

Key Features of Western NWT Society

The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to negotiating the implementation of Aboriginal Peoples' inherent right to self-government. It is also committed to creating a system of government in the western NWT that is fair, representative and responsive to the needs and concerns of all residents. Therefore, the Government of the Northwest Territories will uphold the following core values and principles:

Building a respectful relationship – A system of government built on respect and cooperation will enable residents to work toward common objectives and to achieve mutually beneficial results.

Respecting the legitimate roles of all governments - Aboriginal and public governments have unique, necessary and complementary roles to play in serving territorial residents and should strive to do so through a partnership approach.

Recognizing Aboriginal peoples' rights - Aboriginal peoples' Aboriginal rights and Treaty rights and their unique relationship with Canada will be respected and protected. As a result of implementing self-government, land claim and treaty land entitlement agreements, Aboriginal people will have greater control over decisions affecting their lives and future.

Balancing individual and collective rights – The system of government in the western NWT will recognize and protect the rights and freedoms of all residents.

Guaranteeing mobility rights - Residents must be free to move within the western NWT without compromising their political and economic rights, or being denied access to basic programs and services.

Bringing decision-making closer to the people – The system of government in the western NWT should ensure that community residents are able to develop priorities for programs and services to meet their needs

Ensuring accessible and equitable programs and services - Basic services must be readily available to residents when they need them and must meet minimum, uniform standards.

Creating an affordable and workable government – The system of government in the western NWT must be viable. That means quality programs and services for all residents delivered through an affordable and workable system of governance.

Sharing the benefits of Northern citizenship – The system of government in the western NWT should provide for the sharing of wealth among all regions to ensure the provision of basic services for all residents.

Creating a stable economic and political environment – The system of government in the western NWT should assure investors and workers that political systems and regulations governing business and labour, will be consistent and conducive to economic growth.

Maintaining a credible voice in national affairs – The system of government in the western NWT should provide for a strong territorial government representing the interests of all residents in territorial wide matters and serving as the single, legitimate political voice in national affairs and provincial/territorial forums.

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