives will allow the GNWT to make progress on the reliability and affordability of power and the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions in a Northern-focused context. They will also play an integral part in helping the GNWT fulfill its commitments under the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change* and support its implementation.

Education, Training and Youth Development

In fulfilling the GNWT's commitment to ensure free play-based care for four-year olds, the GNWT has committed to fully fund the cost of implementing Junior Kindergarten in the 13 NWT communities that do not currently offer the program. Changes made to the funding for the Early Childhood Program fulfill our commitment to revise the funding support model for licensed early childhood programs.

In an effort to meet our commitment to close the skills gap to ensure residents have the skills needed to address future job needs, the GNWT has undertaken the Skills 4 Success initiative as well as the work necessary to publish the *Northwest Territories Labour Market Forecast and Needs Assessment*.



Summary of Accomplishments

Cost of Living

Through partnerships, the GNWT is helping to find solutions to address homelessness and has made numerous commitments to find solutions to address northern housing issues. For example, the GNWT is working with the City of Yellowknife to support the City's Housing First initiative, and is working on similar solutions in other communities. The GNWT is strengthening community solutions to housing through the establishment of more local housing organizations and through its participation in the development of a national housing strategy.

Working with Nunavut, Yukon and the Government of Canada, the GNWT has also worked to increase the Northern Residents Tax Deduction by 33 per cent and secure a federal commitment of \$64.5 million over five years to expand Nutrition North.

Community Wellness and Safety

Addressing family violence is an important priority for the GNWT. As such, the GNWT has expanded the Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court from Hay River and Yellowknife to additional communities, and it continues to invest in five family violence shelters across the territory and in programming for children exposed to family violence.

The creation of a single NWT Health and Social Services Authority represents a significant accomplishment for the GNWT in the 18th Legislative Assembly to improve access, consistency and cultural appropriateness of care and services in the health and social services system. This new structure not only will help address these issues but also will help break down systemic barriers to care and service delivery and begin the necessary work to improve accountability and performance in health and social services. The newly established Regional Wellness Councils will give each region a say in how care and services are delivered territorially.

Governance

In the first year of the mandate, the Premier and Cabinet met with residents in Norman Wells, Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Simpson and Yellowknife in a series of open houses to improve public visibility and accessibility of Cabinet and hear the concerns of residents, a commitment under the Mandate.

In our exploration of new technologies for openness and accountability, the GNWT has developed a public website to illustrate how the GNWT is fulfilling its Mandate commitments. Progress has been made toward providing online access to data collected and created by the government, including improved access to information on GNWT contracts, board appointments and the Mackenzie DataStream, an online platform for sharing water data in the Mackenzie River Basin.

The GNWT has taken major steps to move forward on settling outstanding land claim and self-government negotiations with the creation of the Joint Working Group on Aboriginal Relations and Aboriginal Rights Agreements, the bringing together of Cabinet and Regular Members of the Legislative Assembly to consider and discuss approaches to further advance land, resources and self-government agreements, as well as initiatives to enhance relationships with Aboriginal governments. Working with the federal government, the GNWT has appointed Ministerial Special Representatives to talk to all parties involved in negotiations in the Dehcho and South Slave Regions, including the Dehcho First Nations, Akaitcho Dene First Nations and Northwest Territory Métis Nation, and report back on any roadblocks hindering the settling of claims in these regions.

In addition, substantial public engagement has taken place to collect the views of residents on how to ensure affordable, reliable and sustainable energy supplies, how to respond to the effects of climate change, how best to develop a Recreational Land Management Framework and a plan for the Yellowknife Periphery Area, how to improve the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* and how to modernize the *Fire Prevention Act*.

Résumé des principales réalisations

Depuis l'adoption de son mandat, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) a réalisé des progrès sur plusieurs engagements orientés sur les cinq thèmes principaux suivants :

- Économie, environnement et changement climatique
- Éducation, formation et développement des jeunes
- Coût de la vie
- Sécurité et mieux-être communautaires
- Gouvernance

Certaines des principales réalisations du GTNO quant à la mise en œuvre d'engagements en vertu du mandat au cours de sa première année sont présentées ci-dessous.

Économie, environnement et changement climatique

Au cours de l'année qui a suivi l'adoption de son mandat, le GTNO a travaillé en étroite collaboration avec le gouvernement du Canada afin de garantir un investissement fédéral pour d'importants projets d'infrastructure, la construction d'une portion complète de la route de la vallée du Mackenzie à proximité de Canyon Creek et le projet de route praticable en tout temps de la région des Tłı̨chǫ. Par ailleurs, le GTNO a publié récemment le Plan d'action quadriennal de l'initiative « Des compétences pour réussir » (2016 à 2020) afin de respecter son engagement visant à garantir que le système d'éducation et de formation ténéo suive les changements prévus dans le marché du travail.

Dans le cadre de son engagement à lutter contre le changement climatique, le GTNO a fortement mobilisé le public pour documenter l'élaboration d'une stratégie énergétique et d'un cadre stratégique sur le changement climatique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO). Ces initiatives lui permettront de progresser dans les domaines de la fiabilité et de l'abordabilité de l'électricité et de la réduction des émissions de gaz à effet de serre dans un contexte nordique. Elles feront également partie intégrante de la capacité du GTNO à respecter ses engagements en vertu du Cadre pancanadien sur la croissance propre et les changements climatiques et à faciliter sa mise en œuvre.

Éducation, formation et développement des jeunes

Afin de garantir l'accès à un apprentissage axé sur le jeu aux enfants âgés de 4 ans, le GTNO s'est engagé à financer intégralement la mise en œuvre de la prématernelle dans les 13 collectivités ténéoises qui n'offrent pas ce programme actuellement. En apportant des modifications au financement du programme de la petite enfance, le gouvernement tient sa promesse de réviser le modèle de soutien du financement pour les programmes autorisés pour la petite enfance.

En vue de respecter son engagement envers la réduction de l'écart des compétences et de garantir que les résidents possèdent les aptitudes nécessaires pour répondre aux besoins en main-d'œuvre à venir, le GTNO a mis en place l'initiative « Des compétences pour réussir » et a entrepris les travaux nécessaires pour publier le document intitulé *Prévisions et évaluation des besoins du marché du travail aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest*.

Coût de la vie

Grâce à la mise en place de partenariats, le GTNO aide à trouver des solutions pour lutter contre l'itinérance et a pris de nombreux engagements en vue de régler les problèmes de logement dans le Nord. Il collabore par exemple avec la ville de Yellowknife pour soutenir l'initiative municipale « Priorité au logement », et il travaille à la mise en œuvre de solutions semblables dans d'autres collectivités. Le gouvernement renforce des solutions communautaires au problème du logement en créant davantage d'organismes locaux d'habitation et en participant à l'élaboration d'une stratégie nationale en la matière.

En collaboration avec le Nunavut, le Yukon et le gouvernement du Canada, le GTNO a également fait en sorte d'accroître la déduction pour les habitants de régions éloignées de 33 %. Le gouvernement fédéral s'est par ailleurs engagé à injecter 64,5 millions de dollars sur cinq ans afin de développer le programme Nutrition Nord Canada.

Sécurité et mieux-être communautaires

La lutte contre la violence familiale fait partie des priorités du GTNO. C'est pourquoi il a étendu le Tribunal avec option d'atténuation de la peine pour violence familiale de Hay River et Yellowknife à d'autres collectivités, et qu'il continue à investir dans cinq refuges pour victimes de violence familiale à travers les TNO et dans des programmes destinés aux enfants exposés à la violence familiale.

La création d'une Administration des services de santé et des services sociaux des TNO unique constitue une réussite notable du gouvernement pendant la 18^e Assemblée législative. Elle améliore l'accès, l'uniformité et le caractère approprié sur le plan culturel des soins et des services du système de santé et de services sociaux. Non seulement cette nouvelle structure permettra de régler ces problèmes, mais elle aidera également à surmonter des obstacles systémiques à la prestation de soins et de services, et à entreprendre les travaux nécessaires pour améliorer la responsabilité et le rendement dans le domaine de la santé et des services sociaux. Les nouveaux Conseils régionaux du mieux-être permettront à chaque région de s'exprimer en ce qui a trait à la prestation des soins et des services à l'échelle territoriale.

Gouvernance

Au cours de la première année du mandat, pour respecter un engagement pris en vertu de ce dernier, le premier ministre et les membres du Conseil exécutif ont organisé une série de journées portes ouvertes à Norman Wells, à Inuvik, à Hay River, à Fort Simpson et à Yellowknife pour rencontrer des habitants, afin d'entendre leurs préoccupations et d'améliorer la visibilité publique et l'accès au Conseil exécutif.

Résumé des principales réalisations

Le GTNO a exploré de nouvelles technologies aux fins d'ouverture et de responsabilité, et a mis sur pied un site Web public visant à illustrer le respect de ses engagements dans le cadre du mandat. L'offre en ligne de données collectées et créées par le gouvernement s'est améliorée, notamment l'accès accru à l'information liée aux contrats du GTNO, aux nominations aux conseils et à Mackenzie DataStream, une plateforme en ligne permettant de partager des données sur la qualité de l'eau dans le bassin du fleuve Mackenzie.

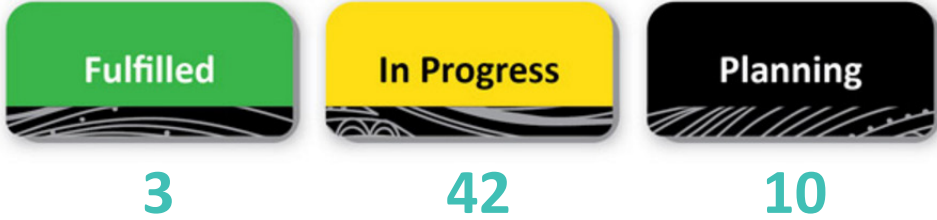
Le GTNO a pris d'importantes mesures pour parvenir à un règlement équitable de revendications territoriales et de négociations sur l'autonomie gouvernementale exceptionnelles en créant un groupe de travail conjoint sur les relations avec les Autochtones et les ententes relatives aux droits autochtones; en rassemblant les membres du Conseil exécutif et les simples députés de l'Assemblée législative en vue d'examiner des approches permettant de faire avancer les ententes portant sur les terres, les ressources et l'autonomie gouvernementale; et en lançant des initiatives visant à améliorer les relations avec les gouvernements autochtones. Dans le cadre de sa collaboration avec le gouvernement fédéral, le GTNO a nommé des représentants ministériels spéciaux chargés de s'entretenir avec toutes les parties visées par des négociations dans les régions du Dehcho et du Slave Sud, y compris les Premières Nations du Dehcho, les Premières Nations dénées de l'Akaiitcho et la Nation des Métis des Territoires du Nord-Ouest, et de signaler toute difficulté nuisant au règlement de revendications dans ces régions.

En outre, on a largement sollicité le public afin de connaître le point de vue des habitants et d'établir un moyen de garantir un approvisionnement abordable, fiable et durable en énergie; d'intervenir relativement aux répercussions du changement climatique; d'élaborer au mieux un cadre de gestion des terres à usage récréatif et un plan pour la région périphérique de Yellowknife; d'améliorer la *Loi sur l'accès à l'information et la protection de la vie privée*; et de remettre la *Loi sur la prévention des incendies* au goût du jour.

Economy, Environment and Climate Change

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Government Commitments



Mandate Reference	Commitments Fulfilled
1.1.4	We will continue to implement the government’s Hard-to-Recruit initiative to link regional job vacancies with potential employees and on-the-job training for residents.
1.2.2	We will invest in artist-to-market and product-to-market opportunity chains, with a particular emphasis on making investments that enable the showcasing of art and increase sales at the regional level.
1.2.3	We will support the film industry to further develop the skills and competencies of NWT film producers, build infrastructure, assist below-the-line crew and support services, and help develop marketing and communications plans for films made in the NWT.

The government is committed to creating the conditions for economic opportunity and to making sure that NWT residents can prepare themselves to take advantage of economic opportunities when they arise.

Non-renewable resource development represents the single biggest contributor to the NWT economy. We are fulfilling our commitment to supporting **mineral exploration** and the **mining sector** by implementing the *Mineral Development Strategy*. Implementation of the strategy has included investments in, for example, the Mining Incentive Program to support the future of mining in the NWT, extending the Exploration Incentive Program through 2017 to offset costs for explorers, supporting and encouraging Aboriginal participation and management in the mineral industry by facilitating the creation of regional mineral development strategies, and various marketing initiatives such as the distribution of targeted marketing products to key industry audiences.

To establish the conditions for investment in non-renewable resource development, the GNWT needs to **strengthen connectivity** to get workers to resources and resources to markets. The GNWT has secured federal investment for a 14 kilometre all-season access road from Norman Wells to Canyon Creek and has received conditional approval of federal investment for the Tłıchǫ All-season Road Project, which involves constructing an all-season road from Highway 3 to the community of Whati. Meanwhile, the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway, one of the largest construction projects ever

Economy, Environment and Climate Change

undertaken by the GNWT, is in its final season of construction and is expected to open to traffic later in 2017 on time and on budget. These infrastructure projects are expected to support new business opportunities for residents and facilitate increased tourism.

The government is committed to creating a more **diversified economy**. This is why the GNWT is supporting agricultural and commercial fishing initiatives, such as through our continued implementation of recommendations from the *Northwest Territories Economic Opportunities Strategy*, our development of an Agriculture Strategy, recognizing that every community can grow more food to help to create markets for the sale of local products and defray higher costs of living, as well as our release of the *Strategy for Revitalizing the Great Slave Lake Commercial Fishery* in an effort to expand local markets and export northern fish to market.

In addition, the GNWT has fulfilled its commitments to increase exports by successfully lobbying for the opening of the European Union to Inuvialuit seal products after a longstanding prohibition and by promoting NWT-harvested fur in Beijing and Helsinki to enhance international markets for fur. Economic opportunities in the Inuvialuit region such as arts exports have been generated through a program developed to welcome large cruise ships to northern coastal communities. The GNWT also continues to implement our *Take One: Northwest Territories Film Strategy and Action Plan*, by making investments in film projects and supporting showcase events such as the Yellowknife Film Festival.

The efforts described above, together with our implementation of our new *Tourism 2020: Opening our Spectacular Home to the World*, the third in a series of successful five-year strategic tourism plans, are all important investments that will help expand the number of tourists already visiting the NWT. Tourism represents our territory's single-largest economic diversification opportunity. *Tourism 2020* is the framework under which the GNWT will advance and leverage funds for resources, training and world-class tourism facilities to advance and grow the capacity of our tourism sector.

As the GNWT helps to create the conditions for economic opportunity, it also has committed to close the **skills gap** to ensure that residents are prepared to fully participate in the economy. A major step in closing the gap between the skills sought by employers and the skills offered by the NWT **labour market** is the implementation of our *Skills 4 Success Strategic Framework*. The *Skills 4 Success: 4-Year Action Plan 2016-2020* is a major step toward ensuring that the NWT's education and training system keeps pace with the changing dynamics of the labour market, and that NWT residents gain the education and skills required to be successful in their northern employment pursuits.

At the same time, the government is implementing its Regional Recruitment Program to help increase **regional employment opportunities** by linking local residents with on-the-job training. The GNWT is attracting new skilled labour to the territory through a nominee program that markets the NWT as a destination for immigrants to work and raise a family. Further, because internet

connectivity is crucial to connect residents with modern employment and business opportunities and is critical for the further modernization of the NWT economy, the GNWT continues to invest in the completion of the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link.

The GNWT believes that a **sustainable environment** contributes to the economic wellbeing and quality of life of residents. Following devolution, when authority over the management of waters, lands and resources in the NWT transferred from Canada to the GNWT, the GNWT is moving forward with legislative initiatives to modernize our laws in a way that reflects shared northern values and priorities to regulate mineral development, land tenure, water use and environmental conservation. Careful planning is required to make sure our laws align and integrate in a coherent environmental management system. The GNWT has developed a plan to introduce legislation to achieve this vision.

Sustainable environmental management requires more than laws. The GNWT continues to implement the Northwest Territories Water Strategy following the publication of another five-year action plan (2016-2020). It is also advancing research, cumulative monitoring and working in partnership with Aboriginal governments and our provincial neighbours to ensure abundant clean water for the NWT. As part of this work, and consistent with the GNWT's commitments to open government, the GNWT has collaborated on the launch of the Mackenzie Data Stream, an open access platform for sharing water data in the Mackenzie Basin.

In partnership with Aboriginal governments and other partners, the GNWT has released *Healthy Land, Healthy People: GNWT Priorities for Advancement of Conservation Network Planning (2016-2021)* to ensure **biodiversity and ecosystem integrity**. This is a key aspect in achieving the vision set out in the GNWT's Land Use and Sustainability Framework and will help to enable the establishment of future conservation and protected areas, such as the proposed world-class Thaidene Nene Park.

The GNWT is committed to increasing the production and transmission of renewable and alternative energy and implementing a strategy to mitigate and adapt to climate change. With public engagement being critical to making decisions about environmental management, over the past year the GNWT has conducted extensive public engagement on the development of an NWT **Energy** Strategy and NWT **Climate** Change Strategic Framework. While recognizing the unique energy demands and high cost of living in the North, discussions have focused on the affordability, reliability and environmental sustainability of energy in the NWT and on climate change adaptation and reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The GNWT has also been active in national discussions on a Canadian Energy Strategy and has provided support to communities, energy stakeholders and Aboriginal government representatives so that they may participate in the Pan-Canadian Task Force established to reduce the use of diesel fuel to power remote communities.

Education, Training and Youth Development

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Government Commitments



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Mandate Reference	Commitments Fulfilled
2.1.1	We will implement the Right from the Start Framework to invest in early childhood development, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Revising the funding support model for licensed early childhood programs.
2.2.1	We will implement the Education Renewal and Innovation Framework by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Implementing the renewed K-12 Inclusive Schooling Directive which provides greater direction on roles and responsibilities, increases the number of Program Support Teachers, increases emphasis on training, and increases accountability.
2.5.2	We will implement the Youth Resiliency program in schools and during after school programs to help improve student outcomes and increase graduation rates.
2.5.3	We will support opportunities for youth by ensuring effective youth programming such as the Youth Corps, Youth Contributors, Youth Ambassador Programs, Youth Centres, and Youth Tours.

Education is a key element to achieving our overall goals for a strong and sustainable territory. In this area, the GNWT has fulfilled its commitment to change the funding support model for licensed **early childhood programs**, focusing on three areas: operating subsidies, the Early Childhood Intervention Program and supporting new licensed operators. Among other benefits, this has resulted in increased subsidies for infant childcare spaces reflective of demand, rate increases for operators in government-owned buildings, reduced red tape, and a start-up subsidy for new day care operators. These changes help ensure that licensed childcare operators may focus on the needs of children across the territory.

In fulfilling the government’s commitment to ensure free play-based care for 4-year olds, the GNWT has committed to fully fund the cost of implementing **Junior Kindergarten** in the 13 communities that do not currently offer the program. Junior Kindergarten emerged as a result of comprehensive engagement with community leaders, families, Elders, educators and early childhood professionals, and is underpinned by international and national research. It is a direct bridge between early childhood development programs and entry into school. A review of the best approach to Junior Kindergarten in the NWT was released in January 2016. To make Junior Kindergarten a reality, changes to the *Education Act* were introduced in February 2017 and the necessary funding was proposed in the 2017-2018 budget.

The government has fulfilled its commitment to implement a renewed *Ministerial Directive on Inclusive Schooling* to strengthen student outcomes and supports. The **inclusive schooling** model has not changed, but the revised approach helps to clarify roles, expectations and processes and brings improved accountability measures for programming and spending. After widespread engagement, the revised approach became effective in all NWT schools in September 2016.

The government has made several commitments with respect to strengthening culture and heritage. Among these is supporting **French language education** in the NWT. Following engagement with parents, education bodies and others in 2016, the GNWT issued an updated Ministerial Directive on Enrolment of Students in French First Language Education Programs. The new directive better balances the growth of the French first language community with the protection of the integrity of the French first language education program.

Another aspect of the GNWT's commitment to strengthen culture and heritage is the development of a one-year action plan to begin implementation of the *Strong Cultures, Strong Territory: GNWT Culture and Heritage Strategic Framework*. The framework will apply GNWT-wide to align the existing culture and heritage activities of all GNWT departments around shared goals and priorities and serve as a cultural lens for future GNWT initiatives.

In addition, the GNWT is working with stakeholders to update the 2010 *Northwest Territories Aboriginal Languages Plan: A Shared Responsibility*. Input to update the plan came from the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board, the Official Languages Board and other language partners. Their insights build on work by the Standing Committee on Government Operations to review the *Official Languages Act* in 2009 and 2014.

There is a significant **education and training** component to making sure NWT residents are well positioned to take advantage of economic opportunities and fully participate in their communities. To better understand the territory's existing labour supply and anticipate future demands, the government conducted and released in June 2016 the *Northwest Territories Labour Market Forecast and Needs Assessment*. This forecast indicates there will be between approximately 28,500 and 36,700 job openings in the NWT between 2015 and 2030. To close the **skills gap** in the NWT, another GNWT commitment, the Skills 4 Success initiative is designed to ensure NWT residents have the skills necessary to be first in line for these future job opportunities. The *Skills 4 Success: 4-Year Action Plan 2016-2020* contains four foundational goals related to skills development, streamlined supports, NWT workforce partnerships and labour market information.

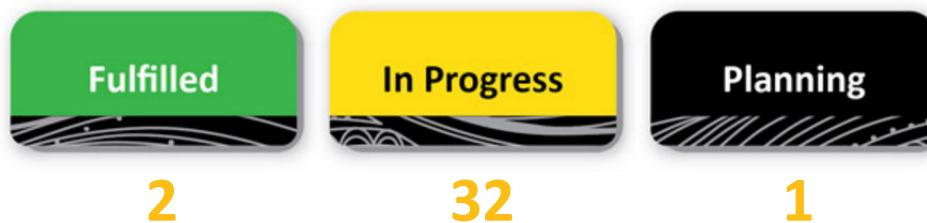
Meanwhile, on-going efforts are also being made to support the **youth** of the NWT. Our youth leadership and youth-at-risk intervention programming reached a significant milestone this year. The NWT Youth Ambassador Program entered its tenth year of operations, and the GNWT also renewed its support for Northern Youth Abroad. These initiatives foster leadership, cross-cultural awareness, career goals and healthy lifestyles in northern youth and have had a significant impact on many lives.



Cost of Living

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Government Commitments



Mandate Reference	Commitments Fulfilled
3.5.1	In collaboration with our partners in Yukon and Nunavut, we will work with the Government of Canada to increase the federal Northern Resident’s Tax Deduction by at least 33 per cent, indexed to inflation.
3.6.1	We will implement the Right from the Start framework to invest in early childhood development by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Revising the funding support model for licensed early childhood programs.

Higher costs of living and higher operating costs for businesses in the NWT, such as the costs of fuel and electricity, transportation and housing, are attributed to several factors, all affected by our climate, population distribution and distance from major markets. The result is that issues related to **housing, food security, energy efficiency** and **childcare** impact each family in the NWT in different ways and to varying degrees.

In addition to the commitments and efforts of the GNWT described above relating to improving food security, energy costs, childcare and the transportation of goods, a priority for the GNWT is to generate solutions through partnerships for addressing homelessness and northern housing needs. For example, in 2016 the GNWT coordinated the Community Partnership Forum, which has led to several avenues of work, including an examination of existing programs and services for those who are homeless as well as an examination of barriers that may inhibit access to those programs and services. The government has also supported the City of Yellowknife with its **Housing First** initiative and is pursuing similar initiatives in other NWT communities. More **local housing organizations** are also being established to strengthen community solutions, and the NWT is participating in the development of a **national housing strategy**.

Working with Yukon, Nunavut, and the Government of Canada, the GNWT helped secure a 33 per cent increase to the **Northern Residents Tax Deduction** up to a maximum of \$22 per day. The GNWT succeeded in having the **Nutrition North Canada Program** added to the agenda for the 2016 Northern Premiers’ Forum. Nutrition North is a federal program jointly administered by the federal departments of Indigenous and Northern Affairs Canada and Health Canada that directly affects food security and the cost of living for residents of remote northern communities. The GNWT is pleased to report that the 2016 federal budget committed \$64.5 million over five years to expand Nutrition North and an ongoing \$13.8 million per year to extend the program to include all isolated northern communities.

Community Wellness and Safety

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Government Commitments



Mandate Reference	Commitments Fulfilled
4.2.1	We will support elders to live in their own homes for as long as possible and ensure adequate supports are available for those who can no longer do so, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Developing updated capital projections for long-term care and dementia beds.
4.3.1	We will continue implementing the Building Stronger Families action plan to transform child and family services by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Implementing a standardized approach to assessing children’s immediate safety needs and future risk of harm.
4.3.2	We will explore options for expanding beyond Yellowknife, the Mediation and Parenting after Separation and Divorce Program.
4.3.3	We will continue to support at-risk children and families through preventative and collaborative approaches, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Introducing a risk assessment tool to enable child protection workers to support families more effectively.
4.3.4	We will continue implementing Right from the Start to improve early childhood development, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Revising the funding support model for licensed early childhood programs.
4.3.5	We will reduce the burden of chronic disease by promoting healthy lifestyles and improving screening and management, with specific focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Hosting Healthy Living Fairs in communities.
4.3.5	We will reduce the burden of chronic disease by promoting healthy lifestyles and improving screening and management, with specific focus on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Promoting healthy eating in NWT communities through a variety of programs including Healthy Family Collective Kitchens and Drop the Pop.
4.4.1	We will strengthen initiatives and partnerships to prevent and reduce family violence by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Examining the feasibility of expanding the Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court beyond Yellowknife and Hay River.
4.4.1	We will strengthen initiatives and partnerships to prevent and reduce family violence by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Supporting five family violence shelters across the NWT, including support for the overall capacity of the people who work in these shelters.

Community Wellness and Safety

Mandate Reference	Commitments Fulfilled
4.4.1	We will strengthen initiatives and partnerships to prevent and reduce family violence by: ◊ Supporting programming for children who have witnessed violence.
4.4.2	We will support the RCMP and communities in their efforts to strengthen partnerships to prevent and respond to violence by supporting the development of policing action plans in each community in accordance with each community's priorities.
4.5.1	We will support the RCMP and communities in their efforts to develop policing action plans in each community that reflect local priorities, including issues relating to youth.
4.5.2	We will implement the Youth Resiliency program in schools and during after school programs to improve student outcomes and lower overall dropout rates.
4.5.3	We will support opportunities for youth by ensuring effective programming such as the Youth Corps, Youth Contributors, Youth Ambassador Programs, Youth Centres, Youth Tours, and Children and Youth Resiliency Program.

Community wellness and safety begins with supports to encourage individuals and families to be and stay healthy. The territorial government, alongside families, community groups, police, courts and schools, is just one of several partners working to ensure the wellness and safety of our communities.

The GNWT's plan to address community wellness and safety begins with prevention. The government encourages healthy lifestyles and strong families, makes sure sustainable and responsive systems are in place for people when they are needed, and plans for the well-being of individuals from birth to old age.

One of the clear priorities of the GNWT is to strengthen initiatives and partnerships to **reduce family violence**. The Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court, which is an option for low-risk offenders who take responsibility for their actions and agree to attend an eight-module program, was offered only in Yellowknife and Hay River in the past. The GNWT committed to expand the program beyond these two communities, and the program is now also available to offenders from Behchokò, Enterprise, and the K'at'l'odeeche First Nation. As of January 2017, 79 participants have successfully completed the program. The GNWT has also been working to expand the Legal Aid Commission outreach program.

The GNWT continues to provide funding and programming for five family violence shelters in the territory as well as programs for children who have witnessed violence. Support is also provided to regions without shelters through family violence protocols and response teams. Through the "What

Will It Take?” social marketing campaign, the GNWT continues to deliver workshops, toolkits, and public service announcements to encourage intervention by bystanders and dispel common misconceptions about family violence.

The GNWT made the commitment to support the RCMP and communities in their efforts to strengthen partnerships to prevent and respond to violence. The annual policing priorities set by the GNWT for the RCMP now go further than they did in the past, directing the RCMP to have action plans for every community in the NWT. **Policing action plans** are developed collaboratively by the RCMP and NWT communities and give communities a direct role in making their community a safer place to live. For the past two fiscal years, all 33 communities have participated in the setting of policing priorities with the RCMP.

The GNWT believes **healthy lifestyles**, including mental health, can be achieved through physical activity, volunteerism, positive relationships within families and time on the land, and help prevent chronic disease, domestic abuse and feelings of helplessness. The government has made progress in promoting healthy lifestyles in an effort to reduce the burden of chronic disease. The GNWT’s efforts include supporting over 36 Healthy Living Fairs in communities around the NWT over the past two years. Additional information and resources for cancer patients and families are now available at the “Let’s Talk About Cancer” website. Diabetes has become a notifiable disease under the *Public Health Act*, allowing for better surveillance and monitoring to measure related trends. The government also continues to promote healthy eating through a variety of programs like “Healthy Family Collective Kitchens” and “Drop the Pop”.

One of the GNWT’s most significant accomplishments to date during the 18th Assembly is the **transformation of the health and social services system** in an effort to improve health and social outcomes. The NWT Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) began operations in August 2016. Prior to this, the NWT’s health and social services system was made up of eight different authorities, each working separately from the other. This proved to be a barrier to efficiency and access to care. The new system helps to break down systemic barriers to care and service delivery, and creates a foundation for improved accountability and performance. The NTHSSA will operate under the direction of the NWT Health and Social Services Leadership Council, a board of management comprising the chairs of the newly established regional wellness councils and the chair of the Tłı̨chǫ Community Services Agency. The regional wellness councils will provide input and advice to inform the development of care and services delivered territorially.

In addition to creating a single integrated system to better coordinate programs and services for Northerners, the GNWT is working to change the way it provides services so that people feel respected, feel that their voices are heard and feel safe and comfortable when accessing health care and social services. In support of the GNWT’s efforts to meet its commitment to deliver services with culturally appropriate methods and improve the cultural competency of service providers, the GNWT brought forward *Building a Culturally Respectful Health and Social Services System* in the fall of 2016.

Community Wellness and Safety

The government also made a commitment to focus on **mental health and addictions**, to ensure access to culturally appropriate programs and services, address gaps in services and enhance treatment options. In response to this commitment, the GNWT tabled a strategic framework entitled *Mind and Spirit: Promoting Mental Health and Addictions Recovery in the Northwest Territories* (2016-2021). This framework establishes a foundation for improvements to mental health and addictions programs and services. In addition, the GNWT has expanded the service of the NWT Help Line to offer residents group counseling sessions that are free, anonymous and confidential. Implementation of aspects of the new *Mental Health Act*, specifically the establishment of a Mental Health Act Review Board to hear concerns from individuals being held involuntarily or examine the status of patients with long-term involuntary admissions, is also now underway. Finally, an NWT Opioid Misuse and Overdose Task Group was established in December 2016 to address the ongoing issues related to opioid drug misuse and overdose, and work on a public awareness campaign to highlight the dangers of illicit drug overdose and misuse is well under way.

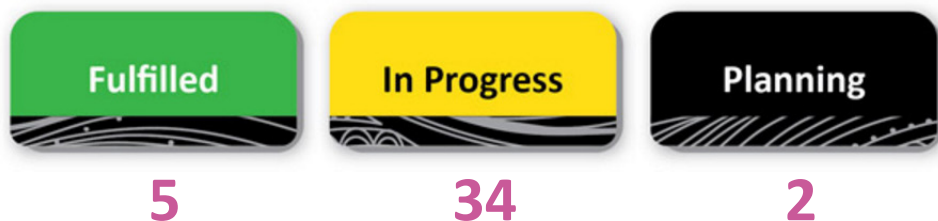
The GNWT is also delivering on its commitments to supporting **senior citizens and Elders** by building more supported independent living units and marketing maintenance, renovation and mobility upgrades to help seniors age in place. The GNWT is delivering on this commitment with, for example, five nine-unit seniors' buildings in Aklavik, Fort Liard, Fort McPherson, Fort Good Hope and Whati to allow seniors to live longer in their own communities and avoid early admission to long-term care facilities.

A commitment was also made to support and participate in a **National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women and Girls** as an important step in acknowledging and addressing the root causes of violence towards First Nations women and girls in Canada. The National Inquiry, launched in 2016, is funded by the Government of Canada and has the participation and full cooperation of all provinces and territories, including the GNWT.

Governance

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Government Commitments



Mandate Reference	Commitments Fulfilled
5.2.1	We will seek to establish a joint committee between Cabinet Ministers and Regular Members to share information and discuss approaches on the advancement of land, resource, and self-government agreements as well as initiatives to enhance relationships with Aboriginal governments.
5.3.2	We will implement the government's new Financial Administration Act in order to improve government-wide planning and accountability, and overall fiscal responsibility.
5.3.3	We will improve collaboration for easier access to government programs and services online, including by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◊ Participating in national surveys to assess both resident and business satisfaction with government service delivery.
5.3.10	We will do a better job of making our residents, particularly those in smaller communities, aware of available government programs and services, and how to access them, through Single Window Service Centres and our Government Service Officers.
5.4.1	We will support the RCMP and communities in their efforts to strengthen partnerships to present and respond to violence by supporting the development of policing action plans in each community in according with each community's priorities.

It was a major priority of all elected members of the 18th Legislative Assembly to improve government accountability, transparency and collaboration, as reflected in the priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly and several commitments in the Mandate.

The government has been doing business differently in the year since the Mandate was adopted, increasing **public engagement** and incorporating the international principles of **open government**. Cabinet has held community open houses in Norman Wells, Inuvik, Hay River, Fort Simpson and Yellowknife to provide residents with opportunities to speak openly and present ideas and issues of concern. These open houses have been very well attended and well received, and are often accompanied by additional meetings by Cabinet with local leadership, businesses and organizations.

Governance

One of the ways the government is fulfilling its commitments to open government is to make more information available and more easily accessible. The volume of **open data** from the GNWT is beginning to grow, with information on water quality, government contracts, appointments to public bodies and employee salary ranges being posted online in open formats. The government also maintains a website to track progress on the implementation of the Mandate, which includes an overall dashboard on progress to date, at mandate.exec.gov.nt.ca. These and other open initiatives are the subject of public engagement sessions currently being held across the territory by the Minister Responsible for Public Engagement & Transparency, to ensure that the development of an Open Government Policy reflects the priorities of the people.

The government has instituted a GNWT-wide **Visual Identity Program** so that people can more readily identify what information is coming from the GNWT. It is also conducting public engagement on the **Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act** (ATIPPA) to understand how better to share and protect information. Changes to this legislation are forthcoming.

Substantial **public engagement** has also taken place to collect the views of residents on how to ensure affordable, reliable and sustainable energy supplies, how to respond to the effects of climate change, how best to develop a Recreational Land Management Framework and a plan for the Yellowknife Periphery Area, and on how to modernize the *Fire Prevention Act*. This is in addition to other items on the GNWT's **legislative agenda**, such as bills introduced to increase taxes on the purchase of tobacco, improve the Yellowknife airport and reflect the traditional naming of children on birth registrations.

Perhaps the broadest set of priorities of the 18th Legislative Assembly in the area of governance relate to the **advancement of land, resource and self-government agreements** while taking further steps towards the recognition and respect of Aboriginal governments. The GNWT is committed to work to resolve outstanding land, resource and self-government agreements, and it has taken major steps in the past year to advance negotiations. The government has been implementing more flexible and adaptive approaches with a view to finding compromise and reaching agreements. The GNWT is achieving positive results from these efforts, as evidenced at Final Agreement negotiations with the Acho Dene Koe First Nation of Fort Liard.

Working with the federal government, the GNWT is working to advance the Dehcho, Atkaiitcho and Northwest Territory Métis Nation processes. In July 2016, the Premier and the federal Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs jointly appointed Ministerial Special Representatives for the Dehcho and the South Slave regions to provide independent advice on how to conclude agreements. The reports of the Ministerial Special Representatives are expected to identify ways to facilitate the successful and timely resolution of outstanding negotiations.

The Délı̄ne Final Self-Government Agreement, which came into force on September 1, 2016, and the subsequent creation of the Délı̄ne Got'ı̄ne Government are significant advancements for **community governance** in the NWT. The GNWT assisted Délı̄ne in preparing for the effective date of the agreement by providing in-kind support in areas like elections, government operations, human resource planning, information technology and land administration.

Collaborative work to build the administrative capacity of Aboriginal governments is on-going. The Gwich'in Internship Program created by the Gwich'in Tribal Council, GNWT and Canada is an example of this work. The program is intended to provide qualified Gwich'in candidates with on-the-job training, mentoring and skills development through consecutive one-year work placements with each government. In April 2016, the GNWT completed an inventory of GNWT-sponsored training available to Aboriginal governments to support capacity building. This information is being shared with Aboriginal governments in the NWT.

The Premier and Cabinet regularly hold **bi-lateral meetings** with Aboriginal governments to discuss areas of mutual interest. Bi-lateral meetings were held in 2016 with the Sahtu Secretariat, Salt River First Nation, Akaitcho Dene First Nation, Kát'odeeche First Nation, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Tłı̄chǝ Government and the Inuvialuit Regional Council. Examples of subjects discussed include regional recruitment, caribou management, land use planning, health and social services system transformation, transportation corridors, parks and conversation areas, housing infrastructure, mineral development and the current fiscal situation. One significant outcome from these meetings is the Memorandum of Understanding signed in September 2016 between the GNWT and the Kát'odeeche First Nation on intergovernmental relations. In addition, signatory governments to the Devolution Agreement met as the **Intergovernmental Council** in October 2016 to discuss a range of issues related to land and resources management.



Summary of Major Objectives Forecasted for 2017

In the coming year, the GNWT will continue to deliver on its Mandate.

The government will be coming forward in 2017 with an NWT Energy Strategy and Climate Change Strategic Framework. As well, both the Recreational Land Management Framework and Yellowknife Periphery Area plan will be completed in 2017. And we are looking forward to the opening ceremonies of the Inuvik-to-Tuktoyaktuk Highway, scheduled for November 15, 2017.

In 2017, the GNWT will continue to work collaboratively to fulfill its commitments to reduce poverty in the NWT and support community priorities for wellness. For example, the GNWT plans to hold another annual Anti-Poverty Roundtable, this time in the Sahtu region, and Cabinet plans to attend. In addition, a new Single Window Service Centre will open soon on the Kát'odeeche First Nation to assist residents with access to government programs and services.

A draft Open Government Policy will be developed and reviewed by the Standing Committee on Government Operations in 2017, and a legislative proposal to establish an Office of the Ombudsman is also expected to be advanced this year. Cabinet will also continue to travel to NWT communities to meet directly with residents in community open houses.

The implementation of the Mandate of the GNWT will help create a territory where all people, communities and regions of the NWT share in the benefits of a healthy, just, sustainable and prosperous society. In the coming year, the GNWT plans to take several additional measures to advance the priorities of the 18th Assembly and create a foundation for a secure and sustainable future for the NWT and its people. We look forward to continuing to report progress on implementing our government's Mandate.