

GNWT CULTURE AND HERITAGE ACTION PLAN

Strong Cultures, Strong Territory

2019 to 2022



Government of the Northwest Territories
Department Acronyms

ECE	Education, Culture and Employment
EIA	Executive and Indigenous Affairs
ENR	Environment and Natural Resources
FIN	Finance
HSS	Health and Social Services
INF	Infrastructure
ITI	Industry, Tourism and Investment
JUS	Justice
LANDS	Lands
MACA	Municipal and Community Affairs
NWTHC	Northwest Territories Housing Corporation



The Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes the shift in terminology from “Aboriginal” to “Indigenous”. This document uses the preferred term “Indigenous” to collectively refer to First Nations, Inuit, and Métis people of the Northwest Territories. The term “Aboriginal” is also used, but only when it is part of an official name or title.

Photo Credits:

Front cover: Pat Kane; Alasdair Veitch, GNWT. Inside front cover: NWT Archives/©GNWT PWS/G-1995-001:6865; Daron Letts. IV: Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC). VI: NWT Archives/©GNWT PWS/G-1995-001:3362; PWNHC. 3: PWNHC. 6: Tara Marchiori. 9: Tom Andrews, GNWT. 12: Tom Andrews, GNWT. 16: Tara Marchiori. 19: NWT Archives/©GNWT PWS/G-1995-001:7818. 21: National Museums Scotland. 22: NWT Arts Program. 24: NWT Archives/June Helm fonds/N-2004-020:0179; Tara Marchiori. 26: Tom Andrews, GNWT; Tara Marchiori. Designed by Diana Curtis Design

Prepared by:

Culture and Heritage Division, Department of Education, Culture and Employment
On behalf of the Government of the Northwest Territories

September 2018

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2015, *Strong Cultures, Strong Territory: GNWT Culture and Heritage Strategic Framework* (Framework) was tabled in the 17th Legislative Assembly. The Framework was the first of its kind – a set of goals about culture and heritage that each department of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) would be responsible for honouring. The Framework aimed to make culture and heritage pillars of government, similar to the economy or the environment.

Since the Framework’s release, the GNWT has been hard at work selecting a mix of existing and new actions that will contribute to the

Framework’s goals. With all departments working in partnership, the GNWT’s first task was to identify a set of broad categories on which it would focus its attention over the 10-year life of the Framework, until 2025. Then the GNWT narrowed its focus to identify actions for each category that would be most relevant and appropriate for the four year period of 2019 to 2022.

This Action Plan was created by all GNWT departments, with the Department of Education, Culture and Employment as the lead. The implementation of this plan will render the GNWT a stronger and more culturally attuned organization.



The five goals of the Framework, and the categories for each, are listed on this page.

Framework Goal 1: Respect for Diversity

- 1.1 Be a partner in reconciliation
- 1.2 Take time to demonstrate respect for this place and its original peoples
- 1.3 Support the settlement of land, resources, and self-government agreements, and build relationships with Indigenous governments
- 1.4 Foster the respectful use of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge
- 1.5 Help to revitalize Indigenous languages
- 1.6 Cultivate a society where all cultures, abilities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations are included
- 1.7 Support the settlement of immigrants and newcomers
- 1.8 Reflect the importance of NWT diversity in GNWT communications, names, and designs

Framework Goal 2: Culture for Well-Being

- 2.1 Facilitate access to activities that have cultural meaning to residents
- 2.2 Facilitate learning about the NWT's past and present
- 2.3 Demonstrate the connection between culture, identity, and well-being
- 2.4 Facilitate the pairing of western wellness approaches and alternative approaches that align with residents' cultural values
- 2.5 Support the arts community and artists to create, share, and promote their work
- 2.6 Promote the importance of creativity and play

Framework Goal 3: Safeguarding Heritage

- 3.1 Treat the land with respect and foster sustainable land use
- 3.2 Protect archaeological sites and sites that are culturally significant or environmentally sensitive
- 3.3 Identify, collect, and conserve objects and records of cultural and historical significance
- 3.4 Help NWT residents acknowledge, use, and pass on traditional skills and knowledge
- 3.5 Establish the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre as a modern museum
- 3.6 Research the peoples and history of this place

Framework Goal 4: Culture as an Investment

- 4.1 Build harvesting industries
- 4.2 Promote the economic value of the arts
- 4.3 Build the culture and heritage aspects of tourism

Framework Goal 5: Supporting Culture and Heritage Efforts of Residents

- 5.1 Work with community museums and heritage centres
- 5.2 Build relationships with those involved with culture and heritage



TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction	2
This Action Plan.....	4
Actions for Goal 1: Respect for Diversity	6
Actions for Goal 2: Culture for Well-Being.....	12
Actions for Goal 3: Safeguarding Heritage.....	16
Actions for Goal 4: Culture as an Investment	20
Actions for Goal 5: Supporting the Culture and Heritage Efforts of Residents	22
Tracking and Communicating Progress	24
Closing Thoughts.....	25

INTRODUCTION

Culture and Heritage

Culture defines us. It includes all the things we value that give us a solid foundation for understanding our place in the world and how we relate to others. Heritage includes objects, places and traditions from the past and present that we wish to preserve for future generations. Together, culture and heritage are powerful forces. They keep us healthy, they build relationships and tear down barriers, they spark creativity, they build our economy, they respect the land, and they help us to have fun. Most importantly, culture and heritage make us strong.

Our Vision

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) knows that culture and heritage are deeply personal concepts. Culture and heritage are the foundation on which individuals, families and communities live and base their identities. So what role does the GNWT play in something so personal?

The GNWT's vision is that we, the public government, will be a facilitator, a steward and a supporter of culture and heritage in all its forms. We want to be a government that respects the culture and heritage of all Northwest Territories (NWT) residents, that encourages the expression of their identities, and that values their unique contributions to NWT society. This is ambitious, but we believe that culture and heritage demand our respect and deserve our commitment.

Strategic Framework

Recognizing the important role that government can play in culture and heritage, the GNWT created *Strong Cultures, Strong Territory: GNWT Culture and Heritage Strategic Framework* (Framework) for 2015-2025.

The Framework features the important connection between culture and heritage in the NWT and all that public government does. It establishes a set of culture and heritage goals that each GNWT department will work toward until 2025. The goals require the GNWT to:

1. Respect and celebrate diversity.
2. Reflect the important link between culture, heritage and well-being.
3. Safeguard significant aspects of culture and heritage for future generations.
4. Invest in culture and heritage for a diversified economy.
5. Support NWT residents who are promoting and preserving their culture and heritage.



Once the Framework was approved, the GNWT got to work determining how the philosophy and spirit of the Framework's goals could be put into action.

With the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) in the lead, all GNWT departments worked together to create the Culture and Heritage Action Plan that is outlined in the remainder of this document. The assistance of the GNWT's Culture and Heritage Coordinators – one in each department – was especially helpful. The Coordinators played a vital liaison role by helping to link the goals of the Framework with their departments' objectives and mandates.

THIS ACTION PLAN

The Steps of Action Planning

To create this Action Plan, the GNWT took time to dig deeper into the 2015 research results¹, looking at the combined recommendations from public servants, the academic world, other governments, cultural organizations, and from NWT residents themselves. The research showed that it was more important for the GNWT to focus its attention on categories of actions than on specific programs. As a result, 25 categories are outlined in this document for the full, 10-year life of the Framework.

ECE – in partnership with each department – assessed which of the 25 categories were already well covered by existing GNWT programs, and where there were gaps that could be filled by new or strengthened programs. The result was that 69 actions were identified for the four year period of 2019 to 2022.

Efforts were made to ensure that all actions align with the existing GNWT mandate. Recognizing that this Action Plan extends beyond the life of the current government, adjustments may be required, depending on changes that may flow from any future mandate.

The 25 action categories are outlined on the following page, and actions to go with each category – 69 actions in total – are listed in the remainder of this document. The departments that are taking the lead on each action are also identified.

¹The GNWT's 2015 research included a GNWT scan, a public survey, a youth survey, focus groups, community visits, a literature review and examination of examples from other jurisdictions.

Expected Results

By mid-2022, the GNWT expects to achieve the following results:

1. The GNWT will continue with the actions that are focused on the Framework's goals, and will begin new initiatives that address identified gaps. Together, the actions will bring the GNWT into closer alignment with the Framework.
2. The importance and relevance of culture and heritage will be better understood across all GNWT departments.
3. At the 4-year mark, the GNWT expects to have a clearer understanding of whether the Framework's current goals require further development as we move beyond 2022.

Action Categories

Goal 1 Respect for Diversity

- 1.1 Be a partner in reconciliation
- 1.2 Take time to demonstrate respect for this place and its original peoples
- 1.3 Support the settlement of land, resources and self-government agreements, and build relationships with Indigenous governments
- 1.4 Foster the respectful use of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge
- 1.5 Help to revitalize Indigenous languages
- 1.6 Cultivate a society where all cultures, abilities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations are included
- 1.7 Support the settlement of immigrants and other newcomers
- 1.8 Reflect the importance of NWT diversity in GNWT communications, names, and designs

Goal 2 Culture for Well-Being

- 2.1 Facilitate access to activities that have cultural meaning to residents
- 2.2 Facilitate learning about the NWT's past and present
- 2.3 Demonstrate the connection between culture, identity, and well-being
- 2.4 Facilitate the pairing of western wellness approaches and alternative approaches that align with residents' cultural values
- 2.5 Support the arts and artists to create, share, and promote their work
- 2.6 Promote the importance of creativity and play

Goal 3 Safeguarding Heritage

- 3.1 Treat the land with respect and foster sustainable land use
- 3.2 Protect archaeological sites and sites that are culturally significant or environmentally sensitive
- 3.3 Identify, collect and conserve objects and records of cultural and historical significance
- 3.4 Help NWT residents acknowledge, use, and pass on traditional skills and knowledge
- 3.5 Establish the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre as a modern museum
- 3.6 Research the peoples and history of this place

Goal 4 Culture as an Investment

- 4.1 Build harvesting industries
- 4.2 Promote the economic value of the arts
- 4.3 Build culture and heritage aspects of tourism

Goal 5 Supporting the Culture and Heritage Efforts of Residents

- 5.1 Work with community museums and heritage centres
- 5.2 Build relationships with those involved with culture and heritage

Actions for Goal 1: Respect for Diversity

The NWT's diversity is evident everywhere. Indigenous people in the NWT are culturally diverse. The NWT's non-Indigenous population has ancestral roots in every corner of the world. The NWT is home to a unique political environment, multiple languages and a widely varied landscape. This goal asks us to celebrate, learn from and garner strength from the diversity that defines the NWT.

1.1 Be a partner in reconciliation

For this document, reconciliation is the process of healing the wounds that colonialism has created for Indigenous peoples, particularly concerning the residential school experience. Wounds or fragmentations can be between individuals, between governments, within families and even within oneself. The GNWT recognizes that it is only one partner in a complex process for which there is no easy solution. By including reconciliation in the Culture and Heritage Action Plan, the GNWT commits to continue to educate itself about the issues and how it can play a part to facilitate healing.

GNWT Actions to support 1.1:

- a. The GNWT will continue to report on its response to the *Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action* and, through a multi-departmental working group, will create a workplan to move forward. (EIA)
- b. The GNWT will continue providing training to ECE staff and “new to the North” teachers with the History and Legacy of Residential Schools program. The GNWT will also work toward developing additional training modules and making this training available to all GNWT employees. (FIN, ECE, HSS)
- c. The GNWT will continue to waive costs for name changes for drivers' licences and General Identification Cards to reclaim Indigenous names changed by the residential school system. (INF)



1.2 Take time to demonstrate respect for this place and its original peoples

The NWT is situated on the traditional territories of Indigenous peoples whose ancestors and way of life have existed here for millennia. This set of actions involves the GNWT demonstrating respect for the original peoples of the NWT and respect for the sacredness that this place holds for them. The GNWT knows there is no set formula for demonstrating respect. Instead, it is often the small gestures of humility in speech, in behaviour and in effort that convey the most meaning. Examples include spelling community names and Indigenous words correctly; making territorial land acknowledgements when this is appropriate; asking for guidance; beginning and ending meetings as the community desires; and choosing words in speech and writing that convey the respect the GNWT feels.

GNWT Actions to support 1.2:

- a. The GNWT will create guidelines to help departments demonstrate their respect for Indigenous peoples. Examples include installing an autocorrect function on GNWT computers to ensure the proper spellings and use of accents for common Indigenous language words; creating guidelines for when and how to say or write territorial land acknowledgements; creating guidelines regarding cultural appropriation; and similar guidelines. (ECE, EIA)

1.3 Support the settlement of land, resources, and self-government agreements, and build relationships with Indigenous governments

Just as small gestures of respect can hold deep meaning, the GNWT can also demonstrate respect for the history and political landscape of this place by working diligently toward settling land, resources, and self-government agreements with Indigenous groups. Likewise, the GNWT can demonstrate its respect by fostering strong relationships with Indigenous governments through formal agreements and informal communications.

GNWT Actions to support 1.3:

- a. The GNWT will continue to support mutually respectful government-to-government relationships; the Intergovernmental Council; consultation with Indigenous governments; and the negotiation and implementation of land, resources, and self-government agreements. (EIA)

1.4 Foster the respectful use of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge

The GNWT wishes to be a government that bases its decisions on wisdom, and key to this approach is recognizing and honouring the value of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge. Traditional Knowledge can help the government make decisions about the future, grounded in the experience of the past. The GNWT recognizes that Indigenous Traditional Knowledge does not belong to the government. The GNWT commits to honouring the knowledge holders, guarding against cultural appropriation, and respecting Traditional Knowledge with humility.

GNWT Actions to support 1.4:

- a. The GNWT will develop a Traditional Knowledge (TK) Action Plan. The TK Action Plan will accompany the long-standing TK Policy and framework which will continue to provide GNWT departments with direction on how to effectively, respectfully, and appropriately incorporate TK within GNWT programming and services. (ENR)
- b. The GNWT will continue to implement the Knowledge Agenda: Northern Research for Northern Priorities which recognizes that TK is a critical source of information for decision-making. The Agenda identifies goals for cultural sustainability: 1) to improve our understanding of the impacts of development and climate change on northern cultures; and 2) to improve the preservation and use of cultural practices, TK, and languages. (ENR)
- c. The GNWT's Aboriginal Language and Culture Based Education Directive will continue to incorporate an Indigenous worldview into school curriculum. (ECE)

1.5 Help to revitalize Indigenous languages

Language is an expression of culture. It is a communication tool, but words, nuances and cadence also help people express who they are. As one NWT resident said, “There are things in my soul that can only be expressed in my language. If my language is at risk, then my identity is at risk.” The GNWT recognizes that government can support the revitalization of Indigenous languages and commits to continue working in this area.

GNWT Actions to support 1.5:

- a. The GNWT will continue to advance the *NWT Aboriginal Languages Framework: A Shared Responsibility*, and its Action Plan, supported by the GNWT Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat. (ECE)



1.6 Cultivate a society where all cultures, abilities, gender expressions, and sexual orientations are included

Actions under categories 1.1 to 1.5 are about the GNWT's respect for the Indigenous peoples on whose traditional territories the NWT is situated. The remaining actions associated with Goal 1 involve broader respect for the cultural diversity of all NWT residents. In particular, the actions below make the GNWT an active partner in building an NWT society that values the beautiful mix of unique individuals who live here. Like reconciliation, there is no single recipe for an inclusive society. However, the GNWT acknowledges that it plays a part in supporting this concept. It will continue to strengthen programs and services to ensure they are inclusive, and will work toward removing any systemic barriers over which it has control.

GNWT Actions to support 1.6:

- a. The GNWT will create an action plan called *Building a Culturally Respectful HSS System* which will consider concepts such as cultural safety in healthcare environments. (HSS)
- b. The GNWT will formalize its Diversity and Inclusion Unit, as a separate functional unit, that will lead the development and implementation of new initiatives and programs to promote awareness and support for a diverse and inclusive workforce within the public service. (FIN)
- c. The GNWT's health and social services system will continue to have a guiding principle to "respect human diversity in cultures, sexual orientation, gender identities, and gender expressions". (HSS)

- d. The GNWT will continue to implement recent changes to the *Vital Statistics Act* that provide for the use of single names, based on traditional culture, and the changing of gender designation on a birth certificate to better reflect gender identity, including a third option for residents that do not identify as male or female. (HSS)
- e. The GNWT Advisory Committee on Employability advises the Deputy Ministers' Human Resource Committee on methods to promote, support, and increase the representation of persons with disabilities within the public service, and to foster a spirit of inclusion and awareness among GNWT employees. The GNWT will soon roll out a disability awareness campaign. (FIN)
- f. The GNWT will continue to receive strategic advice from the Indigenous Employee Advisory Committee on strategies and approaches to attracting, recruiting, advancing and retaining Indigenous employees within the GNWT. (FIN)
- g. The GNWT will implement programming that encourages inclusiveness through sport, recreation, and physical activity, such as increasing access to physical activity for seniors. (MACA)
- h. The GNWT will continue to provide assistance to homeowners to make modifications and renovations that increase accessibility for persons with disabilities. (NWTHC)
- i. The GNWT will continue the Inclusive Schooling Directive, which requires education bodies to welcome students of all abilities in a common learning environment and enable teachers to meet the diverse needs of students, including those who experience significant barriers to learning. (ECE)

1.7 Support the settlement of immigrants and other newcomers

The NWT has long been a place where people from across Canada and across the globe come to live. Some stay a short time, while others set down roots and their families stay for generations. The GNWT values this diversity, and is one of many organizations that play an important role in welcoming and helping newcomers to settle into NWT life. In particular, the GNWT works with the federal government to support immigrants, foreign national workers, and refugees.

GNWT Actions to support 1.7:

- a. As part of its *Immigration Strategy 2017 to 2022: Building a Skilled Workforce and a Vibrant Economy*, the GNWT will strengthen partnerships with federal and local agencies who lead the support, settlement, and integration of immigrants and new Canadians. The Business Stream of the Immigration Strategy focuses on diversifying and strengthening the NWT economy. (ECE, ITI)

1.8 Reflect the importance of NWT diversity in GNWT communications, names, and designs

Being mindful of the words, images, names, and designs we use on behalf of the residents of the NWT is an important step in demonstrating the GNWT's respect for diversity. This action calls upon the GNWT to reflect the importance of the NWT's diversity when designing and naming GNWT assets. It also calls upon the GNWT to consider diversity in the words and images it uses in print and online.

GNWT Actions to support 1.8:

- a. The GNWT will continue to use the *Executive Council Guidelines for Selecting Names for Government of the Northwest Territories Owned Office Buildings* which require consideration of culture and heritage. (EIA)
- b. The GNWT will continue to encourage all departments to use images that reflect the value the GNWT places on cultural diversity. The GNWT will also implement its style guide, which reflects cultural diversity considerations. (EIA)

Actions for Goal 2: Culture for Well-Being

Having opportunities to practice one's culture, being rooted in what one values, and understanding the place where one lives brings quality of life. A strong sense of cultural identity has been shown to help individual health and community resiliency. Understanding the value of culture for well-being, healing, recovery, and addressing social issues is an essential consideration when designing government programs.

2.1 Facilitate access to activities that have cultural meaning to residents

The first set of actions that link culture and wellness is about access. Research shows that when people have access to the things and activities that have cultural meaning for them, their overall well-being improves. Making time for meaningful leisure activities is a personal responsibility, yet the GNWT can be a facilitator by providing programs and services that help people participate. Recreation, arts, and parks programming are just a few examples.



GNWT Actions to support 2.1:

- a. The GNWT, along with Tides Canada, administers the On-The-Land Collaborative Fund to support community-led, land based initiatives to promote mental wellness and healing from addictions. GNWT departments pool funding for on-the-land programs so that communities and organizations can access it in a seamless manner. (HSS)
- b. The GNWT supports local sport, recreation, and culture programs through various funding streams. (MACA)
- c. The GNWT's Community Access Program provides assistance to communities to construct and improve local transportation infrastructure including access roads, trails, winter roads, and marine facilities, which could support recreation, culture, and local tourism opportunities. (INF)

2.2 Facilitate learning about the NWT's past and present

Learning about the place where one lives – its history, unique landscapes, colourful stories, and the interesting people that make it special – brings quality of life. This set of actions involves the GNWT providing opportunities for residents to learn about this place, about themselves, and where they fit in the NWT story. It also involves having the GNWT provide opportunities for residents to tell their stories to non-residents such as tourists, other Canadians, and international audiences.



GNWT Actions to support 2.2:

- a. The GNWT will continue the exhibits, archives, programs, and services at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC). It will work towards bringing the PWNHC in line with Canadian museum standards by creating a new visitor services plan, and by considering ways to strengthen its capacity. (ECE)
- b. The GNWT will continue to offer Social Studies and Northern Studies curricula in schools to teach students about the history of the NWT and discuss present-day issues in the NWT and with its diverse peoples. (ECE)
- c. The GNWT provides *Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training* as part of the onboarding process for new employees and this training is available to all employees and to the public online. (FIN)
- d. The GNWT will provide opportunities for residents and visitors to learn about cultural landscapes within the NWT conservation network through interpretive materials, programs, and displays on location in protected areas, as they are established. (ENR)

2.3 Demonstrate the connection between culture, identity, and well-being

Being connected to one's culture and having confidence in one's identity are important building blocks for wellness, particularly for mental health. Under this action, the GNWT will ensure that culture and the exploration of identity underscore its work in areas such as mental health services, addictions rehabilitation, offender services, and work with vulnerable groups.

GNWT Actions to support 2.3:

- a. The GNWT will continue its mental health strategy, *Mind and Spirit: Promoting Mental Health and Addictions Recovery in the NWT*, which focuses heavily on connectedness to culture and community as two of the strongest preventative foundations against mental health crisis and substance abuse. (HSS)
- b. The GNWT will continue to provide activities that reconnect Indigenous offenders in corrections facilities with traditional teachings and activities. There are also opportunities for on-the-land activities for offenders. Additionally, the GNWT gives funding to Community Justice Committees. The work of these Committees links wellness, healing, culture, and reintegration into the community for offenders. (JUS)
- c. The GNWT will develop a new Health and Wellness curriculum for the school system that will help students explore the importance of culture, identity, creativity, and health. (ECE)

2.4 Facilitate the pairing of western wellness approaches and alternative approaches that align with residents' cultural values

Many NWT residents were raised in cultures that use traditional medicines and healing rituals outside of the western medicine model. Also, more than ever, NWT residents are seeking the services of alternative medicine practitioners. This set of actions involves the GNWT considering how best to build bridges between western and alternative medicine so residents feel their values and cultures are respected.

GNWT Actions to support 2.4:

- a. The GNWT will foster relationships between practitioners in the NWT health and social services system and recognized traditional healers and their champions. (HSS)
- b. The GNWT will establish an Indigenous Advisory Body Working Group to provide the health and social services system with guidance on ways to incorporate Indigenous traditional values and healing while ensuring the system is culturally safe and respectful for Indigenous residents. (HSS)
- c. The GNWT will continue to provide the Indigenous Wellness Program at the Stanton Territorial Hospital, which includes interpreter services, a traditional food program, kinship visits, and weekly smudging ceremonies for Indigenous patients and their families. (HSS)

2.5 Support the arts community and artists to create, share, and promote their work

Artists tell stories. Regardless of the genre or medium, artists share what matters most to them, and by observing their work, NWT residents have a new lens through which to consider their own values. It has been said that art is the greatest communicator because it conveys its message through the senses. The GNWT recognizes the importance of artists and their work, and the contribution they make to expressing culture and helping it to evolve.

GNWT Actions to support 2.5:

- a. The GNWT will create a new *NWT Arts Strategy* that articulates the GNWT's values and priorities for the arts. (ECE, ITI)
- b. The GNWT will continue to provide funding and support to artists and arts organizations via various programs, including the NWT Arts Council, other arts funding, the Regional Arts Working Group, and the GNWT Arts Program which promotes arts and fine crafts to local, national and international markets. (ECE, ITI)
- c. The GNWT will look for ways to streamline the various arts funding programs so there are no unintentional gaps and the applications process is as straightforward as possible. (ECE, ITI)
- d. The GNWT will continue to exhibit an ever-changing array of traditional and contemporary art from a broad range of NWT artists at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. (ECE)

2.6 Promote the importance of creativity and play

Culture and heritage can seem focused on the past, but the GNWT recognizes that culture is a living thing and that many aspects of today's way of life will become the heritage of future generations. As such the GNWT recognizes that creativity and play are important to enrich culture and help it evolve. Just as the GNWT supports the arts community and artists, it also recognizes that all residents benefit from creativity, and that play and creativity are intertwined.

GNWT Actions to support 2.6:

- a. The GNWT's early childhood education curriculum for young children is play and creativity-based. (ECE)
- b. The GNWT will continue with its arts and creativity-based school curriculum, including dance, drama, music, and visual arts. There are also optional career and technology studies that heavily encourage creativity. The GNWT's Education Renewal Initiative also promotes creativity and involvement in the arts. (ECE)
- c. The GNWT will continue to support programs for adults and youth that stress the importance of recreation, play, and creativity. (MACA)

Actions for Goal 3: Safeguarding Heritage

The GNWT has responsibilities for safeguarding culture and heritage on behalf of the people of the NWT. This includes preserving objects and records that are historically or otherwise significant, as well as safeguarding cultural places for future generations. The GNWT is also a significant partner in helping communities and individuals to preserve traditional skills, practices, and other intangible heritage.

3.1 Treat the land with respect and foster sustainable land use

NWT residents are connected to the land in a special way. For Indigenous peoples, the land – including the entire natural environment – is part of their identity. For non-Indigenous residents, the natural environment is the backdrop of their lives, and it is part of shaping who they are. The GNWT heard clearly from residents that to safeguard culture and heritage, the GNWT had to treat the land with respect and to use it sustainably.



GNWT Actions to support 3.1:

- a. The GNWT will continue to protect the land by conducting inspections and ensuring compliance with the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act*, the *Northwest Territories Act*, the *Commissioner's Land Act*, the *Waters Act*, the *Wildlife Act*, and proposed protected area legislation. (LANDS, ENR)
- b. The GNWT will continue to undertake multiple environmental monitoring studies, including water quality, valued ecosystems, species at risk, wildlife and wildlife habitat, environmental change, and aquatic ecosystems. (ENR)
- c. The GNWT will continue its Green Light initiative which fosters a corporate culture of environmental excellence in transportation. It includes holding contractors to high environmental standards, and carefully considering climate change impacts. The GNWT works extensively with communities to select routes for all-weather roads, for road maintenance, for airport planning, and for other transportation infrastructure, with the goal of minimizing impacts on traditional activities and areas of cultural importance. (INF)

3.2 Protect archaeological sites and sites that are culturally significant or environmentally sensitive

Some places in the NWT are so important to us and to our lives that they need special protection. The GNWT has a responsibility to protect sites that are culturally important, environmentally sensitive, or which have archaeological significance. The GNWT will continue to play a role, working in collaboration with NWT residents to identify these areas and define how they should be protected.

GNWT Actions to support 3.2:

- a. The GNWT will continue to document, manage, and protect archaeological sites, administer official community and geographic names, and commemorate significant cultural and historical places through the Cultural Places Program. This program also maintains registries of territorial historical sites, archaeological sites, geographic names, and on-the-land Indigenous burial sites. (ECE)
- b. The GNWT will introduce a bill to create a *Heritage Resources Act* to consolidate existing authorities and expand protections to include areas such as palaeontology. (ECE)
- c. Through the development and implementation of the NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework Action Plan, the GNWT will focus on identifying risks and protecting ecosystems; ensuring resilient infrastructure systems; identifying emerging health and safety risks; and protecting culture and heritage from the effects of climate change. (ENR)
- d. The GNWT will continue to work with Indigenous governments, organizations, and communities to identify, plan for, manage, and monitor areas for conservation purposes. (ENR)

3.3 Identify, collect, and conserve objects and records of cultural and historical significance

The GNWT has a role to play in caring for artifacts, documents, digital media, scientific specimens, and objects that hold territorial, historical or cultural significance. This action requires the GNWT to continue to play a role in identifying, collecting, and conserving these items so they can be accessed by NWT residents now and in the future. Having direct access to history in this way provides an extraordinary lens through which to view the NWT's human history and cultural diversity.

GNWT Actions to support 3.3:

- a. The GNWT will continue to identify, manage, conserve, and make accessible collections of art and practical objects, specimens, and archaeological artifacts that have legislated, cultural, or historical significance. The GNWT will also develop a new museum collections strategy, to plan for the acquisition, care, and decommissioning of objects housed at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. (ECE)
- b. The GNWT – through the NWT Archives – will continue to acquire, preserve, and make accessible the archival records of the GNWT, and records of historical significance of private individuals and organizations. The GNWT will also develop a plan to ensure the safe storage of records so the GNWT can meet legislated responsibilities related to archives. (ECE)

3.4 Help NWT residents acknowledge, use, and pass on traditional skills and knowledge

Of all the roles the GNWT can play in safeguarding heritage, perhaps the most important is helping residents to pass on knowledge and skills. Practices, songs, legends, wisdom, skills, and ingenuity that are unique to the NWT are just as much a part of our heritage as artifacts. The GNWT can assist with protecting and preserving intangible heritage by supporting communities, artists, and others to teach and share.

GNWT Actions to support 3.4:

- a. The GNWT will continue to offer programs for youth that provide opportunities to learn and practice traditional Indigenous and local ways. Examples include Take a Kid Trapping, Tundra Science and Cultural Camp, and the NWT Traditional Games Strategy, to name a few. (ENR, MACA)
- b. The GNWT will continue to offer participatory education programs to the public through the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre. This ranges from learning traditional Indigenous skills to understanding other aspects of the NWT. Since 2014, the PWNHC has provided an Artist in Residence program for the public to see and learn about artists' skills. (ECE)

3.5 Establish the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre as a modern museum

The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) is the territorial museum and archives. It plays many critical roles. Beyond caring for historical and culturally important objects and records, the PWNHC's exhibits and programs provide opportunities for all NWT residents to experience culture first-hand. The PWNHC cares for, interprets, and celebrates culture and heritage in the NWT. It makes learning fun and is a place where people can feel safe to discuss contemporary cultural issues and to challenge perceptions. The GNWT will ensure that the PWNHC has adequate facilities and policies to allow it to fulfill its many roles for the benefit of all residents, and for visitors from around the world.

GNWT Actions to support 3.5:

- a. The GNWT will undertake a planning study for a mid-life upgrade to the PWNHC that will ensure it meets modern industry standards. (ECE)
- b. The GNWT will continue to work with communities to ensure future programs and services of the PWNHC align with modern museum practices. (ECE)
- c. The GNWT will examine the feasibility of a revenue generation plan for reinvestment into museum programming. (ECE)

3.6 Research the peoples and history of this place

One of the best ways the GNWT can protect and preserve heritage is to learn more about the history of this place and the people who live here. Research is key to expanding knowledge about the connection between people and places, the ways of life of different cultural groups, and about NWT history. The GNWT recognizes that much of this research must be done collaboratively with communities, while honouring traditional and other ways of knowing. This action requires the GNWT to make culture and heritage research a priority, working in collaboration with NWT residents and other partners.

GNWT Actions to support 3.6:

- a. The GNWT will continue culture and heritage research in anthropology, archaeology, exhibit development, archives, and collections, working closely with communities. The GNWT will also continue to work with universities in various capacities including hosting and supervising graduate students; having PWNHC staff hold adjunct professorship positions; participating in large research projects; and co-authoring academic papers. (ECE)



Actions for Goal 4: Culture as an Investment

The GNWT actively promotes and supports culture and heritage activities that bring economic diversification and revenue to the NWT.

4.1 Build harvesting industries

People have harvested hide, fur, food, and fuel in the NWT for thousands of years. Harvesting is both a traditional Indigenous activity and a historically significant activity for many residents. Under this category, the GNWT will support and promote industries that involve the harvesting and sale of natural and renewable resources.

GNWT Actions to support 4.1:

- a. The GNWT will continue with the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur program, which provides a one-window access to the international fur auction market for NWT-harvested furs. The program also helps market, promote, fund, and acknowledge NWT trappers. (ITI)
- b. The GNWT will continue to implement the *Strategy for Revitalizing the Great Slave Lake Commercial Fishery*, which promotes the economic value of this traditional and historically thriving sector. (ITI)
- c. The GNWT will continue to work towards an NWT Energy Strategy which refers to – among other things – developing the wood pellet industry. It is estimated that 20% of non-industrial heating needs are met by biomass such as cord wood or pellets. The Energy Strategy sets a target of increasing the percentage of heating based on renewable energy to 40%. (INF)
- d. The GNWT will continue to support the sustainable harvest of timber and non-timber forest products under the *Forest Management Act*. (ENR)

4.2 Promote the economic value of the arts

Earlier we acknowledged the importance of the arts for well-being and cultural expression. This set of actions recognizes that there is also economic value in the arts and performance. Statistics Canada tells us that approximately 7% of the NWT's gross domestic product is related to culture and the arts, and this number has the potential to increase. The GNWT will support and promote various types of arts industries including film, art and craft product sales, various cultural events, performances, and festivals.

GNWT Actions to support 4.2:

- a. The GNWT will continue to fund the *NWT Arts Program* which promotes and invests in the arts, bringing them to national and international markets. This includes a visual identity program to identify made-in-the-NWT products, workshops, and the Regional Arts Working Group. (ITI)
- b. The GNWT will continue to provide funding on an application basis to artists, performance groups, and others through the NWT Arts Council and other arts-related funding programs. (ECE, ITI)
- c. The GNWT will continue with the *Take One: NWT Film Strategy and Action Plan* and the GNWT Film Commission to support, promote, and invest in the film industry. (ITI)

4.3 Build NWT culture and heritage aspects of tourism

People are curious about the NWT – the spectacular natural landscape, how people live their lives, and the incredible degree of cultural and natural diversity here. Culture and heritage are essential aspects of tourism. The GNWT acknowledges the market value of museums, heritage centres, and cultural events as draws for visitors, as well as the importance of working with Indigenous communities to harness global interest in Indigenous ways of life. In so doing, tourism does more than bring income to NWT communities, it showcases the NWT to the world.

GNWT Actions to support 4.3:

- a. The GNWT will continue to implement *Tourism 2020: Opening our Spectacular Home to the World* which attracts visitors and revenue to the NWT by sharing aspects of NWT cultures and history, and connecting visitors to cultural and traditional practices. The Aboriginal Tourism Champions Program is designed to develop, expand, and improve authentic Indigenous tourism products and initiatives. (ITI)
- b. The GNWT will promote the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and other museums, heritage centres, art galleries, and cultural centres as viable tourism destinations. (ECE)



Actions for Goal 5: Supporting the Culture and Heritage Efforts of Residents

Strong relationships between the GNWT, Indigenous governments, and other culture and heritage stakeholders are essential to ensuring the vital exchange of ideas about culture and heritage.

5.1 Work with community museums and heritage centres

Museums and heritage centres throughout the NWT provide opportunities for local people and visitors to gain a better understanding of the NWT's past and about the contemporary peoples and practices that exist here. The GNWT recognizes that culture and heritage organizations play a key role in their respective regions and communities.

GNWT Actions to support 5.1:

- a. The GNWT will continue its strong relationships with museums, heritage centres, and cultural centres across the NWT, providing funding, support, and expertise to them. The GNWT will do a study to determine whether GNWT programs are adequately serving the needs of these organizations. (ECE)



5.2 Build relationships with those involved in culture and heritage

Keeping culture and heritage as a priority for government involves building relationships with those who are doing the same. For this action, the GNWT will continue to nurture its relationships with community groups, governments, organizations, researchers, and others stakeholders.

GNWT Actions to support 5.2:

- a. The GNWT will continue to support community groups and individuals to create exhibits that showcase aspects of their cultures at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC). (ECE)
- b. The GNWT will continue its strong relationship with federal/provincial/territorial counterparts in culture and heritage. The GNWT is also a member of various museum and archives organizations and professional associations. (ECE)
- c. The GNWT will continue to create PWNHC exhibits collaboratively, working closely with communities to ensure they are part of the process and they are represented in respectful ways. (ECE)





TRACKING AND COMMUNICATING PROGRESS

Introduction

The GNWT will track its progress over the four-year lifespan of this Action Plan, checking regularly whether its work is advancing the Framework's goals. As well, ECE will actively promote and build momentum for the Action Plan and its purpose. At the end of the four-year period, the GNWT will assess whether this Action Plan has achieved the expected results. At that time, the GNWT will reflect on the lessons it has learned and will use those lessons to build a new, multi-year action plan to maintain momentum beyond 2022.

Details about tracking implementation and results and about communicating progress will be available in a separate monitoring and evaluation document. ECE expects to have this document available in 2019.

Tracking Implementation

With the help of all departments, ECE will track the implementation of the Action Plan, so adjustments can be made if necessary. This will be done annually and it will include determining:

- Whether the GNWT is working on each of the actions and, if not, what is actually occurring
- Whether changes to the actions are required and why

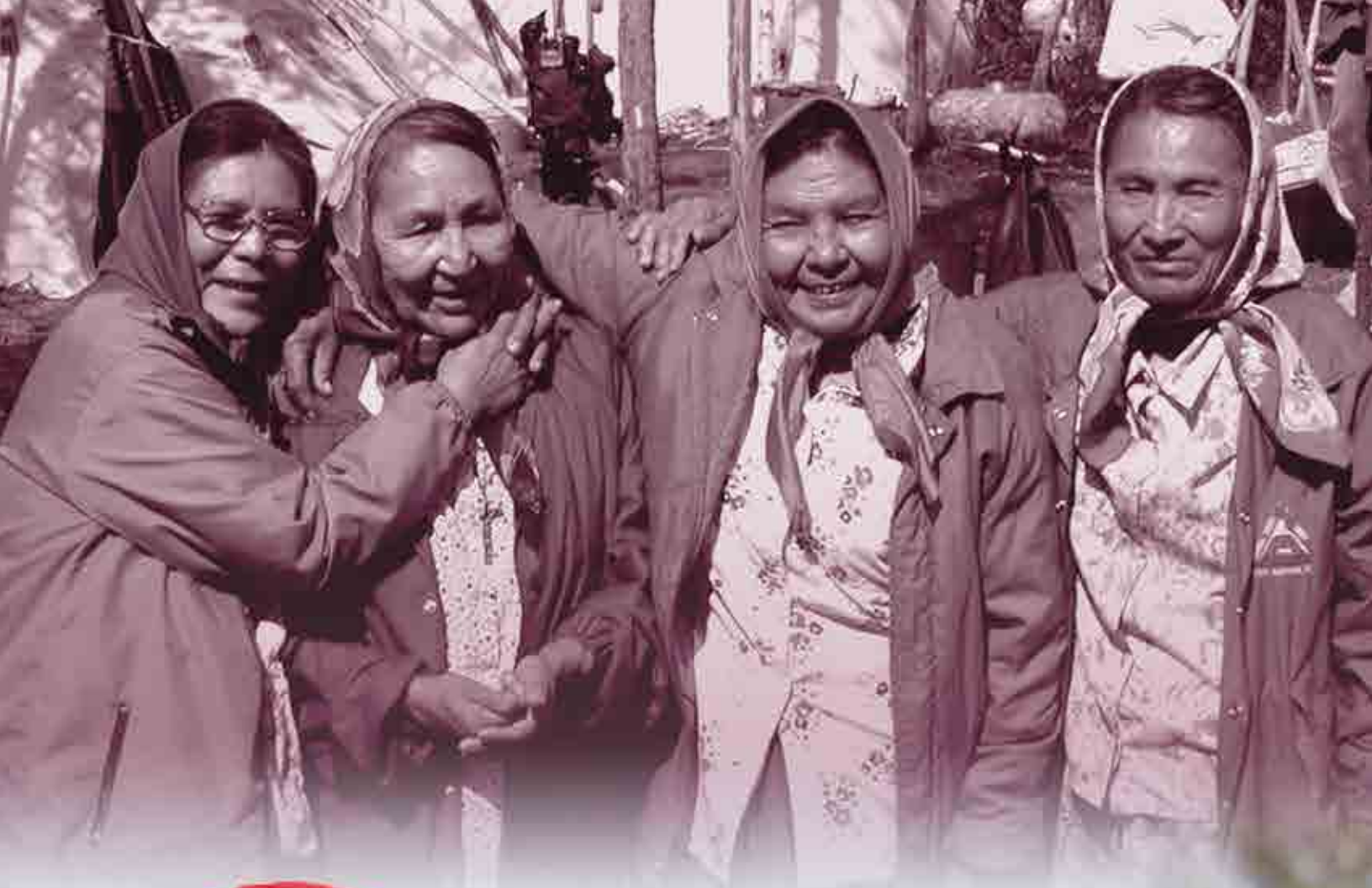
Tracking Results

ECE, with the help of all departments, will collect data that will help the GNWT assess what results the Action Plan has achieved. Data will be collected regularly, but the assessment of final results will occur once, near the end of year four. The assessment will help the GNWT identify lessons it can use for the next Action Plan. Generally this will include finding out:

- Whether the Action Plan achieved the expected results and, if not, what was achieved
- What the GNWT has learned about undertaking a Framework and Action Plan of this nature

Communicating Progress

The GNWT will communicate internally and with the public about how the Action Plan is being implemented and what results have been achieved. A communications/reporting plan will be outlined in the aforementioned separate monitoring and evaluation document.



CLOSING THOUGHTS

“When we are connected to culture and heritage, we use our knowledge of the past, in the context of the present, to make wise choices for the future.” These words, from the Culture and Heritage Strategic Framework, remind us of how vital culture and heritage are to our lives, our communities, and our society.

The GNWT can honour these words in many ways – by protecting heritage, supporting art and artists, demonstrating respect for this place and its original peoples, respecting the land, and supporting immigrants and other newcomers. The actions contained in this document will assist individuals and communities to tap into culture and heritage in ways that are meaningful to them.



