

WORKING TOGETHER

AN ACTION PLAN
TO REDUCE AND ELIMINATE POVERTY
IN THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES





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ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S MESSAGE

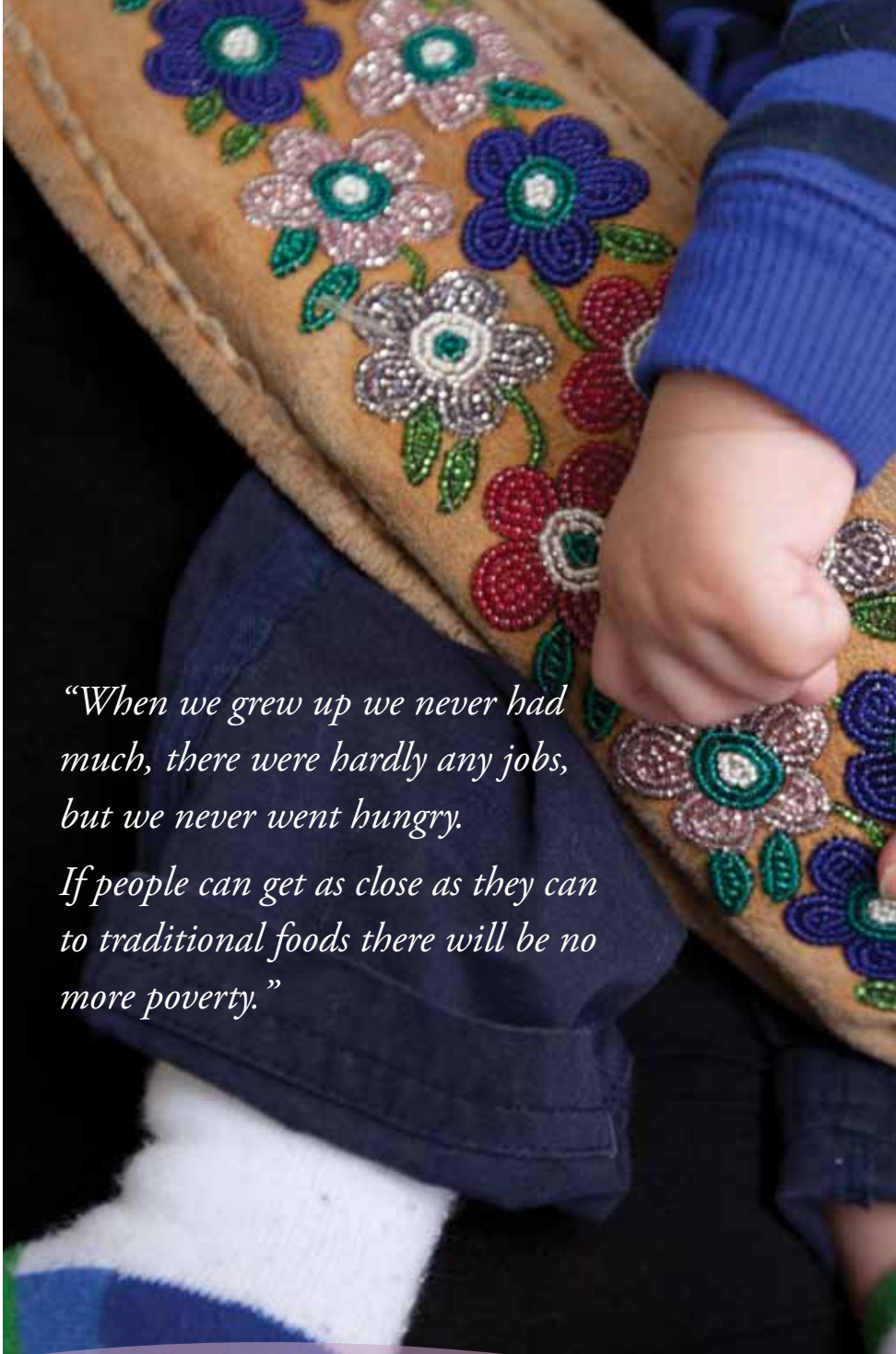
This Action Plan is the result of five years of planning and consultation, involving hundreds of NWT residents who have contributed their expertise, experience, ideas and recommendations. This plan builds on *Building on the Strengths of Northerners: A Strategic Framework Toward the Elimination of Poverty in the NWT*, tabled in June 2013. This plan is different from the GNWT's own anti-poverty action plan tabled in February 2014. While there is significant overlap in priorities, this Plan has a broader scope and some distinct differences in focus.

There are many people, from many sectors, both paid and volunteer, in communities across the NWT working to reduce and eliminate poverty right now. They are involved in addressing the causes of poverty and they are moving us toward a future where everyone has what they need to live in dignity. We hope this Action Plan will provide direction for all of us to coordinate and focus our efforts.

This document is a living document. As action is taken on current priorities, new actions and priorities will move to the forefront. We look forward to annual consultations that will enable people to review the progress made territorially, regionally and locally on poverty reduction and elimination, and plan the way forward. Implementation of the plan along with consultation is key to its success.

In closing we would like to recognize our former colleague and friend, Chief Minnie Letcher, our Committee Co-Chair, whose sudden death last year left an irreparable hole. This Action Plan is dedicated to her memory.

Julie Green, Mark Heyck, Bob Simpson, Bronwyn Watters



“When we grew up we never had much, there were hardly any jobs, but we never went hungry.

If people can get as close as they can to traditional foods there will be no more poverty.”



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

In June 2013, with the tabling of Building on the Strengths of Northerners, I committed to the development of a multi-stakeholder Territorial Action Plan to tackle poverty in the Northwest Territories. This document - *Working Together, A Territorial Action Plan to Reduce and Eliminate Poverty in the NWT* - is the realization of that commitment.

This living document will help all of us work together to ensure our actions have the maximum impact on tackling poverty across the Northwest Territories. It is just a start. As our efforts evolve so will this Action Plan. I invite each of you to take the challenge of contributing to the Action Plan by completing the section on "What My Community is Doing" and submitting it by e-mail to TAPAP@gov.nt.ca.

I would like to thank everyone who has contributed to the development of this document: the many people across the North who participated in consultations, delegates at the two Round Tables, and particularly the members of the Ministerial Anti-Poverty Advisory Committee for their hard work in leading the development of this Plan. The perspectives, knowledge, passion and commitment of everyone who participated were instrumental in the creation of the Action Plan, and will be critical to its implementation.

This Plan is just a beginning, but I am confident that, working together we can begin to truly make a difference to improve the quality of life of residents of the NWT in need.

Glen Abernethy

Chair of the Social Envelope Committee of Cabinet

Government of the Northwest Territories

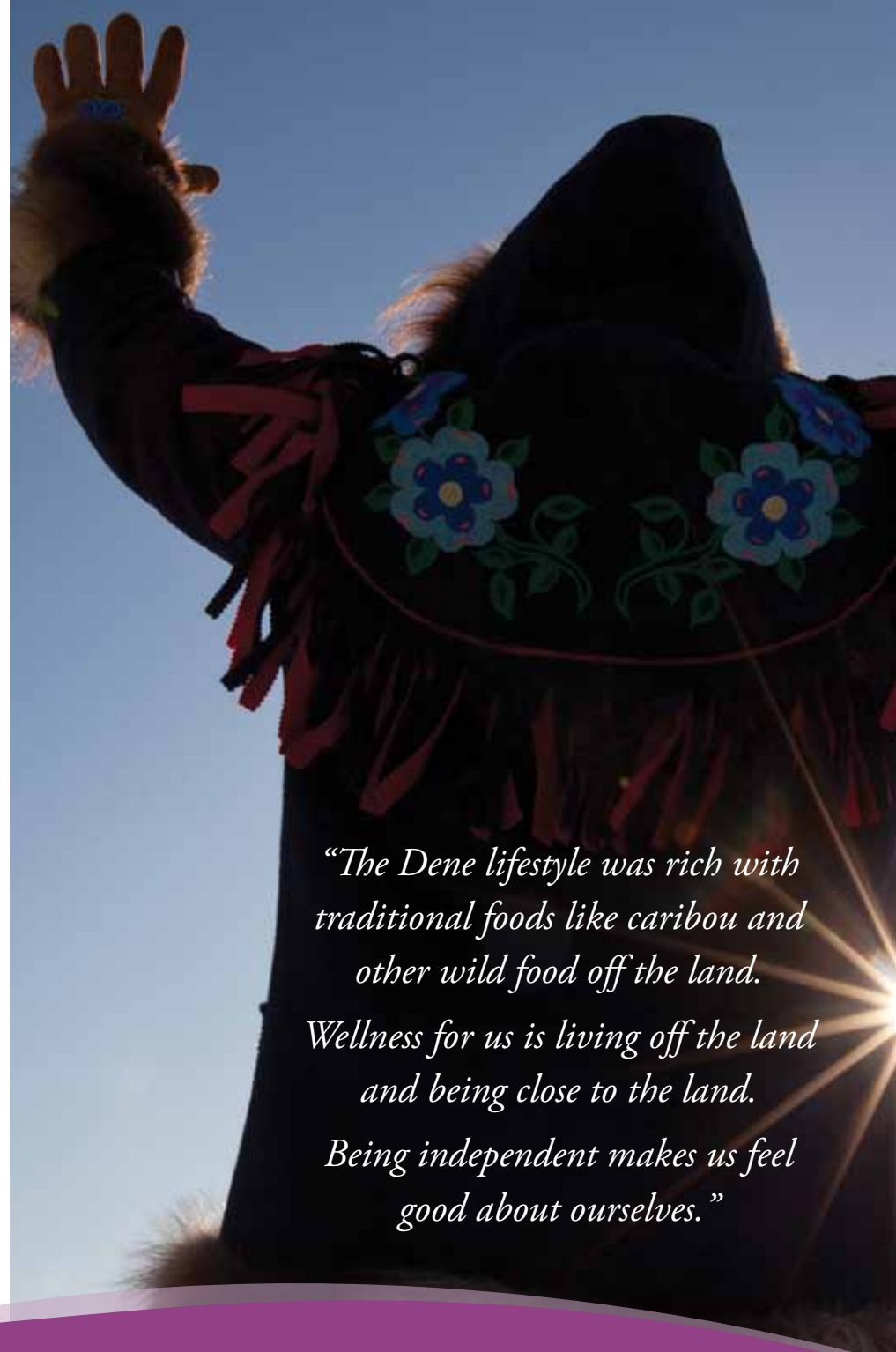
HOW DID WE GET HERE

In 2013, *Building on the Strengths of Northerners; A Strategic Framework towards the Elimination of Poverty in the NWT* was released. This Strategic Framework was the outcome of many years of work, starting in 2010 and involving stakeholders from all communities across the Northwest Territories (NWT). As suggested in its title, this document identified a vision for a future NWT free from poverty, principles to guide the work, and five pillars, or priorities for action, each with a clear goal. It also provided examples of activities already underway, identified areas for improvement and suggested some ways we might reach our goals. However, it stopped short of providing a more comprehensive plan for action.

Since the release of the Strategic Framework, significant activity continued, including:

- October 2013:** Targeting Poverty workshop hosted by the “No Place for Poverty” coalition
- November 2013:** 1st Territorial Round Table hosted by GNWT
Publication of Anti-Poverty Charter
- February 2014:** Release of GNWT Anti-Poverty Action Plan
- March 2014:** Anti-Poverty Ministerial Advisory Committee established
- April 2014:** Anti-Poverty Fund (\$500K) established
- August 2014:** Approval of funding for 14 Anti-Poverty proposals by NGOs, Aboriginal governments, and municipalities for 2014-15
- December 2014:** 2nd Annual Territorial Anti-Poverty Round Table
- April 2015:** Approval of funding for 15 Anti-Poverty proposals for 2015-16

These activities have focused on moving from the Strategic Framework to a comprehensive plan for action.



“The Dene lifestyle was rich with traditional foods like caribou and other wild food off the land.

Wellness for us is living off the land and being close to the land.

Being independent makes us feel good about ourselves.”



TERRITORIAL ANTI-POVERTY ACTION PLAN

Overview

Based on the five pillars and goals outlined in *Building on the Strengths of Northerners*, the NWT Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework, this Action Plan has been developed by the Ministerial Advisory Committee through broad, cross-sector consultation. It reflects input from communities across the NWT, all levels of government, non-government organizations and the private sector. This plan is intended to be a living document that will change and grow as conditions in the NWT change, as individual needs and priorities develop, and as objectives are achieved or modified. The annual Round Tables are essential to this work as well as developing regional and community action plans.

This Action Plan outlines the highest priority actions identified during five years of consultations with NWT residents, concluding with the 2014 Round Table. Each action in the plan contains a brief description of work required, the issue to be addressed, the partners who need to lead the work, the expected outcomes, the timing of the work, and whether work has already started. The Advisory Committee has identified actions based on three levels of priority. “Immediate” reflects action that needs to be undertaken in the short-term; “Three years” is medium-term timing where actions may take up to three years to implement; longer term actions that require substantial development of partnerships and resources are identified as “more than three years” or “long-term”.

Each action needs resources and partnerships to be realized. Short-term actions may require an adjustment of government policy and/or a modest investment. In others the actions are medium-term and require a greater investment. The long-term actions require significant resources to complete.

The reduction and elimination of poverty requires sustained effort and investment by all levels of government (federal, territorial, municipal, aboriginal). The territorial government has a unique leadership role in reducing and eliminating poverty because it provides health, social services, education, housing and economic development to all NWT residents. For some actions, it makes sense for government to establish partnerships with other levels of government, non-profit organizations (NGOs), business and foundations to find the necessary resources to reduce and eliminate poverty.

This partnership approach has been piloted by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) with its \$500,000 Anti-Poverty Fund. The GNWT funded 14 projects in communities across the NWT in 2014/15 and will fund 15 in 2015/16. Aboriginal governments, local governments and NGOs supplemented their grants with cash and in-kind contributions. While the dollar amounts were small, this kind of partnership is a model for future direct spending on Anti-Poverty initiatives. The projects supported by the Anti-Poverty Fund are located at the end of each pillar. They supplement GNWT investments of \$7.8 million in 2014-2015 and additional spending in the 2015/16 budget.

An important component of the work to combat poverty in the NWT has been the development and implementation of Community Wellness Plans. The major themes in these plans: Celebrate Culture; Focus on Family; Healthy Living; Mental Health and Addictions; and Build Community Capacity fit well within four of the Anti-Poverty Pillars: Children and Family Support; Healthy Living and Reaching Our Potential; Sustainable Communities; and

“Leaders need to work together to conquer poverty. Healing is a key to reaching one’s own potential in life or to succeed and to conquer poverty in the Northwest Territory including the world.”



Integrated Continuum of Services. The remaining Pillar of Safe and Affordable Housing is primarily the responsibility of government, so, while critically important and formidably expensive, it was not generally reflected in the Wellness Plans. Although the activities identified in the Wellness Plans are not duplicated here, they are a vital part of the work towards a “Poverty Free NWT”.

The commitment to holding an annual Round Table, at which communities and organizations will be able to report on progress made during the past year and identify actions or commitments for the coming year, is important to ensure continuing input from, and support for, communities and organizations. Following each round table, a progress report will be issued and the Action Plan will be reviewed and updated so that it continues to reflect the needs of NWT residents through changing circumstances.

Perhaps the most important element of this Action Plan is the last section: “What my Community/Organization is Doing”. If this Action Plan is to truly be a living document, continual input from communities and organizations across the NWT is essential and will help ensure we continue to move towards realizing our collective vision where “Northerners will have access to the supports they need to live in dignity and free from poverty, as active participants in community life”.

The entire Action Plan is built on the Vision, Principles for Action and five Pillars, or Priorities, identified in *Building on the Strengths of Northerners: A Strategic Framework toward the Elimination of Poverty in the NWT*.

*** all quotes are from participants at the Second Annual Anti-Poverty Round Table, December 2014.*



OUR VISION

Building on the strengths of our people and communities, we envision a future where Northerners have access to the supports they need to live in dignity, free from poverty, as active participants in community life.

PRINCIPLES FOR ACTION

Respect and equality are essential to anti-poverty work

People are our most important resource

How we do things is as important as what we do

THE FIVE PILLARS

Children and Family Support

Goal: Children and families lead healthy lives free from poverty in a safe and nurturing environment.

Healthy Living and Reaching Our Potential

Goal: NWT residents have access to the supports they need for healthy living and reaching their full potential.

Safe and Affordable Housing

Goal: Everyone has a roof over their head and a safe and affordable place to call home.

Sustainable Communities

Goal: Sustainable communities managing their resources based on current need while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations.

Integrated Continuum of Services

Goal: NWT residents receive a continuum of integrated services according to their needs.

COMMUNITY WELLNESS ACTIVITIES

Communities across the NWT have developed Wellness Plans that address the specific needs and aspirations of their residents. While not specific to the Anti-Poverty Framework, the activities included in these plans do directly address the causes and symptoms of poverty.

The chart below summarizes the Community Wellness activities grouped within five overarching themes, all of which relate to the five Pillars of the Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework and Action Plan.

NWT Community Wellness Priorities - Overarching Themes

CELEBRATE CULTURE	FOCUS ON FAMILY	HEALTHY LIVING	MENTAL HEALTH & ADDICTIONS	BUILD COMMUNITY CAPACITY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Traditional Knowledge & Skills • Connection to the Land • Language • Intergenerational Programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healthy Youth • Healthy Pregnancy & New Parents • Early Childhood Development Programming • Youth Future Planning • Family Planning • Parenting Skills • Breastfeeding Support • Supporting Elders • Family Violence Prevention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eat Good Food – Nutritious Store Bought and Traditional Foods • Get Active • Opportunities for Recreation • Sexual Health • Preventing Disease and Injury 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Healing • Substance Abuse • Addictions • Counseling • Self-esteem • Bullying • Self-care • Connection to the Land • Effective prevention, treatment, aftercare & reintegration programming 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Engaging and Educating Community • Communicating and Collaborating Effectively • Improving Program Delivery

Pillar 1: Children and Family Support

Goal: Children and families lead healthy lives free from poverty in a safe, nurturing environment.

Rationale: Our children deserve to grow up in a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment. Children with a good start in life are less likely to fall behind in school, get into trouble with the law, depend on social services, live in poverty, or have issues with addictions. It is everyone's responsibility to break the cycle of poverty by strengthening families' ability to meet the needs of their children and by strengthening communities' ability to meet the needs of their families. *(Building on the Strengths of Northerners, p 23, edited)*

TERRITORIAL PRIORITIES

ACTION	ISSUE	PARTNERS	OUTCOME	TIMING	WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY
Expand pre- and post-natal programs	Child development needs more support in the early years for better outcomes	GNWT	Better health and development opportunities for infants in every community, improved referrals to health professionals, and enhanced knowledge and skills for early childhood workers and parents	Immediate	Budgets 2014 and 2015 committed \$1.5 million for community based programs that offer nutrition support, education and training and \$1.4M in new funding to expand midwifery services to Hay River and the Beaufort Delta Region
Implement and fund quality, affordable, accessible early childhood programs in every NWT community	Early childhood programming is not widely available, especially in the small communities	GNWT	Increased support for skill and literacy development in preparation for school	Immediate	Budget 2014 committed \$2M to implement the ECD Action Plan
Review subsidies paid to child care providers	Licensed child care centres are hard to sustain because government pays per child per day of attendance	GNWT- Education, Culture and Employment (ECE)	Licensed child care centres are sustainable because they have predictable funding that's not tied to daily attendance	Three years	Full Day Care review underway, including subsidies to Day Care providers
Increase training and salaries for child care workers	Equip child care workers to provide better early childhood development	Licensed child care providers	Better training creates better outcomes for children; better pay encourages workers to make child care a career	Immediate	Budget 2014 provided \$511,000 to increase the number of qualified professionals in licensed programs. Budget 2015 allocated another \$391,000 to this priority
Expand the number of day care and school-based healthy eating programs	Child hunger is a widespread problem in the north	NGOs	Children who are not hungry are more likely to realize their full potential	Immediate	Budget 2014 and 2015 committed \$1 million for food for children and youth through ECD, school and after-school programs; Budget 2015 committed \$1.7 million to increasing the food allocation in the income assistance program

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

NAME OF PROJECT AND SPONSOR	COMMUNITY	PURPOSE	FUNDING SOURCE
Growing Gameti's Wellness; Community Government of Gameti	Gameti	<i>Providing nutritional foods, education and counselling for mothers and pregnant women in the community</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2014
Traditional Moose Hide Tanning; Sambaa K'e Dene Band	Trout Lake	<i>Teach young women the traditional way of fixing moose hide (and provide an alternative educational environment through positive interaction and hands on experience outdoors during the summer)</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2014
Inuvik Community Kitchen Program; East Three Secondary School	Inuvik	<i>Through the Inuvik Community Kitchen Program regularly host healthy cooking sessions at the East Three Secondary School Kitchens</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2014
Youth Employment Pilot Project Side Door Resource Centre for Youth	Yellowknife	<i>Provide opportunity for youth to obtain long-term, meaningful training and employment opportunities</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2015
Northern Youth Boys Leadership Canoe Trip Tides Canada Initiatives Society – Northern Youth Leadership	Yellowknife	<i>Provide culturally relevant camp experience for young men to develop leadership potential as well as practical outdoor and tradition skills</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2015

Pillar 2: Healthy Living and Reaching our Potential

Goal: NWT residents have access to the supports they need for healthy living and reaching their full potential.

Rationale: Poverty profoundly affects one's ability to both achieve and maintain good mental and physical health. Promoting healthy living to reduce poverty and ensure everyone has what they need to reach their full potential requires action on a variety of fronts, including nutritious food, literacy and education, and addiction prevention and treatment. (Building on the Strengths of Northerners, p. 27, edited)

TERRITORIAL PRIORITIES

ACTION	ISSUE	PARTNERS	OUTCOME	TIMING	WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY
GNWT residents have predictable and consistent access to mental health and addictions services at the community level	Mental health services do not exist in most communities	GNWT	People have timely access to mental health services in their communities	Immediate	Budget 2014 committed \$1.4 million to support mental health and address addictions including \$900,000 for on the land treatment, bringing the total budget for mental health and addictions programs to more than \$15 million
Provide nutritious food to elders through lunch and community-based food sharing programs	Elders don't have access to enough affordable and nutritious food	GNWT NGOs	Elders have nutritious and/or traditional food to eat	Three years	Some communities help elders through community hunts or soup kitchens or operate day programs for elders and senior that include meals
Make grade school education more relevant and better funded	NWT student achievement and graduation rates need improvement	GNWT-ECE	Improve student attendance and performance and increase high school graduation	More than three years	The Education Renewal Initiative has an objective to make school relevant to learners
Expand Student Financial Assistance	SFA is not available for short-term or upgrading programs	GNWT-ECE	More NWT residents are better educated	Three years	

TERRITORIAL PRIORITIES (Continued)

ACTION	ISSUE	PARTNERS	OUTCOME	TIMING	WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY
A cohesive approach with more opportunities and partnerships for pre-employment training, life skills, financial skills and literacy development will be available throughout the NWT	People who want to work don't have the relevant skills	GNWT Government of Canada (Canada) NGOs Business	People have the skills they need to obtain and keep employment	Three years	Skills for Success framework will be tabled in Fall, 2015, with an Action Plan tabled in winter 2015/16 to address skill gap and training opportunities linked to Labour Market needs
Expand programs for youth, including mentoring	Youth programming is insufficient	GNWT NGOs	Mentoring relationships contribute to children's success	Immediate	Budget 2014 and 2015 committed \$129,000 to a youth officer in Behchoko and \$500,000 to a child and youth resiliency program
Support the implementation of Community Wellness Plans	Communities have articulated their wellness needs in locally-developed plans	Canada GNWT Aboriginal government	Communities experience greater wellness according to their own definition of wellness	Immediate	Budget 2014 and 2015 committed \$5.5 million in 3rd party (Canada) funding to the Community Wellness Initiative

“Poverty is not a stand-alone issue. The whole issue touches people’s lives - each part of their lives. It talks about mental wellness - food security – homelessness - health and wellbeing”

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

NAME OF PROJECT AND SPONSOR	COMMUNITY	PURPOSE	FUNDING SOURCE
Healthy Living; Pehdzeh Ki First Nation	Wrigley	<i>Use nutritional foods to inform members about healthy living and eating lifestyles</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2014
Community Soup Kitchen; Liidlii Kue First Nation	Fort Simpson	<i>Enhance the existing community Soup Kitchen program in Fort Simpson – from 2 to 3 days a week and offer safe environment for homeless people</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2014 and 2015
Inuvik Emergency Warming Centre; Inuvik Inter-Agency Committee	Inuvik	<i>Create a community coordinator position that will provide tangible services at the community level i.e. basic health care, counselling and Life-Skills training (based in the Inuvik Emergency Warming Centre) - with the ultimate goal of improving the social outcomes for the client</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2014
Tetlit Zheh Anti-Poverty Project 2014/2015; Designated Gwich'in Organization	Fort McPherson	<i>Seek funding to promote healthy living through traditional teaching</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2014
Dress to Impress / L'Habit Fait L'Emploi; CDETNO	Yellowknife	<i>Provide professional business clothing to jobseekers who have secured a job interview or new employment; clothing to include items such as construction boots, and nursing scrubs and shoes</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2014 and 2015
Taste Makers Nutrition Education Program; Food First Foundation	Yellowknife	<i>Offer a nutrition education program in all elementary schools across the NWT providing teacher's manuals, student manuals and a budget for food costs for the cooking lessons per school</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2014

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (Continued)

NAME OF PROJECT AND SPONSOR	COMMUNITY	PURPOSE	FUNDING SOURCE
Life-Skills, Employment Action Program 2014-2015 (LEAP); Hay River Council for Persons with Disabilities (HRCPD)	Hay River	<i>Enhance the current program the HRCPD offers to its clients in Hay River by –</i> a) <i>expanding the skills training for services in the hospitality industry (kitchen and meal prep), landscaping, snow-removal, general labour, administration;</i> b) <i>increasing training in self-employment opportunities; and</i> c) <i>teaching clients how to grow and harvest their own food</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2014 and 2015
Better Food, Better Outcomes; YWCA (Yellowknife)	Yellowknife	<i>Address the shortage of protein in tenants' diets at Rockhill Apartments by increasing the number of cooking classes offered to twice a week and expand program to Lynn's Place</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2014 and 2015
Food Banks	Various	<i>To help provide basic food items to those in need</i>	Largely dependent on volunteer labour and contributions
Food Rescue Programs	Norman Wells, Yellowknife	<i>Redistribution of food that would otherwise go to waste to those in need</i>	Local restaurants/stores; volunteer labour
Food Rescue Pick-Up and Distribution Program; Food Rescue	Yellowknife	<i>Enhance and stabilize already successful program through provision of a paid driver to allow volunteers to focus on food reclamation and packaging</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2015 Volunteer labour and donations (above)
Community Soup Kitchen; Sambaa K'e Dene Band	Trout Lake	<i>Hold community soup kitchen twice a week for individuals and families at risk for homelessness</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2015
Taste Makers Nutrition Education Program; Food First Foundation	Yellowknife All NWT Communities	<i>Expand nutrition education program to be delivered in all 49 elementary schools across the NWT</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty fund 2015

Pillar 3: Safe and Affordable Housing

Goal: Everyone has a roof over their head and a safe and affordable place to call home.

Rationale: The provision of shelter is pivotal to the long-term well-being of NWT residents and communities, yet the housing continuum is frail in most communities. There are few options available to move people from homelessness to a permanent housing. As well, housing in large communities is often unaffordable for people on low-income. Waiting lists for low-cost options are lengthy. Relatively simple actions will make better use of existing housing stock but the need remains for new housing in most communities.

TERRITORIAL PRIORITIES

ACTION	ISSUE	PARTNERS	OUTCOME	TIMING	WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY
Pilot the Housing First approach for homeless people	A significant number of people are chronically homeless or are hard to house because of addictions and mental health issues	GNWT Canada NGOs	Homeless and hard to house people have a place to live, with supports Emergency shelter use is reduced.	Immediate	Yellowknife Community Advisory Board is introducing Housing First (HF) in 2015.with Federal Homelessness Partnering Strategy funds GNWT committed \$150,000 in 2015-16 to support a pilot of the HF Model. Budget 2014 GNWT committed \$150,000 in on-going funding to support the Yellowknife Day Shelter and day shelter programming in Inuvik, bringing the total HSS investment in the YK Day Shelter to \$250,000 annually Established the \$100,000 Shelter Capital fund to support repairs for existing shelters
Strengthen transitional housing to provide people with support and skills to stabilize housing and move into public or private market	There is not enough supported housing for people who are at risk of becoming homeless and waiting lists for existing units are long	GNWT NGOs	Transitional housing is more readily available	More than three years	GNWT committed \$680,000 to pilot transitional housing in four smaller communities for “hard to house” Lynn’s Place constructed and opened

TERRITORIAL PRIORITIES (Continued)

ACTION	ISSUE	PARTNERS	OUTCOME	TIMING	WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY
Convert existing vacant houses to increase number of houses available	Some communities have vacant houses that are empty while families live in overcrowded conditions or in houses in need of major repair	GNWT	All empty houses in good condition are being used	Immediate	<p>\$10M invested over two years to improve the quality of public housing</p> <p>35 new public housing units added in small NWT communities</p> <p>\$22M invested to add 100 rental units in smaller communities</p> <p>75 public housing units being added to support long-term income assistance clients currently in market rentals</p> <p>Where appropriate surplus units being provided to communities</p>
Housing associations increase their engagement with their tenants to help them remain housed	Work with tenants before they go into arrears and face eviction	GNWT Local Housing Organizations (LHOs)	People remain housed	Immediate	<p>All public housing tenants are provided an opportunity to enter into a re-payment plan prior to eviction</p> <p>New Collection Strategy attempts to ensure arrears are addressed before they get too large</p>
Provide incentives to increase the stock of affordable housing in market communities	Housing is unaffordable for many working families, especially in Yellowknife	GNWT Municipal Government (Municipalities)	People are able to rent appropriate accommodation for 30% of their gross income.	Immediate	GNWT provides rent supplement program to qualified applicants of up to \$500/mo for 2 years. Program is on-going
Reduce number of houses in need of major repairs with local resources	There are few people with appropriate skills to undertake repairs, especially in the small communities	GNWT LHOs	Number of houses in core need of repair is reduced; local skills are increased	Immediate	GNWT made changes to repair programs to improve accessibility

TERRITORIAL PRIORITIES (Continued)

ACTION	ISSUE	PARTNERS	OUTCOME	TIMING	WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY
Incentives will be increased to enable seniors to stay in their own homes	Demand for housing for seniors outstrips supply	GNWT	Seniors are appropriately housed according to their needs	Three years	GNWT has committed about \$19M for five new independent housing complexes for seniors Introduced new repair program targeted at seniors needing repairs to address mobility or other limitations
Shelter programs and advice will be available to young people	Shelter services for youth are inadequate	Health Authorities & Social Services	Homeless youth have safe and appropriate supported housing options	Three years	
Introduce legislation to limit rent increases by unit, per year	Market housing rent, especially in Yellowknife, continues to increase despite decreased demand	GNWT	Rental increases are reasonable and predictable	Three years	

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

NAME OF PROJECT AND SPONSOR	COMMUNITY	PURPOSE	FUNDING SOURCE
Housing First City of Yellowknife / Habitat for Humanity	Yellowknife	To provide permanent housing for those in need	Federal Government; City of Yellowknife; volunteers
Inuvik Warming Centre	Inuvik	To provide specialized shelter and supportive services to homeless or near-homeless persons in Inuvik who are unable to access existing services	GNWT; \$75,000

Pillar 4: Sustainable Communities

Goal: Sustainable communities managing their resources based on current need while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations.

Rationale: Reducing poverty by increasing community sustainability requires different levels of governments to work closely together. Communities need help to access local sources of fresh food and ensure future generations have the skills to feed their families. They require local and less expensive sources of heat and energy. Communities also require help to reduce barriers to employment in the wage economy, as well as strengthening the economic opportunities of the traditional economy. Making communities sustainable reaches beyond helping people find paid employment to strengthening existing skills and assets.

TERRITORIAL PRIORITIES

ACTION	ISSUE	PARTNERS	OUTCOME	TIMING	WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY
Review food freight subsidy programs	High costs limits access to nutritious food	Canada	People in all communities can afford healthy, nutritious food	Immediate	Nutrition North program is being reviewed
Increase the local production of food	Fresh food is unaffordable in many communities	GNWT Canada Territorial Farmers' Association	Communities have a seasonal, local supply of fresh food as an alternative to more expensive, store-bought choices	Immediate	Budget 2014 committed \$150,000 to an agricultural strategy with \$100,000 ongoing committed in Budget 2015 to this goal

TERRITORIAL PRIORITIES (Continued)

ACTION	ISSUE	PARTNERS	OUTCOME	TIMING	WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY
Encourage and support people to harvest, hunt and fish to meet their needs and those of their communities	Transportation costs limit access to traditional food sources	GNWT NGOs Aboriginal government	People are able to access country food without worrying about transportation costs	Immediate	Budget 2014 committed \$200,000 to support commercial fishing, with. \$1.5 million ongoing. \$1M provided for Community Access Program operated by Department of Transportation to provide contribution funding to Communities and Bands to construct and maintain local roads, trails and marine facilities to support traditional activities and recreation opportunities
Expand on the land programming such as <i>Take A Kid Trapping</i> that encourage youth to learn harvesting skills from elders	Create the conditions to acquire traditional skills	GNWT Aboriginal government Business	Ensure all generations have fishing, hunting and harvesting skills	Three years	
Reduce energy costs by providing alternative energy sources such as hydro, biomass and wind	Energy costs are expensive and burning fossil fuels contributes to climate change	GNWT Canada	More communities are less dependent on diesel	Three years	Budget 2014 committed \$6.59M to a variety of alternative energy programs, projects and studies. Budget 2015 committed \$4.99 million to this goal
Complete an inventory of labour and skills available in communities	The skills and talents of community members aren't always well known	GNWT Aboriginal government	Local people with relevant skills are hired first	Three years	

TERRITORIAL PRIORITIES (Continued)

ACTION	ISSUE	PARTNERS	OUTCOME	TIMING	WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY
Create partnerships with business to increase community capacity for resource development	Communities miss out on job/business opportunities during resource exploration and development	GNWT Canada Aboriginal government Business	Local people have the training necessary to participate in resource economy and are hired preferentially	Immediate	Budget 2014 committed \$150,000 to develop regional economic plans; \$162,000 for mining workforce development and \$100,000 for communities to engage in mineral development decision making Budget 2015 committed \$200,000 for regional economic plans, \$300,000 for mining workforce development, and \$100,000 for community mineral engagement
Implement a living wage specific to each NWT community	Some people working full time are living in poverty	Business NGOs Municipalities Aboriginal government	People working full time have enough money to pay for basics	More than three years	

“Poverty doesn’t start by itself. Something should be available for those trying to get out of it, we have to look for something that they can do for themselves, something that they would want to do.”

TERRITORIAL PRIORITIES (Continued)

ACTION	ISSUE	PARTNERS	OUTCOME	TIMING	WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY
Address lack of employment and barriers to jobs, especially in small, remote communities	Employment rates are low in small, remote communities	GNWT Canada	Increased local employment in small and remote communities by encouraging residents to acquire skills and return to their communities to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fill vacant positions (often with the GNWT or Canada) • teach these skills to other community residents and reduce the need to leave the community in order to acquire these important skills • use these skills to assume leadership and management roles in their community 	Three years	
Support traditional economies (harvesting, arts/ crafts, tourism) through training, marketing and supply networks	Increase employment in small communities	GNWT Business	Create employment using existing skills and interests	Immediate	Budget 2014 committed \$1.2 million to diversify economic opportunities at regional level, including traditional economy

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

NAME OF PROJECT AND SPONSOR	COMMUNITY	PURPOSE	FUNDING SOURCE
Living Wage NWT – Yellowknife; Alternatives North	Yellowknife	<i>Use the Anti-Poverty Funding to establish a budget to advance a campaign for the living wage, more specifically pay a contract coordinator part-time and to produce educational and promotional items</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund
Aklavik Anti-Poverty Initiative; Ehdıitat Gwich'in Council	Aklavik	<i>Harvest local fish species in order to provide finished products (smoked/filleted fish) for sale</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund
Community Gardens	Various communities across the NWT	<i>To develop a sustainable source for fresh vegetables and develop gardening skills of residents</i>	Various; largely dependent on volunteer labour
Sustaining Inuvialuit Community Harvests to Reduce Poverty and Increase Food Security in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region; Inuvialuit Regional Corporation	Aklavik, Inuvik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk, Ulukhaktok	<i>Conduct regional harvest in 2014/2015 and 2015/16 engaging youth, homeless persons or those in need, and promoting food security in Inuvialuit communities</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2014 and 2015

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES (continued)

NAME OF PROJECT AND SPONSOR	COMMUNITY	PURPOSE	FUNDING SOURCE
Moose Hide Tanning and Moccasin Making; Smith's Landing First Nation	Fort Smith	<i>Offer two moose hide tanning courses to Youth, taught by Elders in the Chipewyan language</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2015
Revitalizing Traditional Economies; Yellowknives Dene First Nation	N'dilo and Dettah	<i>Provide opportunities and mentoring in traditional on-the-land skills for people recovering from the effects of residential school trauma</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2015
A Just and Sustainable Food System; Yellowknife Farmers Market	Yellowknife	<i>Broaden community awareness about food security; create a coalition to implement the Yellowknife Food Charter which will provide systematic solutions to issues of food security in the community</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2015

Pillar 5: Integrated Continuum of Services

Goal: NWT residents receive a continuum of integrated services according to their needs.

Rationale: Poverty is a result of a diverse array of social, cultural and economic circumstances. There is no single solution. To make a difference we must work together to make better use of limited resources. While some government services and programs overlap those provided by other organizations, there are also gaps in service that need to be filled. There is a need for coordination and collaboration among all levels of government, including Aboriginal governments, other service providers, and among NWT government departments, so that programs and services are accessible and available. Coordination also ensures that program planning involves all necessary stakeholders and that resources are used efficiently and effectively.

TERRITORIAL PRIORITIES

ACTION	ISSUE	PARTNERS	OUTCOME	TIMING	WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY
Establish or re-establish interagency committees to create and work on shared priorities	There is no forum for discussing common issues among service providers in many communities	GNWT NGOs Community level governing organizations	Improved co-ordination among government and NGO service providers	Immediate	
Establish single window approach to government services in every community	Provision of services is fragmentary and difficult for end user	GNWT	End users find services easier to access; services are provided at home for those who are unable to attend at an office Current program; expanded to every community and broaden the scope of the positions beyond role of systems navigators	Three years	There are currently Government Service Officers in 15 communities

TERRITORIAL PRIORITIES (Continued)

ACTION	ISSUE	PARTNERS	OUTCOME	TIMING	WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY
Hire a systems navigator or co-coordinator to pursue integrated case management	Close gaps so that services reach all who need them	GNWT, NGOs and Aboriginal government	Access to services is easier for end user	Three years	Budget 2014 committed \$895,000 to establish an integrated case management pilot program in Yellowknife Budget 2015 added another \$432,000 (one time funding) to establish a pilot program in Inuvik
Enact legislation to establish an Anti-Poverty Secretariat	Anti-Poverty issues waning from Assembly to Assembly	GNWT	Provide stable funding and promote accountability of Anti-Poverty actions	Three years	Budget 2014 committed ongoing funding of \$223,000 annually to support GNWT leadership on Anti-Poverty
Provide multi-year core funding to NGOs	NGOs are unable to plan beyond the term of their contribution agreements and unable to try new approaches because of a lack of funding	GNWT	Healthy NGO sector contributes to a healthy community	Three years	Multi-year funding agreements, contingent as with all government funding on annual appropriations, are enabled by GNWT policy

TERRITORIAL PRIORITIES (Continued)

ACTION	ISSUE	PARTNERS	OUTCOME	TIMING	WORK ALREADY UNDERWAY
Hold Annual Anti-Poverty Round Table	All levels of government, NGO's, and the private sector need to work together to ensure continuing progress	GNWT Aboriginal government Municipalities NGOs Private sector	Monitoring progress and setting priorities for Anti-Poverty initiatives	Immediate	GNWT committed to annual Round Table

COMMUNITY INITIATIVES

NAME OF PROJECT AND SPONSOR	COMMUNITY	PURPOSE	FUNDING SOURCE
Project Jewel; Inuvialuit Regional Corporation	Aklavik, Inuvik, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk, Ulukhaktok	<i>Healing and wellness camps to address addictions and related issues, in partnership with other service providers in order to integrate services including after-care</i>	IRC; GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2015
Essential Skills for Proposal Writing; NWT Literacy Council	Yellowknife, Inuvik, Hay River	<i>Offer three-day proposal development workshops to build capacity of community members to work together to develop effective funding proposals for priority projects in their community</i>	GNWT Anti-Poverty Fund 2015

WHAT MY COMMUNITY / ORGANIZATION / BUSINESS ARE DOING?

This is your section of the Action Plan, and is the most important in ensuring this Action Plan continues to be a truly living document. Here you can identify and track activities your community or organization is planning or already working on. You can bring this information to the next Anti-Poverty Round Table or send it to:

Anti-Poverty Initiative
 c/o Department of Health and Social Services
 Box 1320
 Yellowknife, NT X1A 2L9

The information you provide will then become part of the Territorial Action Plan and be included in the annual update.

The activities each of us undertake are critical in meeting our goal of eliminating poverty from the NWT – together we can make a real difference in the lives of those in need and in the well-being of all communities.

PILLAR(S)	ACTION	ISSUE	PARTNERS	EXPECTED OUTCOME	WORK UNDERWAY

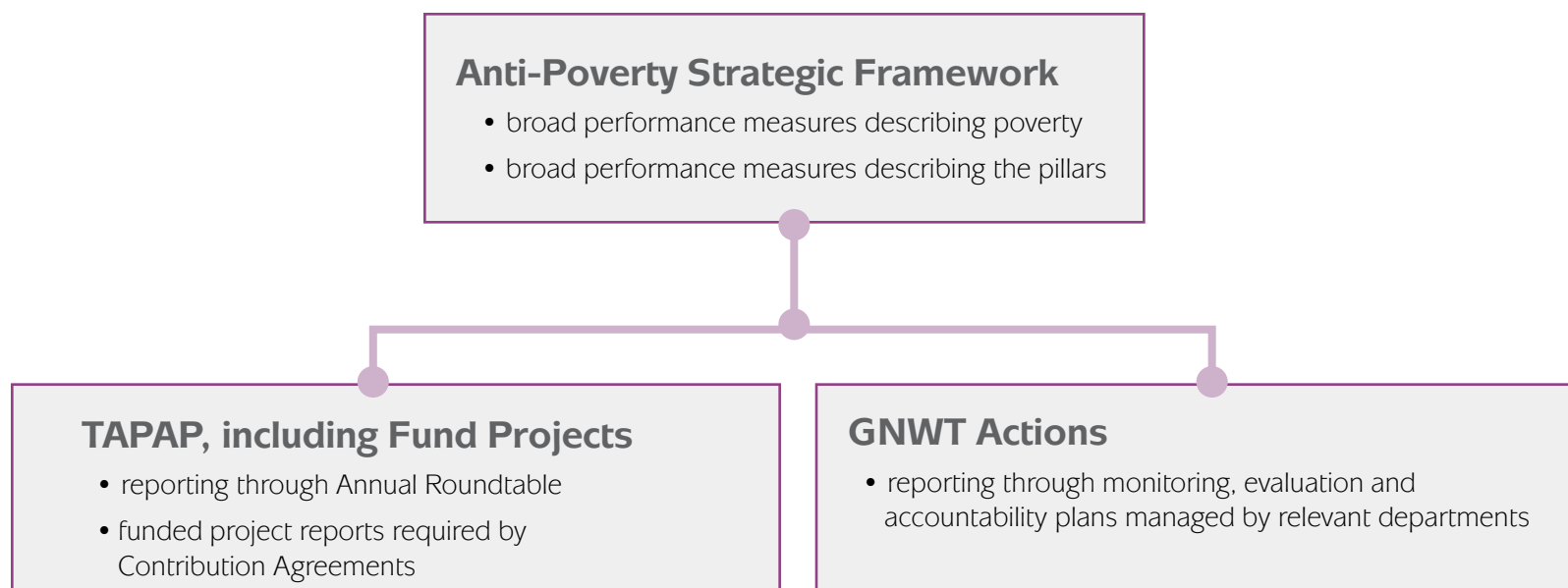
MONITORING AND REPORTING

The GNWT has committed to taking the lead in the development and implementation of a monitoring and reporting framework for the Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan.

In order to measure our collective progress a simple, three-part approach is proposed:

- Compiling a set of broad social indicators that identify those factors associated with poverty, its causes and effects and developing a schedule for reporting on them;
- Reporting annually on specific achievements identified in the Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan (TAPAP) (including projects funded through the Anti-Poverty Fund). A Progress Report will be issued following the Annual Round Table at which communities and organizations, as well as the GNWT, will report on their achievements within each of the five pillars and set priorities for the coming year;
- Concurrently, reporting on actions identified in the GNWT Action Plan through the various departments.

This approach is outlined in the graphic below:



The purpose of this proposed approach is to:

- Provide Anti-Poverty Strategy partners and NWT residents with meaningful, current information on the status of the Anti-Poverty pillars and progress being made towards the vision of the Strategic Framework: *Building on the Strengths of Northerners*;
- Provide Anti-Poverty Strategy partners and NWT residents with ongoing updates on the status of poverty in NWT;
- Fulfill the Anti-Poverty Strategy commitment to “build a comprehensive monitoring, reporting and evaluation plan that includes the identification and collection of relevant socio-economic data and regular analysis of information collected to determine progress towards preventing and reducing social inequalities in the NWT (*Building on the Strengths of Northerners p. 40*).”; and
- Reduce duplication and overlap of GNWT reporting:
 - ~ many GNWT Anti-Poverty Strategy commitments are already part of departmental monitoring strategies
 - ~ monitoring tools for those GNWT Anti-Poverty Action Plan commitments that are not part of departmental monitoring strategies can be implemented.

WITH THIS PROPOSED
APPROACH WE WILL BE ABLE
TO MONITOR ACTIVITIES AT
ALL LEVELS (TERRITORIAL,
REGIONAL, LOCAL) AND
OBTAIN AN OVERALL PICTURE
OF PROGRESS TOWARDS THE
ELIMINATION OF POVERTY IN
THE NWT.



