

Government of the
Northwest Territories

.....
1995 - 1996

**Annual
Report
Official
Languages**
.....

Official Languages Unit
Department of Executive



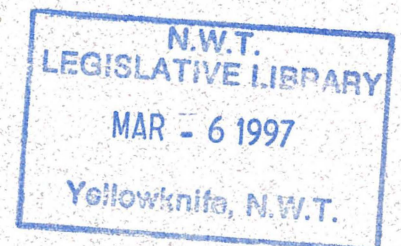


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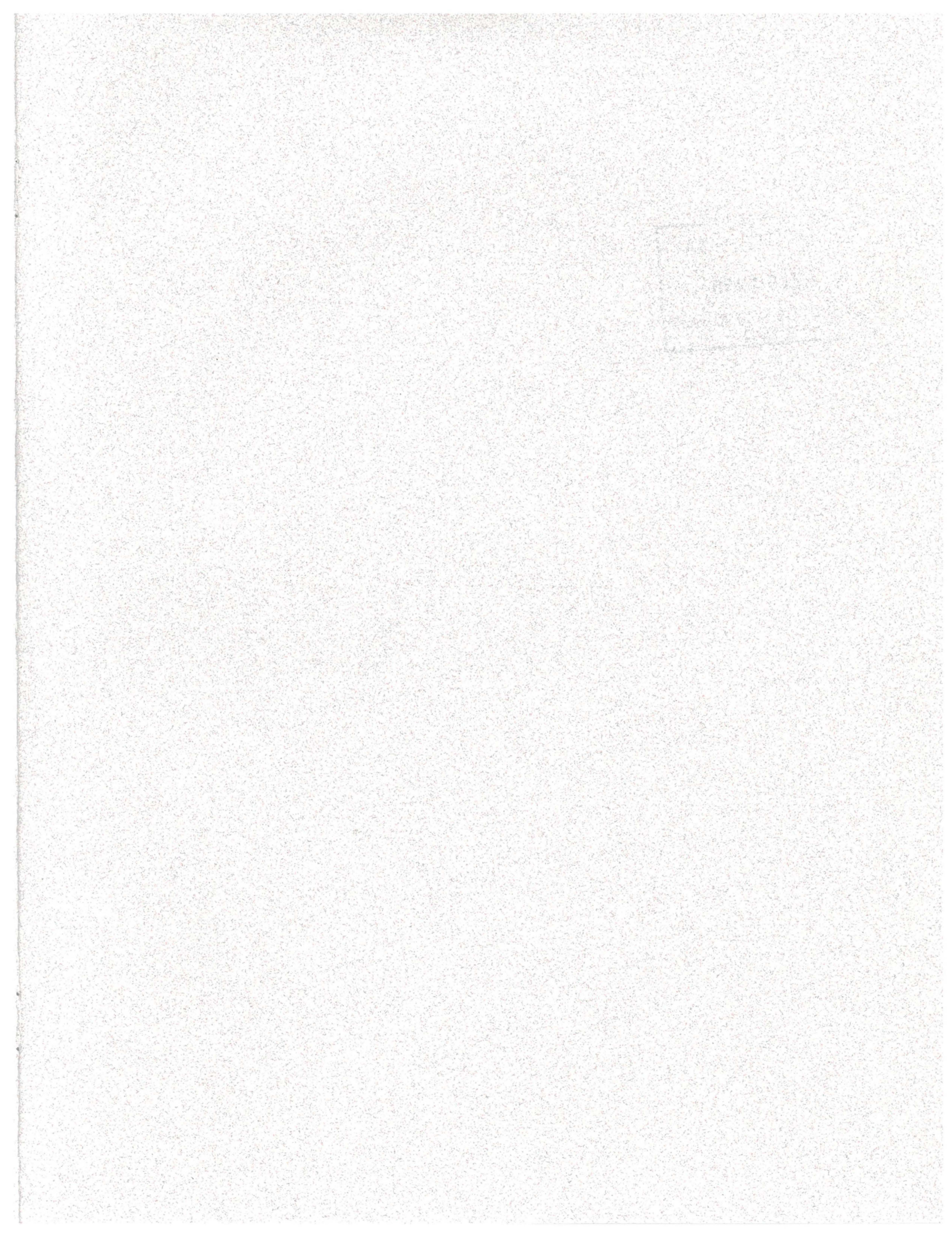


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Government of the Northwest Territories

Introduction

The *Official Languages Act* of the Northwest Territories recognizes Chipewyan, Cree, Dogrib, English, French, Gwich'in, Inuktitut (includes Inuvialuktun and Inuinnaqtun), and Slavey (includes North and South Slavey) as official languages. The GNWT is obliged to meet the requirements of the *Act* by providing services in the official languages.

The array of programs and services available in the NWT's official languages demonstrates the impact the *Official Languages Act* has had on the provision of government services in official languages other than English. Moreover, the various programs and services that are offered by GNWT departments illustrates the integration of these languages in the daily lives of the people of the NWT.

The GNWT 1995-1996 Annual Report on Official Languages contains a brief overview of languages initiatives carried out between April 1, 1995 and March 31, 1996 by GNWT departments. A number of these initiatives were made possible thanks to the framework of cooperation between the GNWT and the Federal Government. This cooperation has translated into a funding agreement which provides funds for the enhancement of Aboriginal languages and 100% of the costs associated with the implementation and provision of French language services.



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Official Languages Initiatives by Departments and Agencies

Economic Development and Tourism

Overview

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism promotes and assists in the establishment and expansion of business enterprises which create employment and other benefits for northerners.

In August 1996, this Department was consolidated with the departments of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources and Renewable Resources to form the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

Language Programs and Services

The Department of Economic Development and Tourism continued the policy of providing all territorial park signage and interpretive material in English and the Official Languages appropriate for the area. It also produced the new Parks Program Guidelines in Inuktitut and English.

All small business program information has also been translated into Inuktitut.

Education, Culture and Employment

Overview

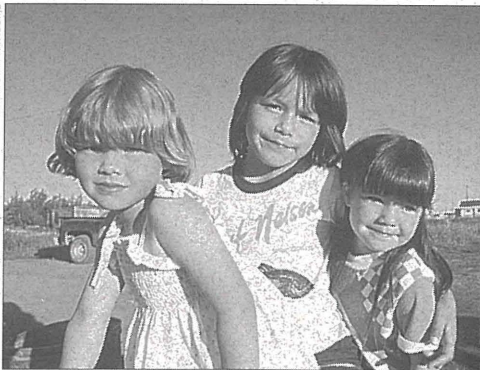
The Department of Education, Culture and Employment invests and provides for the development of the people of the NWT enabling them to reach their full potential, to lead fulfilled lives and to contribute to a strong and prosperous society.

Language Programs and Services:

1. Services

- **Translation and Interpretation Services**

Translation and interpretation services are provided through the Language Bureau. These services are provided in all the NWT official languages. The interpretation/translation services are



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provided to all institutions of the GNWT, the Legislative Assembly, and the Courts.

Interpreter/Translators were located in Yellowknife and four regional offices including six community-based interpreter/translators. French language translators were located in Yellowknife while the only French language Interpreter/Translator was located in Iqaluit.

The Language Bureau provided language services to a number of aboriginal and non-government organizations. The Bureau also provided assistance in translations to contractors working on GNWT projects. The French Section of the Language Bureau worked primarily on translation of GNWT documents and forms.

• **Broadcast and Library Services**

The department supports the development and production of Aboriginal languages programming for radio and television. This activity is coordinated by the department's Information Networks through contributions to Aboriginal broadcasters. The staff provided workshops for students in some of the schools in association with Divisional Boards on how to produce videos in Aboriginal languages. Technical assistance was provided to the P.W. Kaeser High School's Drama Club of Fort Smith in their production of a broadcast video of their teleplay on suicide. The Drama Club was sponsored by the Department of Health and Social Services. The video, written and acted by students, will be versioned in one of the NWT Aboriginal languages. The video will be aired as part of a "Live & Well" live phone-in series produced by the GNWT.

The department's Information Networks coordinates a half hour daily series featuring educational programming in French on TVNC with Kativik School Board. In addition, material in French continues to be available through the public library system.

• **Centralized Information Services**

This service is a 1-800 phone line provided by the department to respond, in French, to inquiries regarding GNWT programs and services. During the year most of the requests pertained to tourism information or general information on the NWT for student projects.

2. Programs

• **Curriculum Development**

Inuuqatiglit, the curriculum from the Inuit perspective, will be implemented in the 1996 school year. It will be printed and distributed to all resource centres in the NWT for use in the schools

after the official launching of the document in the fall. Inuuqataa, a support document to the curriculum, is being developed and will be available electronically in late fall of 1996. Legends and stories of the Inuit are being collected and will also be available electronically.

The Dene Kede Curriculum (grade 7, 8 and 9), which is now complete, has been at the developmental stage for the last year and a half. Meetings were held with elders and with the curriculum developer in many Dene communities. The curriculum will be piloted during the fall of 1996 and will be published within a year.

• **Aboriginal Language Literacy**

The department provides support and assistance for the community-based Aboriginal languages literacy programs. Contributions were made to 11 community organizations across the NWT. Activities included oral language development, writing workshops, developing learning materials, literacy skills and cultural activities. There were also publications of elders stories and materials from writing workshops. Promotional activities included the publication of newspaper ads celebrating Aboriginal Languages Month, the broadcast of radio and TV ads promoting Aboriginal languages literacy, and the distribution of t-shirts and posters.

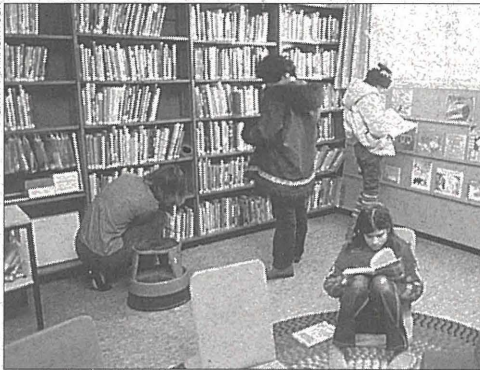
• **Teaching and Learning Centres**

Teaching and Learning Centres continue their activities in the development of Aboriginal languages and cultural programs and material for teaching. In association with Divisional Education Councils, the Centres' staff consult and support teachers; facilitate training workshops as required; assist in the development of culturally relevant programs and coordinate development of teaching materials to enhance Aboriginal languages use at home, in school and in the community.

The activities carried out include: the publication and distribution of the Dogrib dictionary and the complete translation of the Fitzhenry Whiteside Circle Program; development of a new North Slavey dictionary; the drafting of the Inuktitut Language Arts K-3; and the completion of the Nunavut Bird Book project. Other activities focused on curriculum development for the schools.

• **Language Contributions Programs**

A contribution program which supports community-based initiatives for the maintenance and revitalization of Aboriginal languages was in place throughout the year. Twenty-two projects were approved for funding. These included projects such as Youth/Adult language



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classes, dictionary projects, video production projects for television broadcast, and continued work on a family-based language development project in Lutsel K'e. The projects included most of the Aboriginal languages.

The community-based geographic place name contribution program, administered by the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, was offered to increase the use of traditional aboriginal place names. Four organizations received contributions: Pehdzeh Ki First Nations from Wrigley; Arviat Historical Society; Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and Nunavut Research Institute. At the request of the communities, official recognition was given for the following name changes; Coppermine to Kugluktuk; Lake Harbour to Kimmirut; Lac La Martre to Wha Ti and Fort Norman to Tulita. In each case the new name has a meaning in the local aboriginal language.

The department also offered a contribution program which supports cultural development initiatives of the Francophone community through the Fédération Franco-TéNOise (FFT). A total of 59 community projects undertaken by 10 organizations were completed in Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith, and Iqaluit. These included such projects as: Adult Education program to facilitate the use of French; a film festival; presentation of a play by the local French theater group; and a local radio program in Yellowknife and Iqaluit.

• **Museum/Heritage**

The Department's culture and heritage programs continue to collect, preserve and present the history and cultures of the NWT with the support of the communities. Funding and technical assistance is provided to museums and heritage projects in the communities. The annual report on archeological activities in the NWT in 1995 was prepared and printed. The activity summaries were translated into the language of the nearest community. Archeological permit applications were translated into Inuktitut for review by the Inuit Heritage Trust.

A new permanent exhibit on the natural History of the NWT was developed at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, with labels in all Official languages. French language services were available in the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC). A number of brochures used in the guidelines of the PWNHC were available in French. The department's Culture and Heritage division provided six educational programs in French during the fiscal year 1995/96.



3. Training

• Teacher Education Program

The department offered a community-based teacher education program to ensure that the NWT school children received some culture-based education. Contributions were provided to the colleges and the Divisional Boards of Education to carry out this program. The students took part in courses such as Language Development, Child Development - A Language Perspective, Introduction to Teaching, Curriculum Planning for Aboriginal Language Teachers and Teaching the Aboriginal Language as a Second Language. Reports from the colleges and boards indicate the program has been successful. For example, in the Baffin region over 30 participants training in the program will graduate this year.

• Interpreter/Translator Training

The two public colleges delivered training for those wishing to become certified interpreter/translators. Certificate and diploma level courses are offered based upon need. In addition to generalist training, the colleges also worked closely with the departments of Justice and Health and Social Services in the delivery of specialized courses in legal and medical fields. This training improves communication between legal and health professionals and those they serve.

Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources

Overview:

The Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources manages the development and use of non-renewable and energy resources for the maximum social and economic benefit of the Northwest Territories.

In August 1996, this Department was consolidated with the departments of Renewable Resources, and Economic Development and Tourism to form the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

Language Programs and Services:

The Department of Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources produced a one-hour TV show on prospecting and a bilingual (English/Inuktitut) prospecting course through Aurora College. An Inuktitut mining and geology term glossary for translators was also produced through Nunavut College. Prospector grubstake

applications and terms of reference were also made available in Inuktitut. Finally, various energy awareness pamphlets were produced in Inuktitut and French.

Executive

Overview:

The Department of Executive provides support and advice to the Executive Council and its committees.

Language Programs and Services:

The Department of Executive, through the Official Languages Unit, is responsible for the coordination of government initiatives with respect to the delivery of Official languages services throughout the government and the negotiation of the Canada-NWT Cooperation Agreement with the federal government. During the period covered by this report a wide variety of tasks were undertaken to ensure that the terms of the Canada-NWT Cooperation Agreement were met. These included completing the 1994-95 activity report, developing the 1996-97 annual appendices for French and Aboriginal languages and meeting with the Joint Consultation Working Group.

The department commissioned, jointly with the federal government, a study on the impact of Canada-NWT languages agreements since their inception in 1984. The Official Languages Unit also participated in provincial/territorial meetings on Francophone affairs.

In order to complete an official languages policy and associated guidelines, extensive community consultations with languages groups were undertaken in the fall of 1995.

The GNWT held its first Community Languages Leader Award. The Award recognizes the efforts of individuals who played an essential role in the promotion and use of their languages at a community level. Three finalists received an award: one for French, one for Inuktitut, and one for the Dene languages and Cree.

In addition, the department indirectly supported other departments' official languages initiatives by coordinating the development of official languages services as well as reviewing and drafting policies, directives and guidelines as necessary for the implementation and provision of official languages services.

The department's contact with the public, either through programs or the delivery of services is minimum. However, the Department of the Executive had the capacity to provide services in French and a number of Aboriginal languages through bilingual staff located in Headquarters or in regional offices.

Finance

Overview:

The Minister and the Department of Finance have the mandate for obtaining the necessary financial resources required to implement Government of the Northwest Territories policies and programs and for intergovernmental fiscal negotiations and arrangements. The Department also includes the Bureau of Statistics which compiles statistical information related to the Northwest Territories.

Languages Programs and Services:

In 1995-96, the Department of Finance translated into Inuktitut both correspondence to the public and its documents titled *Eliminating the Deficit* and *Seeking Deficit Solutions*. The Department also utilized the services of Inuktitut interpreters during meetings of the budget consultation held in Iqaluit and Rankin Inlet.

The Payroll Tax Annual Return was redesigned to include French wording. Correspondence was forwarded in French when requested.

The Bureau of Statistics, as part of its data collection duties, also utilized interviewers with an ability to speak local Aboriginal languages and French. In addition, the Bureau completed telephone surveys in Inuktitut, Dogrib, and Chipewyan.

Financial Management Board Secretariat

Overview:

The Financial Management Board Secretariat (FMBS) has the mandate for the management and control of the financial, human and information resources of the Government of the Northwest Territories, and for providing analysis and advice to the Financial Management Board, ensuring that the Government of the Northwest Territories' financial, human and information resources are managed in an effective, efficient and economical manner.

Language Programs and Services:

The Secretariat indirectly supports other department's initiatives for the maintenance, revitalization or enhancement of Aboriginal languages through its Financial Management, Budget and Evaluation, and Compensation Services divisions. Specifically, the FMBS maintains the Government Human Resource System database that contains information on language use and capabilities of all government employees.

The Financial Management Board Secretariat also has the capability, through bilingual staff, to respond to general inquiries in Inuktitut from the public and provides employee benefits to employees hired under the Canada-NWT Cooperation Agreement for French and Aboriginal languages.

In addition, the Secretariat published the GNWT's Main Estimates for 1996-97 in Inuktitut and the 1994-95 Public Accounts in French.

Health and Social Services

Overview:

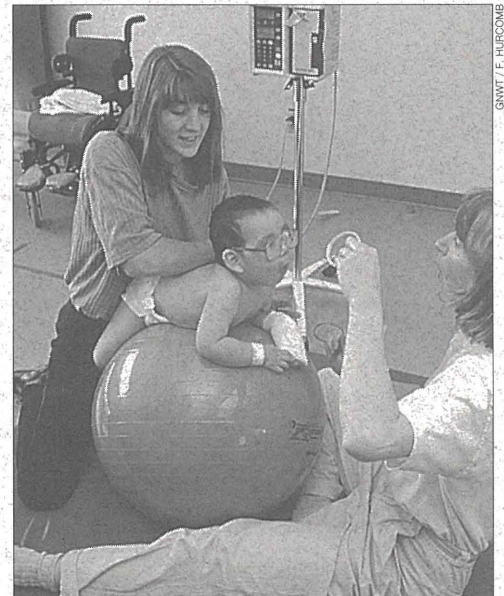
The Department of Health and Social Services promotes, maintains and enhances the health and well-being of individuals and families in the Northwest Territories.

Language Programs and Services:

The Department of Health and Social Services provided various language support and services to communities, health centres, hospitals and regional offices. The support was offered by bilingual staff and community health representatives and the services were provided by clerk/interpreters and interpreter/translators.

The department, regional hospitals and health boards distributed a variety of materials geared to inform the public about health, nutrition, dental hygiene, family violence and other issues deemed essential at the time. An indication of how effective the hospitals are in carrying out their mandate, the Stanton Regional Hospital earned a three-year accreditation award from the Canadian Council on Health Services Accreditation. Stanton received special mention for the quality of its interpreter services, community involvement and strategic planning.

In association with Arctic College, medical interpreter training



modules were delivered in different Aboriginal languages so that staff members could keep up with the ever-advancing medical field.

Various projects in French concerning nutrition, health, addictions and diseases were also undertaken by the Department of Health and Social Services to help in the attainment of the department's goals. Some of these projects were the creation of pamphlets that were distributed to the health centres and hospitals, where they were passed on to the public.

The department and regional offices contribute to the promotion of the French language by employing at least one employee at each office, who is bilingual.

French language services were offered at the health centres and hospitals by their bilingual staff members and interpreters. These services ranged from magazines to full medical translation from a doctor's consultation. The availability of French language services is indicated through various signs posted at the admission desk of each hospital and health centre.

Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs

Overview:

The Ministry of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs participates in major initiatives related to the political and constitutional development of the NWT, including negotiation and implementation of land claims, negotiations of aboriginal self government and treaty entitlement, planning and negotiations related to the transfer of land, water and environmental management.

Languages Programs and Services:

Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs arranged for the translation of correspondence from the Premier to the Deh Cho Leaders following the Deh Cho Assembly in August 1995. Several contracts and letters, relating to Contribution Agreements, were also translated for the community transfer initiative.

In-kind services for translation of a video, produced by the Constitutional Development Steering Committee, following the First Constitutional Conference, were arranged between the Ministers of Intergovernmental Affairs and Education, Culture and Employment. Translations were in all NWT Official languages. The video, in English and translated versions, was aired on TVNC and provided

free of charge to all the aboriginal groups. The airing of the video was well received by the viewing public.

Interpretation services required for Aboriginal Summit/Cabinet meetings were arranged through the offices of the Legislative Assembly.

Justice

Overview:

The Department of Justice has the mandate for the administration of justice in the Northwest Territories, including policing and corrections. This mandate is carried out in a manner which respects community and aboriginal values and encourages communities to assume increasing responsibilities.

Language Programs and Services:

The Department of Justice oversees the translation of all territorial Acts and Regulations into French in keeping with the Northwest Territories *Official Languages Act*.

Legislation Division published the first edition of the *Collection of Definitions in the Statutes* of the Northwest Territories. This publication can be seen as a companion to the *Collection of Definitions in the Statutes* of the Northwest Territories, which was republished in a revised and expanded second edition. The first edition was published in 1993.

The department is also planning to publish an annotated version of the Northwest Territories *Official Languages Act* prior to the end of the current fiscal year.

With respect to the training of legal interpreters, the Department of Justice concentrated its activities, with regards to Aboriginal languages, on the payment of interpreters providing services in court, following the transfer of the Legal Interpreter Training Program to the public colleges. In its last year of operation, the Legal Interpreter Training Program published booklets of terminology developed in Aboriginal languages. Booklets were published for all of the Northwest Territories Aboriginal languages.

The Department of Justice can also provide services to the public in the NWT Official languages through recipients of bilingual bonuses.

Legislative Assembly

Overview:

Within the traditions of parliamentary democracy as established in the Northwest Territories, the Speaker and the Clerk of the Legislative Assembly are responsible for all activities of the Legislative Assembly. The *Northwest Territories Act* (Canada) and the *Legislative Assembly and Executive Council Act* provide the legal and administrative structure for the Legislative Assembly. The Legislative Assembly also provides administrative support to the independent operation of the Languages Commissioner's office.

Language Programs and Services:

In 1995-96, the Legislative Assembly proceeded to review the interpretation and translation services it provides to Members of the House and the public. As a result, a new language services policy was adopted and introduced with the commencement of the term of the 13th Legislative Assembly. Under this policy, NWT Official languages were qualified as either essential or provisional. An official language is qualified as essential when a Member has limited or no ability in English, in that case interpretation and translation services are made available in his or her language during all proceedings of the House and any Committee or Caucus meeting. There was one such Member in 1995-96 which received services in Inuktitut. When an official language is designated as provisional, interpretation and translation services are provided to Members of the Legislative Assembly upon request in that language. Dogrib, French, Gwich'in, North Slavey, and South Slavey were identified as such in 1995-96.

The Legislative Assembly also has portions of the debates recorded in various official languages and then broadcast on a tape-delayed basis. Television coverage is done on a rotational basis on Television Northern Canada (TVNC).

Bills of the Legislative Assembly were available in French and in a summary form in Inuktitut or, at times, in complete translation format. House documents were made available in any Aboriginal language, upon reasonable request. Advertisements and Committee publications were also provided in NWT Official languages, primarily French and Inuktitut. In addition, internal forms required for the daily administration of the Legislative Assembly were available in Inuktitut and were translated into other Aboriginal languages on an "as needed basis" consistent with GNWT policy and procedures.

The Legislative Assembly also provided direct Inuktitut service at the reception and on the telephone. Services were available in Dogrib, through a designated Dogrib-speaking staff member, and in all other Aboriginal languages upon request.

Municipal and Community Affairs

Overview:

The Minister and the department are responsible for the development of community governments, responsive and responsible to the residents, with sufficient legal authority and resources to carry out municipal responsibilities, to provide the public programs and services essential to good community life, and to deal effectively with other governments and organizations.

Language Programs and Services:

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs provided translated consultative documents including the public discussion paper, *Empowerment and Accountability*, which was distributed to community governments for input on future directions and legislative amendments for the department.

Public material associated with *Finding the Right Balance* a public discussion paper on proposed reforms was translated in some of the Official languages. Materials for the Nunavut community lands referendum, which took place in April 1995, was available in Inuktitut. In addition, the Sport and Recreation Division published a number of print material such as posters in aboriginal languages.

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs also responded to general French-language inquiries on departmental programs. Interpretation and translation services were available, if requested, for the Assessment Appeal Tribunal and the Board of Revision for the General Taxation Area.

NWT Housing Corporation

Overview:

The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation works in partnership with communities in providing, developing, maintaining, and managing housing in accordance with the *Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Act*.

Language Programs and Services:

The Corporation provided direct Aboriginal language services to the public at appropriate district offices. Interpretation services were provided for various community consultations and meetings. In addition, public tender advertising was undertaken in Inuktitut when appropriate.

The Corporation also coordinated the production and distribution of various public information materials and forms. Information materials on the Access to Home ownership programs were available to the public in French and Inuktitut. French and Inuktitut versions of the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation Annual Report for the Legislative Assembly were also produced.

The implementation of the new Rent Scale continued during 1995-96. The second phase of the Rent Scale involved the production and distribution of information materials in Inuktitut.

With the Corporation's commitment to transfer responsibilities to the communities, the Corporation completed evaluation reports of all its Local Housing Authorities. Inuktitut versions of the reports were provided to Local Housing Organizations upon request.

The Corporation provided French language services to the public when client counselling was required in that language. In addition, public tender advertising was undertaken in French when appropriate.

Personnel Secretariat

Overview:

The Personnel Secretariat which is placed under the Department of the Executive, is responsible for the development and monitoring of recruitment policy and for training staff to assume recruitment and staffing functions.

Language Programs and Services:

The Personnel Secretariat proceeded with the recruiting of positions funded under the Languages Agreement, with the exclusion of positions hired by the health boards. This involved the preparation and coordination of advertising for bilingual positions and providing French language services throughout the recruitment process for these positions.

French language services were also provided to individuals requesting information on the department's operations.

Public Works and Services

Overview:

The mandate of the Department of Public Works and Services is to design, construct, acquire, operate and maintain buildings, works and equipment required for the GNWT to deliver its programs and services; implement energy efficient projects in GNWT buildings and works; provide a system of specialist services that enhance the efficiency of government departments; and to also make essential petroleum products available for sale to the public where these are not provided by the private sector.

Language Programs and Services:

In 1995-96, the Department of Public Works and Services, in order to better serve the public of the NWT, produced various materials in Inuktitut such as the Business Incentive Policy ads, Mission and values poster, Business Incentive Policy brochure. The Mission and values poster were also produced in Inuinnaqtun.

The department arranged for the provision of interpretation services during Business Incentive Policy meetings and during community meetings on capital projects. Signs for health centres, offices, etc. were translated in the appropriate languages of the area. Sections

of reports and correspondence pertaining to community projects, as well as the pamphlet containing the Rules for using GNWT vehicles, were also translated in Inuktitut.

Petroleum Products client services were available in some regions in Slavey, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun. In the regions, the Department of Public Works and Services provided reception services in a number of NWT Official languages including English. Inuktitut language services were available in the Baffin and the Keewatin, and Inuinnaqtun language services were available in the Kitikmeot. Tender ads were translated into Inuktitut for the Baffin, and, for large projects, in the Keewatin; and into French in designated areas of the NWT. The department provided finance and administration, warehousing and building and works services in Inuinnaqtun in the Kitikmeot.

Public Works and Services was also involved in various language related activities, such as the installation and repairs of multi-language signs, the printing of bilingual versions of the statutes and regulations of the NWT, government publications and forms and the management of space allocations for positions funded under the Canada-NWT Languages Agreement .



Renewable Resources

Overview:

The Department of Renewable Resources has the mandate to manage, regulate and encourage the sustainable development of wildlife, forest resources and fish (in areas within GNWT jurisdiction) in support of the renewable resource economy. The department also provides environmental management, assessment, and protection measures and plans for land and water use.

In August 1996, this Department was consolidated with the departments of Economic Development and Tourism and Energy, Mines and Petroleum Resources to form the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

Language Programs and Services:

The Department of Renewable Resources frequently arranges for interpretation and translation services for community meetings (including the provision of written materials). The department is also involved in the coordination of translation, distribution and production of various materials in all of the NWT Official languages.

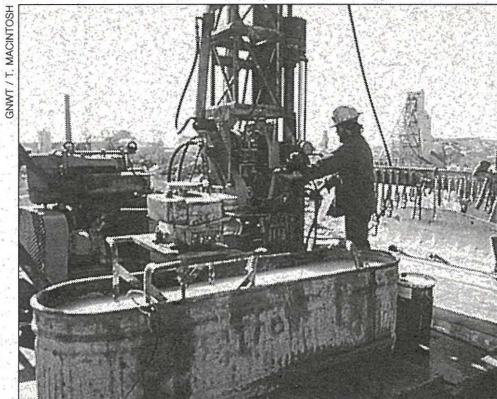
Whenever possible, the department tries to provide public information material in the language and medium appropriate to the target audience. The translation of materials is conducted through the Language Bureau. Translation and interpretation services at the local level are arranged by the regional offices in consultation with communities.

All written material provided to the wildlife management boards set up under land claims agreements is translated.

The Department of Renewable Resources produced and translated a documentary on the Thelon Wildlife Sanctuary. This documentary was translated into Inuktitut and Chipewyan.

The Department of Renewable Resources provided French language services to the public through Headquarters and at appropriate regional offices through positions receiving bilingual bonuses. Three staff members received bilingual bonuses. They were located at Headquarters, Iqaluit and Norman Wells.

In 1995-96, the layout and design of three wildlife sketches in French (marten, lynx and bison) and a pamphlet on household hazardous waste was completed. These materials will be produced and distributed in 1996-97.



Safety and Public Services

Overview:

The Department of Safety and Public Services is involved in the administration of public and worker safety in the Northwest Territories, including promoting and enforcing public safety, protecting the interests of workers and consumers, and the control and distribution of alcoholic beverages throughout the Northwest Territories.

Language Programs and Services:

The Department of Safety and Public Services provided interpretation services in Inuktitut for rental hearings in the communities upon request. In addition, following requests by members of the Legislative Assembly or members of the public, documents were translated. Services were also provided in South Slavey and French through positions receiving a bilingual bonus.

Finally, the Department of Safety and Public Services provided for the printing and purchasing of publications relating to Consumer and Corporate Affairs, Safety Division, Fire Safety, Mine Safety, Labour Services, and Alcohol awareness.

Transportation

Overview:

The Department of Transportation has the mandate to plan, design, construct or reconstruct, acquire, operate and maintain public transportation infrastructure in the Northwest Territories, including community airports, docks and the highway system, and to regulate and license individuals and vehicles operating in the NWT.

Language Programs and Services:

The Department of Transportation provided motor vehicle and driver licensing services to the public in French in Yellowknife. Services in Inuktitut were available through bilingual staff located in the Baffin region. The department also advertised public tenders in French and Inuktitut and distributed French and Inuktitut versions of the NWT's Drivers Manual.

Workers' Compensation Board

Overview:

The Workers' Compensation Board has the mandate to serve injured workers and employers in an effective and efficient manner by promoting accident prevention in the workplace and by providing quality rehabilitation services and fair compensation to injured workers throughout the Northwest Territories.

Language Programs and Services:

The Workers' Compensation Board provided services in Inuktitut to 11 claimants; three decisions at the Appeals Tribunal level were translated into Inuktitut and interpreting services were provided for a meeting between the Pensions Specialist and the dependents of eight fatal claims in Iqaluit.

In addition, the WCB's newsletter *Directions* was produced twice in a bilingual format (English and Inuktitut) and distributed. The Board also revised the Inuktitut information brochure for the Traditional Harvesters Program and produced a brochure in Inuktitut for the Artists and Carvers Program.

The Board also provided in-house translation in French of correspondence, medical reports, employers' payroll statements and all other documents relating to claimant and employer files, as well as the Board year-end financial statements.

The Board purchased a French/English terminology database and reference materials to update the resource materials for the in-house translator. It also advertised four tenders in the NWT's French language newspaper as per the WCB's Official Languages Implementation Plan adopted in December 1993. An information handbook for employers was also produced and printed for distribution.

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Conclusion

This report provides a cursory view of GNWT official languages initiatives that were carried out during the fiscal year 1995-1996.

The GNWT remains committed to fulfilling the challenge of meeting the obligations of the *Official Languages Act*, while at the same time, ensuring the enhancement, maintenance, and revitalization of Aboriginal languages. Government activities in French and aboriginal languages are fundamental to the effective delivery of government services to the residents of the NWT. It is also through the delivery of services and programs that the GNWT demonstrates its support to individuals, groups, and communities striving toward the continued and increased used of aboriginal languages.

The GNWT also recognizes that it is through the increasing role of communities in the delivery of language services and programs and the establishment of priorities for language development that many NWT official languages will survive and may one day flourish.

