

developed interpretation handbook to clarify health care procedures for Inuktitut, Dogrib, North Slavey and English speaking patients and family. The English and Inuktitut version has been enhanced while a Dogrib and North Slavey version was recently developed.

LYNX '99

The department of education, health and social services and other departments is gearing up for its conference, Linking Northern Expertise or LYNX '99, set to start Feb. 1 in Yellowknife.

The planning committee is in the midst of developing an agenda which will include workshops on community-based development, building a healthy community and helping the next generation plan for the future.

Ice roads ready

Ice crossings in the Western Arctic are slowly beginning to open for traffic. The crossing at Fort Providence opened Dec. 23 to light traffic (cars and small trucks). In addition to the ice crossing, the ferry is continuing to operate on a 24-hour basis. The ice crossing at Fort Simpson is also open, along with the Ndulee/Camsell Bend crossing at Wrigley.

to residents of the Western Arctic.

The average GNWT per capita health care expenditures across all Western NWT communities came in at \$3,168. The Western community

On average, per capita spending across the entire western NWT was \$3,017.

In Fort Smith, per capita ECE costs were \$8,162.

McDonald looks on.

Fort Simpson was second highest at \$4,624 per capita (Yellowknife, \$2,200).

Jean Marie River, Nahanni Butte, Fort Wrigley, Trout Lake, Kakisa Lake and Holman, costs were under \$1,000 per capita.

Who gets what

Northern News Services

What makes the Geographic Tracking of Expenditures report especially interesting is the methodology behind it.

The report breaks down where the expenditure benefits are received.

Historically, the GNWT's budgeting and financial systems provide information from a budget control point of view.

"This difference significantly affected the breakdown of geographic budget data, because where a budget is controlled is often different from where the expenditure benefit is," according to the report.

All departments had to identify which communities were the direct service beneficiaries of any GNWT expenditure.

Gathering geographic expenditure data from an expenditure benefit point of view meant training hundreds of staff responsible for the coding of over four million lines of financial data.

An audit confirmed the accuracy of the coding.

The report, which covers all western territory communities, was part of the ongoing requirement for expenditure data for the division process.

The western community allocation spending project was initiated a year ago.

Expenditures were coded at four levels including:

- Community — spending specific to a single community.
- Regional — spending specific to a region would be, for example, a contribution to a regional health board.
- Territorial — spending which benefits the entire NWT. Funding of Yellowknife Correctional Centre or Stanton Regional Hospital are examples.
- Corporate — spending required for the headquarters and regional management structure of government.

The report covers all 1996-97 operations and maintenance expenditures and was provided to the special committee working on financing arrangements for the two new territories.

Participants in the working group included representatives from Federal Finance, Department of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, GNWT, Office of the Interim Commissioner, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated and the Western Coalition.

FACT FILE

GNWT regional and major centre expenditures

- Of the Western NWT's five regions, per capita GNWT expenditures were highest in the Beaufort/Delta at \$14,907 for each person (\$52.8 million total). The region includes Norman Wells, Fort Norman, Fort Good Hope, Deline and Colville Lake.
- Second was the South Slave with per capita spending of \$14,765 (\$13.7 million total). The region includes Fort Resolution, Lutsel K'e and Enterprise.
- A close third was the Sahtu with per capita spending of \$14,442 (\$37.5 million total). The region includes Aklavik, Fort McPherson, Tsiigehtchic, Tuktoyaktuk, Sachs Harbour, Holman and Paulatuk.
- Next was the Deh Cho with per capita spending of \$11,970 (\$22.9 million total). The region includes Fort Providence, Hay River Reserve, Jean Marie River, Nahanni Butte, Fort Liard, Wrigley, Trout Lake and Kakisa.
- Lowest was the North Slave with per capita spending of \$11,679 (\$31.1 million total). The region includes Dettah, Rae, Edzo, Wha Ti, Rae Lakes, Rae-Edzo and Snare Lakes.
- The report broke down the West's major centres:
 - Fort Smith's per capita spending was \$16,643 with a total of \$40.6 million.
 - Fort Simpson's per capita was \$15,449 for a total \$19.4 million.
 - Inuvik's per capita was \$14,169 for a total of \$46.7 million.
 - Hay River's per capita was \$8,673 for a total of \$31.3 million.
 - Yellowknife's per capita was \$6,360 for a total of \$109.9 million.

news/north

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The last year before division
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