



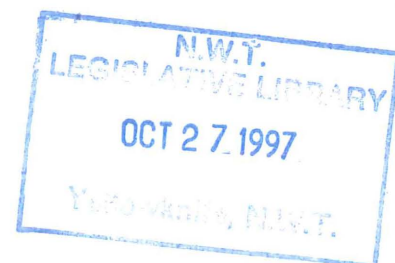
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Review of Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Report

Comments on Recommendations within the Mandate of the  
Government of the Northwest Territories

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October 1997



## **Review of Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples Report**

### **Comments on Recommendations within the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)**

#### **Background**

##### *Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples*

In 1991, the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) was appointed to investigate the question "What are the foundations of a fair and honourable relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people of Canada?". Their final report was released in November 1996 and contains over 400 recommendations directed at Canada, provinces and territories or Aboriginal nations. The first volume provides a history of Aboriginal people before and after contact with European culture. The second volume covers treaties, governance, lands and resources and economic development. The third volume focuses on social and cultural issues (family, health and healing, housing, education and arts and heritage). The fourth volume discusses the different groups in aboriginal society (women, elders, youth, Metis, the North and Urban perspectives). The fifth and final volume concentrates on the question of laying the foundation for a renewed relationship between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people in Canada based on the principles of mutual recognition, mutual respect, sharing and mutual responsibility.

##### *Why are RCAP Recommendations Relevant to the GNWT?*

In the Northwest Territories (NWT), the majority of residents, as well as elected political leaders, are Aboriginal (Inuit, Dene or Metis). Four land claim agreements have been completed which cover over two-thirds of the land mass of the NWT. One of these, the *Nunavut Final Agreement* is resulting in the creation of two new territories in 1999. Land claim, self-government and treaty entitlement negotiations are ongoing or under consideration with all remaining Aboriginal groups. With only one small established reserve in the NWT, the GNWT has been continually challenged to find ways to provide appropriate programs and services for all residents.

#### **GNWT Relationship with Aboriginal Peoples**

Over the years, the relationship between the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and Aboriginal peoples has been changing, primarily due to the nature of our northern society. The GNWT now takes a partnership approach which has helped revise programs and services to meet the needs of Aboriginal peoples, including Metis. The GNWT has also increased opportunities for community involvement in decision-making, an essential element in achieving local self-sufficiency.

By reforming the way the GNWT does business, the GNWT has been a leader in Canada in supporting Aboriginal culture and rights in the following ways:

- The 1984 *GNWT Official Languages Act* recognizes 6 Aboriginal languages in addition to French and English;
- Inuit and Dene curricula for the primary grades were developed with Aboriginal elders;
- Eligible Metis receive health benefits similar to those provided to Status Indians;
- RCAP recommends that other jurisdictions look at the NWT models for co-management of renewable resources;
- The GNWT is transferring authority for the administration and ownership of municipal infrastructure to communities, including Aboriginal nations;
- The GNWT has been using various measures to promote Aboriginal involvement and increase benefits from resource development projects (e.g. the GNWT negotiated a Socio-Economic Agreement with the owners of the first Canadian diamond mine which specifies minimum levels of hire for Aboriginal and northern residents and contracting with northern businesses; the GNWT encourages the use of Impact Benefit Agreements between Aboriginal nations and resource-based industry);
- The GNWT, with Canada, is negotiating self-government and land and resource arrangements with Metis communities.

The GNWT's 1995 Agenda for Change recognizes the same economic, social and cultural challenges identified by the RCAP Report (Vol. V, Chapter 6 The North) and outlines a course of action which is consistent with RCAP recommendations to improve economic and social conditions. Of course, more can always be done.

This report provides initial comments on those RCAP recommendations that are within the mandate of the GNWT. It is anticipated that public response will generate recommendations from NWT residents of how and where the GNWT can do more.

### **Summary of GNWT Comments on RCAP Recommendations within its Mandate**

Because of its relevance to the NWT, the GNWT has carefully reviewed all the recommendations in the report by the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples. Although comments are restricted to those recommendations that are within the mandate of the GNWT, the GNWT is prepared to work in partnership, where appropriate, to address other RCAP recommendations. For example, the GNWT has supported the rebuilding of Aboriginal nations by providing funding for documentation of traditional governance systems, providing administrative training to communities and development corporations and involving western NWT Aboriginal organizations, as full partners, in developing the government structures for the new Western territory.

The following summary of GNWT comments and RCAP recommendations has been grouped into subject categories that relate to mandates of GNWT departments. Detailed comments on each RCAP recommendation directed to the GNWT are appended (App. I, II, III).

***New Relationship with Aboriginal Peoples:***

These recommendations direct Canada to prepare a Royal Proclamation to reflect Canada's renewed relation with Aboriginal peoples under the principles of mutual recognition, respect, responsibility and sharing. The proclamation is to be reflected in federal and provincial/territorial legislation. Provinces/territories are asked to establish Crown Treaty Offices and Treaty Commissions. In the NWT, one of the Commission's tasks would be to determine Dene governing authorities in addition to a framework for public government in the new western territory. Jurisdictions are to recognize role of elders and traditional knowledge in rebuilding Aboriginal nations.

**GNWT Comments**

With respect to laying the foundation for a renewed relationship with Canada, the GNWT agrees that Canada must honour her constitutional, historical, Treaty and fiduciary obligations to Aboriginal peoples on and off reserve, particularly in the areas of health and social services and education. The GNWT recognizes that Aboriginal nations are vested with the right of self-determination and, with Canada, is implementing 4 land claim agreements while negotiations for land claim, treaty entitlement and self-government agreements are ongoing or under consideration with all remaining Aboriginal nations. A public constitutional process, in which NWT Aboriginal organizations are full partners, is determining the new western Government. With these processes underway, consideration by the GNWT of a Crown Treaty Office and Commission would require better definition of roles and responsibilities in relation to these initiatives, as well as the existing Indian Claims Commission and the proposed Land and Treaties Tribunal. The GNWT has been working to involve elders and traditional knowledge in various GNWT programs and initiatives.

***New Federal Government Structures:***

These recommendations direct Canada to establish an Aboriginal Parliament and to replace DIAND with a Department of Aboriginal Relations and a Department of Indian and Inuit Affairs.

***Treaties and Land Claims:***

These recommendations direct Canada and provinces/territories to adopt new federal principles for treaty negotiations and land and resource allocation (i.e. to ensure these are sufficient in size and quality to foster economic self-reliance) and to finance programs and services to off reserve Aboriginal people and Metis that exceed benefits to provincial/territorial residents. For land selection, criteria for 3 categories of lands and protection of third party interests are recommended.

**GNWT Comments**

The GNWT already endorses the principles recommended by the RCAP Report to guide treaty and land claim negotiations. Extinguishment is the main outstanding policy issue in the NWT. The GNWT, with Canada, is negotiating self-government and land and resource arrangements with the South Slave Metis, and is providing health benefits to all eligible Metis. With regard to land selection, the GNWT Land Lease-Only Policy provides for interim measures for land protection. Land categories, within agreements, are defined through negotiation. The GNWT accepts the definitions for the land Categories II and III (shared or limited Aboriginal authority), however, certain lands (e.g. water) will never be subject to full Aboriginal ownership and primary jurisdiction, which is the definition of Category I land. With respect to protection of third party interests on proposed Category I lands, the GNWT expects Aboriginal nations to respect original terms of tenure.

***Governance:***

These recommendations are directed at Canada, provinces/territories, Aboriginal nations and municipal governments. They focus primarily on issues surrounding self-government – that jurisdictions recognize Section 35 of the *Constitution Act* provides the basis for an Aboriginal order of government; that support (e.g. training, job experience) is required to build capacity to implement self-government; that voluntary agencies endorsed by Aboriginal peoples be used until self-government agreements are reached; that laws of Aboriginal governments be applicable to all residents and protect rights of those who are not beneficiaries; and, that Aboriginal citizens, living on their territory, pay personal income tax to their Aboriginal governments, who would reimburse the appropriate public government (e.g. GNWT) for services it continues to provide.

**GNWT Comments**

The scope of current self-government negotiations covers most areas of GNWT jurisdiction and includes fiscal arrangements (e.g. taxation). Negotiations will determine the extent to which Aboriginal jurisdiction will be recognized. The GNWT supports constitutional protection of aspects of such agreements. As an interim measure, the GNWT is transferring program administration through agreements with Aboriginal communities (e.g. health and social services). The GNWT will continue to provide opportunities for co-op placement, internship and executive interchange to build capacity for self-government and training for Inuit to prepare for the creation of the Nunavut government.

***Public Relations/Education:***

These recommendations direct jurisdictions and Aboriginal nations to cooperatively develop a program to inform the Canadian public about Aboriginal history, the concepts underlying treaties and self-determination and resource harvest priorities and to ensure that Aboriginal people are informed of programs that affect them.

**GNWT Comments**

Public information is prepared as part of implementation plans for land claim agreements. NWT youth also learn about Aboriginal issues and the history of northern political development through a mandatory Northern Studies course developed by the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

***Culture:***

These recommendations direct Canada to publish a general history of Aboriginal people, endow an Aboriginal Languages Foundation, establish an Aboriginal Sport and Recreation Advisory Council and develop a national Aboriginal youth policy. Provinces/territories are asked to support and protect Aboriginal cultural heritage and provide cross-cultural courses for non-Aboriginal people who deliver services to Aboriginal people.

**GNWT Comments**

The GNWT agrees with recommendations relating to its mandate and provides financial and technical support to Aboriginal groups to protect cultural heritage. The new Official Languages Policy provides guidelines on the use of official languages (of which 6 are Aboriginal) in GNWT programs and services. The GNWT's Traditional Knowledge Policy was developed with Aboriginal people and directs program departments to incorporate traditional knowledge into program design and delivery, where appropriate. Responding to cultural differences is a challenge for all GNWT departments. Solutions include providing cross cultural orientation for employees and developing a stable, northern workforce.

**Rebuilding Aboriginal nations:**

These recommendations direct Aboriginal nations to involve elders, women and urban Aboriginals in rebuilding Aboriginal nations and to address accountability within Aboriginal organizations.

**Education:**

These recommendations are directed at Canada, provinces/territories, Aboriginal nations and post-secondary institutions. Canada is to fulfil education obligations to Treaty nations, establish an Aboriginal people's university, support costs of post secondary education for Inuit and First Nation students and establish a scholarship fund for Metis. Provinces/territories are to develop an early childhood education funding strategy; develop curricula that reflect Aboriginal cultures, languages and traditional knowledge; involve elders as teachers; train and hire Aboriginal educators and staff; and provide co-op programs.

GNWT Comments

The GNWT agrees with recommendations relating to its mandate and provides opportunities for Aboriginal involvement throughout the education system. The 1996 *Education Act* enables local education bodies to provide culturally appropriate education systems (including use of Aboriginal languages). In conjunction with elders, Dene and Inuit curricula have been implemented (Dene Kede and Inuuqatigiit). Grade extensions of 10-12 are being established in all communities with populations over 500 as part of the actions being taken to increase the number of students graduating from high school. Aboriginal students, born in the NWT and enrolled in post-secondary studies, are eligible for a supplementary grant under Student Financial Assistance. Elders are contracted to teach cultural programs in the school and on-the-land. The 1990 Aboriginal Teacher Training Strategy has increased the number of Aboriginal teachers.

**Child Care:**

These recommendations direct jurisdictions to establish agreements on child care and make legislation and administration of child care services more culturally appropriate.

GNWT Comments

Through the Healthy Children Initiative, the Department of Education Culture and Employment is decentralizing early childhood programs to regions and communities are receiving funding to develop programs appropriate to their needs. All early childhood programs are encouraged to involve family and elders in program delivery.

**Income Support:**

These recommendations direct Canada and provinces/territories to restructure social assistance programs to support employment in the traditional mixed economy and social development and promote Aboriginal control.

GNWT Comments

Following massive consultation with territorial communities and Aboriginal organizations, social assistance programs were redesigned to support access to training (including traditional harvesting activities) as well as community wellness initiatives and to allow Aboriginal community management of income support programs.

***Employment and Training:***

These recommendations direct Canada and provinces/territories to fund a major 10 year initiative for employment and training and devolve program and administrative resources to Aboriginal employment agencies. They also direct jurisdictions, Aboriginal nations and the private sector to promote opportunities for training (especially in health, social services and public communication) and co-op placements and support cross cultural training.

**GNWT Comments**

The GNWT agrees with recommendations relating to its mandate. The GNWT has implemented a \$16 million dollar Northern Employment Strategy for the next 2 years to augment existing employment, training and economic development programs and focus on youth and social assistance recipients. The GNWT has supported training opportunities for Aboriginal people and is currently reviewing its 10 year old Affirmative Action Policy. Departments are implementing the Inuit Employment Plan, in accordance with provisions of the *Nunavut Final Agreement*, in order to develop a public service which is representative of the Nunavut population. Preparations for the new western territory also include the goal of a representative public service as well as assessing the western NWT labour market and its training needs. Specific departmental initiatives include sweat equity housing programs (NWT Housing Corporation); professional training for Aboriginal residents (a priority of the Departments of Education, Culture and Employment and Health and Social Services in order to develop a northern work force); participation of employees in events that promote cross cultural understanding (Department of Health and Social Services).

***Economic Development:***

These recommendations direct Canada to establish a National Aboriginal Bank and revise CAEDS, etc. to provide equal access to Metis. They also direct jurisdictions to seek out markets for Aboriginal products; revise equity programs to be long term with an onus on applicants to provide some equity; develop long term economic agreements; and encourage management support for Aboriginal development corporations. Aboriginal nations are directed to improve their corporations and banks are asked to set up banking services in all Aboriginal communities.

**GNWT Comments**

The GNWT recognizes the challenges facing Aboriginal involvement in economic development. A key objective of the GNWT's Agenda for Change is to increase economic opportunities for northerners in both the public and private sectors. GNWT contracting procedures promote the use of local businesses and labour and the GNWT has worked with industry to increase training and hiring opportunities for Aboriginal people. The GNWT has promoted markets for arts and crafts and fur. Over the past several years, economic development programs have been revised to meet needs of businesses and development corporations in small communities (which are primarily Aboriginal) and business advisory services are provided by the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development. Economic development officers are being transferred to communities to increase Aboriginal involvement in economic development. The GNWT supports the recommendation for long-term economic development agreements, however, these should benefit all residents and be negotiated in consultation with all client groups.

***Resource Management:***

These recommendations direct Canada and provinces/territories to develop co-management regimes; establish compensation mechanisms for resource uses; negotiate benefits from mineral, oil and gas and commercial water developments on traditional Aboriginal land use areas; improve Aboriginal access to forest resources and tourism; conduct joint studies with Aboriginal people on resource inventories; work with Aboriginal people to inventory cultural sites; enact legislation for Aboriginal ownership and management of cultural sites; incorporate traditional knowledge into management; and monitor contamination in northern country foods.

GNWT Comments

The GNWT agrees with recommendations relating to its mandate. NWT co-management agreements continue to be models that other jurisdictions use. Joint studies with Aboriginal people have been conducted for many years and both scientific and traditional knowledge contribute to resource management. The GNWT, with Canada and Aboriginal people, has been monitoring contaminant levels in northern country foods since 1989. Provisions for increased allocation of resources to beneficiaries are in land claim agreements and the GNWT is working with Canada and communities to increase benefits to residents through the oil and gas rights issuance process. The protection of cultural sites and management of these sites by Aboriginal people will be addressed through the developing NWT Protected Areas Strategy.

***Housing:***

These recommendations direct Canada to clarify understanding of housing under treaty terms and assist First Nation governments to administer housing programs. Canada and provinces/territories are to make resources available to meet housing needs on and off reserves over next 10 years. Aboriginal nations are to make every effort to contribute their own resources to housing.

GNWT Comments

Since most Aboriginal people in the NWT do not live on reserves, the GNWT housing program is designed to meet the needs of all Aboriginal people. The GNWT agrees that more resources are needed especially for social housing. The GNWT's Plan 2000 has revised existing programs to find ways to increase home ownership and access to rental housing.

***Municipal Infrastructure:***

These recommendations direct Canada and provinces/territories to provide extra financial and technical resources to First Nation governments to develop and administer adequate water/sewage facilities.

GNWT Comments

The GNWT agrees that additional financial resources (such as the federal Infrastructure Program) are required and, through the Departments of Municipal and Community Services, Public Works and Services and the NWT Housing Corporation, provides training for local municipal staff (who are mostly Aboriginal) to administer municipal infrastructure. Municipal infrastructure is being transferred to communities through the Community Empowerment Initiative.



***Health and Social Services:***

These recommendations direct Canada to acknowledge fiduciary responsibility to restore Aboriginal health and wholeness and amend unemployment and social assistance legislation to reflect northern social and economic conditions. Provinces/territories are to acknowledge Aboriginal customary family law; develop Aboriginal health and social service policies and action plans with Aboriginal involvement; and give planning responsibility for health and social service programs to Aboriginal agencies. Health practitioners are directed to acknowledge and use traditional Aboriginal healing practices.

**GNWT Comments**

The GNWT agrees with recommendations relating to its mandate. The GNWT Family Law Reform is resulting in new legislation which recognizes Aboriginal customary law. The Department of Health and Social Services has been providing health benefits to all Aboriginal people, including eligible Metis, and working with Aboriginal People to develop an integrated health and social services systems that is culturally appropriate. Administrative transfer agreements are being developed to provide regional Health and Social Services boards with the responsibility to plan, manage, deliver and integrate health and social services to reflect the needs and priorities of their regions. Workshops have also been held to encourage cultural exchanges between traditional and professional health practitioners.

***Justice:***

These recommendations direct Aboriginal nations to establish Family Law committees to study issues in preparation for self-government in this area.

**GNWT Comments**

The GNWT is aware of the RCAP recommendations on justice, which were not included in the Final Report. The GNWT recognizes that Aboriginal peoples have not been well served by the formal criminal system and that there are different values, views and ways of resolving conflict. Following extensive consultation with NWT residents on territorial family law legislation, revisions have taken into consideration Aboriginal customary law. The Department of Justice has a Community Justice Initiative that is designed to promote restorative justice. This initiative is not a self-government initiative nor is its goal the creation of a separate justice system for Aboriginal people. However, the current directions will not prejudice a separate system and, indeed, should provide valuable experience should a separate system based on traditional restorative values be developed.

**Appendices**

- I RCAP Recommendations within Provincial/Territorial Mandates not supported by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)
- II RCAP Recommendations within Provincial/Territorial Mandates being considered by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)
- III RCAP Recommendations within Provincial/Territorial Mandates supported by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)

APPENDIX I: **RCAP Recommendations within Provincial/Territorial Mandates not supported by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)**

Rec. No.	Summary of RCAP Recommendation	Rationale / Alternative
<i>New Relationship with Aboriginal Peoples</i>		
2.4.24-25	- Develop legislation setting out duty to reach interim relief agreements	- Not necessary in the Northwest Territories (NWT) as interim measures for land protection are put into place during land claim agreements where necessary (e.g. the GNWT Land Lease-Only Policy allows for the exclusion of certain Crown land (i.e. Commissioner's Land) from public disposition in the Dene/Metis settlement area to ensure that land claims negotiations are not prejudiced) (AA-c)
<i>Treaties and Land Claims</i>		
2.4.26-28	- Provincial governments to establish policies for land claims and self-government negotiations and participate fully in treaty-making and make land available	- Not necessary in NWT as such guidelines are already done or addressed under existing government processes (e.g. Vision for Governance in the Western NWT; GNWT Aboriginal Claims Policy) (AA-c)

APPENDIX II: RCAP Recommendations Within Provincial/Territorial Mandates being considered by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)

Rec. No.	Summary of RCAP Recommendation	Action(s) For Consideration
<i>New Relationship with Aboriginal Peoples</i>		
2.2.14  2.2.15-17 & 4.6.2-3	<p>- Each province to establish Crown Treaty Office to enable participation in treaty process.</p> <p>- The GNWT to establish a Treaty Commission (at request of Dene communities seeking a treaty process) as permanent, independent and neutral bodies to facilitate and oversee treaty negotiations. Treaty Commission to determine Dene governing authorities in addition to framework for public government in the new western territory. Aboriginal Lands and Treaties Tribunal to play supporting role to Treaty Commission.</p>	<p>- If requested, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) would consider establishing such an office. However, it has not been needed to conclude 4 land claim agreements to date. The GNWT is currently participating in 7 land claim, self government and treaty entitlement negotiations.</p> <p>- An Aboriginal/public process is in place for determining a new western government. Self government negotiations are also underway and will define aspects of Aboriginal governance. Consideration by the GNWT for a Northwest Territories (NWT) Treaty Commission would have to involve Canada and would require analysis of effectiveness of the existing Indian Claims Commission. It is unlikely that a government would support both a Commission and a Lands and Treaties Tribunal unless roles and responsibilities are more clearly identified.</p>
<i>Treaties and Land Claims</i>		
2.4.10-14  2.4.15-23	<p>- Treaty and land claim negotiations should use 3 categories of land to define ownership and jurisdiction</p> <p>- Protection of existing third party interests within proposed land categories</p>	<p>- In the NWT, land categories in land claim agreements are defined by negotiation. The GNWT accepts the definitions for Category II and III land (Aboriginal authority shared or limited). However, certain lands (e.g. water) will never be subject to full Aboriginal ownership and primary jurisdiction (i.e. definition of Category I land). The GNWT currently maintains ultimate jurisdiction in some areas (e.g. wildlife) and laws of general application would still prevail in areas of public interest.</p> <p>- In the NWT, protection of third party interests is established by negotiation. The GNWT is supportive of the recommendation under these conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Category I = The GNWT agrees to consider selection/expropriation of fee simple lands, existing parks or protected areas only under exceptional circumstances. The GNWT agrees that lands with less than fee simple can be selected if an Aboriginal nation respects original terms of tenure;</li> <li>- Category II &amp; III = The GNWT agrees that all lands could be selected depending upon terms and conditions of third party interests. Self government negotiations will define governance and shared jurisdiction (e.g. fee simple lands; existing parks and protected areas).</li> </ul>

<i>Governance</i>		<b>Action(s) For Consideration</b>
2.3.12	- All governments in Canada to recognize that Section 35 of the <i>Constitution Act</i> provides the basis for an Aboriginal order of government (i.e. third order of government) that coexists within the framework of Canada along with federal and provincial orders of government	- The GNWT will address this recommendation and will follow the federal lead. The GNWT supports protection of structures and powers negotiated in the context of self government agreements as well as constitutionally protecting aspects of those agreements.
2.3.20-21	- To finance Aboriginal governments, Aboriginal citizens, living on their territory, pay personal income tax to their Aboriginal governments, who reimburse provincial/territorial govt. for services that govt. continues to provide	- Fiscal arrangements, including taxation, are within the scope of current self government negotiations.
4.7.22 & 26	- Support and provide opportunities for urban governance where Aboriginal numbers warrant	- This has not been requested to date, however, could be considered by the GNWT through self government or other processes such as community empowerment.
<i>Culture</i>		<b>Action(s) For Consideration</b>
4.4.3-5	- Ministers to meet on establishing an Aboriginal Sports and Recreation Advisory Council	- The National Aboriginal Sports Circle promotes sporting opportunities for Aboriginal people. The NWT has 2 members. Establishment of a separate council would need to be considered.
4.7.8 & 18	- Make funding to non-Aboriginal service agencies conditional on staff taking cross cultural courses (reflecting conditions for urban, rural and female Aboriginals) delivered by Aboriginal people	- The Department of Health and Social Services is reviewing human resource practices and would consider actioning as total package of Human Resources initiatives for all third party contractors (including H&SS boards).
<i>Employment and Training</i>		<b>Action(s) For Consideration</b>
4.4.6	- Establish youth co-op home construction program, based on Habitat for Humanity Model, to provide housing, employment and training for youth	- The NWT Housing Corporation (NWT HC) and the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development would consider discussing the feasibility of a pilot project for this purpose, if requested. NWT HC has promoted sweat equity programs.
<i>Economic development</i>		<b>Action(s) For Consideration</b>
2.5.1-2	- Develop long term economic development agreements with Aboriginal nations based on mutually agreeable goals and principles and channel all resources with an economic development mandate through this agreement.	- The Federal Government has a set-aside program for Aboriginal Businesses only (Aboriginal Business Procurement Policy). However, the GNWT supports business development programs for <i>all</i> northern businesses. Negotiations on economic development programs between Canada and GNWT have been undertaken with the understanding that benefits accrue to all client groups. If Aboriginal groups request to be included in negotiations then a mechanism will be needed to allow active participation of all client groups. In the last federal/territorial Economic Development Agreement (EDA), review and approval of applications was through regional boards which included Aboriginal members and certain funds were targeted at activities that involve primarily Aboriginal residents (e.g. Traditional Economy component).

<i>Housing</i>		<b>Action(s) For Consideration</b>
3.4.1	- Address Aboriginal housing and community services on following policy principles (adequate shelter, water, sanitation; Aboriginal people meet housing needs according to ability to pay or contribute in kind; acute risks to health or safety treated immediately)	- NWT housing services reflect these principles. The GNWT Municipal Capital Assistance Policy assists all communities to achieve a basic level of municipal infrastructure that is designed and constructed within GNWT approved capital standards. Communities are expected to contribute to capital cost in accordance with their ability.
<i>Health and Social Services</i>		<b>Action(s) For Consideration</b>
3.3.6 & 10-11	- Collaborate with Aboriginal groups to develop and fund local and regional Aboriginal healing centres	- The GNWT will consider collaboration on regional initiatives such as healing lodges, if these are part of a regional Health and Social Services Board's plan and resources are available.

APPENDIX III: RCAP Recommendations within Provincial/Territorial Mandates Supported by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)

Rec. No.	Summary of RCAP Recommendation	Status	GNWT Actions
<i>New Relationship with Aboriginal Peoples</i>			
2.3.2	- Provincial/territorial governments recognize Aboriginal peoples are nations vested with the right of self-determination	- Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Premiers, Ministers and MLA's have made statements at territorial and national forums in support of this right since 1982.	- The GNWT made a public statement of support of this right in December 1991 in the legislature and has lobbied to have this right incorporated into Canada's constitution.
4.3.1	- Recognize role of elders and traditional knowledge to rebuild Aboriginal nations and support elders gatherings and networks	- The GNWT recognizes the important role of elders and traditional knowledge in rebuilding Aboriginal nations and in making GNWT programs reflective of the people they serve. Where appropriate, elders are being involved when developing policy (e.g. GNWT Traditional Knowledge Policy) and when revising program services or delivery.	- Examples = Health & Social Services (H&SS) has supported several gatherings of elders, traditional healers and health practitioners (February 1995 - Traditional Health Practices Workshop; August 1996 - Nunavut TK/Medical Retreat in Iqaluit; in 1997-98, H&SS is providing funding for Dene Cultural Institute to organize a gathering for Western Arctic). Elders have been involved in developing culturally based education curricula.
4.6.1 & 4	- Dene of the Northwest Territories (NWT) have the opportunity to negotiate new political arrangements as a Nation. In the new western territory, recognize the leading role of Aboriginal nation governments and design a territorial government with few leading roles and, where appropriate, play a coordinating role with other governments	- NWT Dene and Metis have chosen to proceed with regional land claims and self government negotiations. Two are complete (Gwich'in; Sahtu Dene & Metis). In the western NWT, several political and constitutional development processes are defining changes to government at all levels. Western NWT Aboriginal organizations have the opportunity to participate as full partners in the processes currently available.	- Dene of the NWT are currently defining roles for Aboriginal governments through the following processes: constitutional (all western Aboriginal organizations); self government (e.g. Gwich'in and Inuvialuit; Dogrib Treaty 11 Council; Salt River First Nation; South Slave Metis); comprehensive land claims (e.g. Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, Akaitcho Territory Tribal Council).
4.6.6	- In Nunavut and remaining NWT, new arrangements be kept simple (given high cost of government) and allocate clear responsibilities between Aboriginal nation governments and territorial institutions	- In the western NWT, the constitutional, land claims and self government processes are not complete. In the eastern NWT, the Nunavut land claim calls for establishment of a public government and public service that is representative of its population, which is about 85% Inuit.	- Development of a constitution for the western NWT is underway and options to integrate public/aboriginal government are being considered. The structure of the new Nunavut government is being designed by Inuit leaders.
5.1.1	- First Ministers meet within 6 months to review RCAP recommendations and begin drafting Royal Proclamation	- GNWT is supportive of such a meeting.	- The GNWT will attend such meetings.
5.1.5	- Cooperate with Aboriginal Peoples Review Commission as it monitors progress on treaty, self government negotiations and RCAP recommendations	- Such a commission has not been established.	- The GNWT will cooperate with such a Commission once it is established.
<i>Treaties and Land claims</i>		<b>Status</b>	<b>GNWT Actions</b>
2.2.2-4, 2.4.1-3, 5-6, 2.5.12 & 4.5.7	- Adopt new federal Principles for treaty negotiations (no extinguishment of Aboriginal rights, include rights of governance, include Metis) and principles for negotiating land base (e.g. sufficient in size and quality to foster economic self-reliance) and goals.	- Initiation of treaty negotiations is a federal responsibility. The recommendation applies primarily to provincial areas as in the NWT, these principles are being addressed in land claim/treaty/self government negotiation processes.	- In NWT, Dene and Metis are negotiating modern treaties. Extinguishment is the main outstanding policy issue in the NWT.
2.2.5 & 11	- Treaties should cover governance (justice, long term financial arrangements), economic rights (annuities, harvesting), land and resources, programs and services, etc.	- The GNWT supports this approach.	- These are being considered in NWT land claim and self government negotiations .

Treaties and Land claims cont'd		Status	GNWT Actions
2.4.4 & 2.5.27 2.4.7-9 4.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Land claim negotiations include funding for economic development needs and compensation</li> <li>- Adopt principles for negotiating land and resource allocation as outlined in 2.4.1-6</li> <li>- Recognize Aboriginal peoples' rights of access and develop guidelines to public lands to gather traditional herbs, plants and medicines where compatible with existing use</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Being done in NWT land claim agreements.</li> <li>- The GNWT supports the adoption of these principles .</li> <li>- Already being applied in modern treaty negotiations in NWT.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Will be included in new agreements to be negotiated</li> <li>- Being done in NWT negotiations (through land selection criteria).</li> <li>- Will be included in new agreements to be negotiated</li> </ul>
Governance		Status	GNWT Actions
2.3.3-7 & 13, 4.5.10  3.2.2-4 3.2.10 3.3.2 3.4.1 3.5.1-2 3.6.8 3.2.5 & 3.3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GNWT recognize constitutional right to self government is vested in Aboriginal nations (as defined in 2.3.3 ), including Metis, not small local communities; and will cooperate in developing self government and block funding agreements with core areas of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- child welfare</li> <li>- family law</li> <li>- health</li> <li>- housing</li> <li>- education</li> <li>- Aboriginal language status and use</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Until self government agreements reached, voluntary agencies endorsed by Aboriginal peoples will be used.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The GNWT, with Canada, is negotiating self government agreements with the following Aboriginal Nations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- First Nations (Gwich'in and Inuvialuit, Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, Salt River First Nation, Akaitcho Territory Tribal Council);</li> <li>- at request of Aboriginal leaders, GNWT is also negotiating with Aboriginal communities (e.g. Sahtu Dene and Metis of Deline).</li> <li>- Metis, GNWT and Canada signed a framework agreement in 1996 with the South Slave Metis to negotiate self government and land and resource arrangements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- The GNWT is transferring authorities (e.g. health and social services administration, Dogrib Community Services Board Agreement) through agreements with Aboriginal communities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Scope of current self government negotiations covers most areas of jurisdiction the GNWT occupies (i.e. Section 16 of the <i>NWT Act</i>). Negotiations will determine extent to which Aboriginal jurisdiction will be recognized. GNWT is working with Canada and Aboriginal nations to ensure consistent application of Canada's "Inherent Rights Policy" in the NWT.</li> <li>- Examples = In May 1997, health and social services administration agreements completed for Dogrib communities and Lutsel k'e First Nation. Similar agreement being developed for Fort Resolution. Block funding will be allocated through formula based on population and community health needs. Transfer of control of social service programs completed for Cape Dorset and Iqaluit and in progress for Clyde River and Igloodik. The new <i>Child and Family Services Act</i> will allow agreements with communities to deliver Child Welfare.</li> <li>- Examples = through the GNWT's Inuit Employment Plan, Inuit trainees are enrolled in Sivuliuqit Management Training Program. Inuit policy trainee program established jointly by several GNWT departments.</li> <li>- Examples = ECE is working with the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute to develop a module on cultural resource management. GNWT has provided funding for documentation by First nations of traditional governance systems (e.g. Dogrib).</li> </ul>
3.5.40-41	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Provide co-op, internship and executive interchange opportunities to build capacity for self government</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GNWT supports these opportunities and will increase opportunities to prepare for creation of the two new territories.</li> </ul>	
3.5.37, 3.6.6 & 4.6.19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To build capacity to implement self government, provide funding to northern education institutions to deliver education and training. Priority skills should include economics and heritage research, conservation and preservation</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- GNWT supports such opportunities. High school curricula and Arctic College curricula provide information and a level of training in these areas. Incremental costs associated with capacity building are the responsibility of Canada.</li> </ul>	

Governance cont'd		Status	GNWT Actions
4.2.1	- Involve Aboriginal women's organizations in design and development of self government models (Canada to fund)	- GNWT has Women's Initiative Grants and Contributions Program which provides funding to address women's issues economically, socially, politically and culturally.	- The NWT Women's Advisory Secretariat will assist Aboriginal women's groups to access funding for purposes of research and participation in all stages leading to design and development of self government processes.
Public Relations/Education		Status	GNWT Actions
5.4.1, 2.2.1 2.4.42 2.4.69 4.6.7 5.4.9 5.4.11	- Develop public relations/education program with Aboriginal groups based on certain principles that covers: - concepts underlying treaties and self determination - resource harvest priorities - governance changes in two new territories - important events in Aboriginal history - Make public education an integral part of all programs that affect Aboriginal people	- This is done as part of: - implementation plans for land claim agreements; - public education system (Grades 10-12).  - GNWT departments develop public communication plans, as needed, when changing GNWT program services or delivery.	- Public education/relations program will continue to be part of implementation plans for future agreements (AA-c). Northern political issues are reflected in the mandatory Grade 10 Northern Studies course and in social studies curriculum.  - Examples = press releases, brochures on new programs, and videos are some of the communication methods used. Material is translated into Aboriginal languages, as needed.
Culture		Status	GNWT Actions
3.6.3-4  3.6.5  4.6.21  4.6.22  3.6.15 & 18  3.6.20-21	- Museums work with Aboriginal groups to review legislation and adopt ethical guidelines for collecting, displaying, interpreting Aboriginal artifacts - Develop strategies with Aboriginal people to support Aboriginal access to cultural and heritage displays  - Provide support to institutes that gather, research and apply traditional knowledge to contemporary issues  - Incorporate traditional knowledge into all institutions, education and training  - Support freedom of expression with access to information policies and provide core funding for Aboriginal media and incentives (e.g. tax) to encourage private and corporate support - Support training of Aboriginal artists and performers and display of art in public facilities and Aboriginal participation on decision-making bodies, juries, etc.	- GNWT supports establishment of ethical guidelines in this area.  - The GNWT's Prince of Wales Museum provides professional and technical support to Aboriginal groups. Funding is also available (Heritage Centres Core Funding Operating Program).  - Institutions or individuals are eligible for funding programs that support traditional knowledge research.  - The GNWT Traditional Knowledge Policy directs program departments to identify areas where study or application of traditional knowledge is appropriate and, when appropriate, integrate into program design and delivery.  - The GNWT supports freedom of expression.  - The GNWT is supportive of training initiatives and Aboriginal participation on decision-making bodies.	- The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) follows ethical guidelines established by Canadian Museums Association/Assembly of First Nations. - 3 community museums have been established (Norman Wells, Fort Smith, Iqaluit). ECE is proposing to change legislation to support communities to set and meet goals and priorities for sites, collection, display and interpretation of artifacts. - Funding programs available are Oral Traditions; Geographic Names Research; Cultural Organizations; Cultural Enhancement, NWT Arts Council. - Examples = regional Health and Social Services Boards are encouraged to collaborate with Aboriginal organizations to design culturally appropriate programs and services reflective of their clientele. Aurora College has developed a Traditional Knowledge Strategy. - The GNWT recently implemented an <i>Access to Information Act</i> .  - Several GNWT departments provide funding support to develop Aboriginal arts and the GNWT regularly appoints Aboriginal residents to decision-making bodies (e.g. NWT Arts Council).



Culture cont'd		Status	GNWT Actions
4.4.1-2	- Establish youth centres that include cultural and recreational programs and provide funding for community initiatives to establish Aboriginal youth camps	- ECE has funded programs for on-the-land-activities with emphasis on Aboriginal language development and literary, cultural activities and some school-based programs for youth.	- Examples = youth leadership forums, science camps in Nunavut, Community Literacy Projects fund, Aboriginal Language Literacy fund and Language Enhancement fund.
4.4.7-9	- Adopt national Aboriginal youth policy with key program areas of education, justice, health and healing, sports and recreation and urban Aboriginal youth	- GNWT supports all youth programs.	- GNWT is participating in developing and implementing a National Youth Employment Strategy.
4.5.6	- Collaborate with authorized Metis groups to preserve, study, etc. Metis culture and Michif language	- GNWT supports development of NWT official languages. Michif presently does not have Official Language status. There is no population base in NWT and no documentation to teach the language.	- ECE provides support to Cultural Organizations through core funding and Metis Heritage Association. Metis are eligible to apply for project funding through Cultural Enhancement and Oral Traditions programs .
4.7.1	- Work with Aboriginal elders to promote Aboriginal culture in urban areas	- GNWT supports this recommendations.	- All cultural funding programs are open to Aboriginal groups.
4.7.3, 5-7 & 9-10	- Provide and fund programs and services through Aboriginal service institutions that are culturally appropriate (and developed with Aboriginal people) for urban Aboriginal people where numbers warrant	- With only one small reserve in the NWT, the GNWT works with communities to find ways for programs and services to suit the needs of both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents.	- The Department of Health and Social Services (H&SS) through its Boards delivers comprehensive health and social services without regard for legal or treaty status
5.4.10	- Honour Aboriginal peoples contributions with more use of Aboriginal place names, languages and ceremonies	- The GNWT is supportive of the use of Aboriginal languages. The 1984 <i>Official Languages Act</i> recognizes 6 Aboriginal languages in addition to English and French and prescribes the rights of NWT citizens to communicate in these languages. The new Official Languages Policy provides guidelines for the use of official languages in delivery of GNWT programs and services. An Official Languages Commissioner is responsible for monitoring compliance and investigating complaints.	- When naming GNWT buildings, parks, etc, departments consult with communities (e.g. Saamba Deh Territorial Park). Departments also assist in language development (e.g. legal interpreter training developed for all languages; medical interpreter training handbook and courses developed for Inuktitut. A Health and Social Service' terminology project in a Dene language is proposed for 1997-98.)
Education		Status	GNWT Actions
2.5.46	- Rebuild Aboriginal economies and increase school attendance and graduation and maths and sciences, economic development, and resource management curricula	- An objective of the new NWT Education Strategy is to keep more students in school by offering programs that meet their learning needs.	- Examples = Student Northern Apprenticeship Program; Career and Technology Studies work experience programs in high school.
3.5.3	- Develop and support early childhood education funding strategy that promotes parental involvement and is available to all Aboriginal children under Aboriginal control	- Education is available to all Aboriginal children and the 1996 <i>Education Act</i> promotes local control and parental involvement. Key objective of Education Strategy is to integrate child care and early childhood education.	- Examples = Healthy Children Initiative; subsidy for low income families with children that need intervention; all early childhood programs encourage parental involvement.
3.5.4	- Aboriginal and other governments to reach agreements on mutual recognition of programs to facilitate student transfers between educational systems	- This could be worked into self government agreements.	- Aboriginal control is being discussed through community empowerment and self government negotiations.
3.5.5-6 & 4.6.22	- Develop curricula that reflect Aboriginal cultures and traditional knowledge. Aboriginal language instruction should receive priority for development and involve elders	- The 1996 <i>Education Act</i> enables local education bodies to provide culturally appropriate education system (e.g. decide on language of instruction from K-3) and increases community control. Aurora College offered Language Specialist Program.	- Aboriginal curricula were developed with elders: Dene Kede (K-6 done; 7-9 in progress); and Inuuqatigiit (K-12). Aboriginal language of instruction for K-3 in some areas (e.g. Baffin and Keewatin, one Dogrib school). Teaching and learning centres develop instructional material.

Education cont'd		Status	GNWT Actions
3.5.7-8	- Involve Aboriginal people in decision-making processes and in the life of the school	- Such processes are integrated throughout NWT education system.	- Examples = The District Education Authority (DEA) is elected by the community and has decision-making authority over local education matters. DEA members are primarily Aboriginal in most smaller communities.
3.5.9-10	- Develop Aboriginal education strategy covering hiring Aboriginal staff, curricula, etc. and Aboriginal youth empowerment strategy with Aboriginal people	- Aboriginal people must be involved in the development of programs and services and give input to strategies to assist Aboriginal youth. Aboriginal students, born in the NWT and enrolled in post-secondary studies, are eligible for a supplementary grant under Student Financial Assistance.	- Examples = GNWT has developed a strategy for hiring Aboriginal staff (Teacher Education Strategy), Aboriginal curricula (Dene Kede and Inuuqatigiit), and youth and community handbook to encourage youth participation in community development activities.
3.5.11-12 & 19	- Extend high school programs to all communities and make funding and program available for those who dropped out	- Inclusive schooling is mandated in the <i>Education Act</i> . ECE has a Senior Secondary Schooling Policy to establish full Grade 10-12 programs in all communities of 500 or more.	- Aboriginal school community counsellors, program support teachers and community agencies work together to increase the number of high school graduates.
3.5.13	- Fund co-op programs in secondary schools	- Secondary school in partnership with public and private sectors provide school learning and work experience based on labour market needs. Funding flows through Division Education Councils and Aboriginal people involved through various consultations.	- Examples = High school co-op programs include SNAP, Career and Technology Studies (CTS) and Work Experience Programs.
3.5.14-18	- Provide funding and support for Aboriginal teacher education program that is supported by Aboriginal people, increases number of Aboriginal teachers and accommodates Aboriginal subject matters	- In 1990, an NWT Aboriginal Teacher Training Strategy was developed. Community based and delivered teacher training programs in communities across NWT.	- The Strategy is being updated and will be implemented in April 1998. Currently 218 Aboriginal teachers are teaching in NWT schools. As well, Aboriginal language specialists are being trained and receiving accreditation towards the Aboriginal teacher training program.
3.5.26	- Collaborate with other jurisdictions to support post-secondary aboriginal educational institutions <i>controlled</i> by Aboriginal peoples	- ECE has strategy to develop stronger links between the colleges, business and industry and land claim groups. In the last five years, enrollment in Arctic College by Aboriginal students has increased (Inuit - 163%; Dene 105%; Metis 76%).	- Aboriginal people have a measure of control over post-secondary institutions by sitting on the Aurora and Arctic Colleges' Boards of Governors. Programs chosen for delivery are based on demand from communities.
3.5.28-31	- Reinstate elders in education with appropriate remuneration and professional privileges and incorporate traditional knowledge into accredited courses	- Elders are recognized for their wisdom and expertise in learning. Elders are contracted to teach cultural programs in the school and on-the-land. Elders are hired to provide advice and expertise in the development of curricula.	- Elders involved in development of Dene Kede and Inuuqatigiit curricula.
3.5.43	- Provide support to and establish distance education model of professional training	- Implementation of a high speed Digital Communication Network (DCN) is necessary to ensure support and distance learning.	- To support the DCN, courses will be piloted to Boards and Colleges in 1997-98 (e.g. new Nunavut nursing program). It is anticipated that a full complement of courses can be offered to all communities by September 1999.
Child Care		Status	GNWT Actions
2.5.42-44	- Establish agreements on child care; use of volunteers and social assistance funding	- ECE has a Healthy Children Initiative which has community based programs .	- Funding is being provided to each community through the Healthy Children Initiative to develop ECE programs appropriate to their needs.
2.5.45	- Amend legislation for licencing and monitoring child care services so more culturally appropriate	- Decentralization of early childhood programs to regions will assist in services being provided that are culturally relevant to regions.	- All early childhood programs are encouraged to involve family and elders in program delivery.

<i>Income Support</i>		Status	GNWT Actions
2.5.47-52 & 4.6.12-13	- (With Canada) Restructure social assistance programs to support employment and social development, promote Aboriginal control for design and administration, reflect holistic approach, and allow Aboriginal initiatives that make innovative use of funds and promote participation in traditional mixed economy	- Following massive Aboriginal First Nations/Inuit/Other consultation, Social Assistance programs were redesigned to support access to training (including traditional harvesting activities) and as well as community wellness activities.	- The program redesign supports access to such programs as Adult Basic Education and Counselling and allows for Aboriginal community management of income support program delivery.
<i>Employment and Training</i>		Status	GNWT Actions
3.3.14-20	- In collaboration with Aboriginal communities and post secondary institutions, include training on cultural issues and develop and fund strategy to train and increase Aboriginal professionals in health care and social services	- A priority of Health and Social Services (H&SS) is to develop a northern workforce. Human resource practices in health and social service delivery are being reviewed to make delivery more culturally sensitive and focus resources on training Aboriginal practitioners. Many Aboriginal residents trained as Community Social Workers or Community Health Representatives.	- Examples = Registered nurse training program developed in Western Arctic through H&SS and Aurora College. Thirteen have graduated. In Nunavut, a similar training program will begin in partnership with H&SS, Arctic College and Dalhousie University in 1997-98. The GNWT also funds a nurse mentorship program for new NWT graduates.
4.6.17	- Take into account skills gained through life experience in place of formal education when hiring personnel	- Part of GNWT hiring practices.	- Where appropriate, GNWT establishes equivalencies in job descriptions for knowledge, skills and abilities that take into account practical working and living experiences.
4.6.18	- Employment policy should accommodate demands for traditional economic activities	- Current GNWT hiring policies and collective agreement have this flexibility and GNWT has promoted this approach to industry.	- Examples = Job sharing is an option under the collective agreement. A rotational work schedule was agreed to in the GNWT/BHP Socio-economic Agreement to allow Aboriginal mine workers time for traditional economic activities.
4.6.20	- Incorporate education and training of Aboriginal people into all institutional development	- The GNWT, through its Affirmative Action Policy, is supportive of a competent public service that is representative of the population it serves. This is also a goal for the new Nunavut and western NWT governments. Each GNWT department is responsible for their own affirmative action training initiatives.	- Examples = Training positions for Aboriginal candidates have been established for various positions (e.g. renewable resource officers, policy officers). Private sector training needs for the new western territory can be assessed with ECE's 1997 Snapshot of the Western NWT Labour Market.
4.7.4	- Cost share (with Canada) affirmative action programs and services to address economic/social conditions of urban Aboriginal people	- The GNWT has had an Affirmative Action Policy for more than 10 years which promotes preferred access to employment, training and career opportunities in the government.	- A comprehensive review of the Affirmative Action Policy was recently completed. The policy remains unchanged, however, implementation procedures are being revised.
5.4.2	- Bodies that represent or serve both Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people should promote cross-cultural understanding to enhance relations with Aboriginal people	- The GNWT Response to the 1993 Report by the Special Committee on Health and Social Services commits to a mandatory formal orientation program with cross-cultural training within 6 months of employment by Health and Social Service Boards for all front-line health and social services workers.	- Examples = Health and Social Services supports participation of employees in events that promote cross cultural understanding such as the Nunavut Medical Traditional Knowledge Retreat. The Advanced Nursing Skills Inservice Training Program has a trans-cultural nursing component.
<i>Economic development</i>		Status	GNWT Actions
2.5.3 & 5	- Provide Aboriginal nations with modern treaties with funding, technical support and full jurisdiction over economic development programs	- This is similar to the GNWT approach. As well, one of the three main priorities of the Agenda for Change prepared by the current legislature is to improve economic conditions – in part by support for community-driven economic opportunities and transfer of economic development programs to communities.	- The Community Futures Program is a joint federal/territorial program that provides support to regions or communities to assess and promote economic planning and development.

<i>Economic development cont'd</i>		Status	GNWT Actions
2.5.18-19	- Improve economic development programs by providing business advisory services, trade promotion within Aboriginal economic development institutions	- Business services are provided through Trade and Investment Division of the Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development and community Economic Development Officers. GNWT promotes "northern products" which include Aboriginal products.	- In some communities, the position of Economic Development Officers has been transferred to the community. Some specific promotion of Aboriginal products has been done (e.g. Paris art show, lobbying European Union to prevent European wild fur embargo).
2.5.23-24	- Loans - support micro-lending institutions, establish revolving community loan funds for capital and O&M purposes	- The Business Development Fund (BDF) provides funding to all stakeholders that demonstrate need.	- In the past, Aboriginal based interest groups have received significant portions of funding available through BDF.
2.5.26	- Equity - establish programs that last at least 10 years with condition that applicant must provide some equity	- The GNWT has equity programs in place for all northern businesses through Business Development Fund. Total amount available constrained by fiscal capacity of GNWT.	- The GNWT requires some funding to be provided by interested party. BDF equity programs geared toward communities of 1,000 or less residents. In the NWT, residents of these small communities are primarily Aboriginal.
2.5.32	- Venture capital - assist formation of such corporations through tax credits for investors and establish performance requirements	- The GNWT does not have any tax credits or performance requirements at this time .	- The GNWT could consider developing tax credits if requested. The GNWT would consult with Aboriginal organizations prior to developing performance requirements.
4.6.15	- Encourage innovative means of delivering management support to small enterprises through Aboriginal development corporations	- The GNWT provides this support through a wide variety of processes.	- Examples = Business Training, Board of Directors Workshops (especially for Band-owned businesses), CESO program (where experienced business people are hired to aid small enterprises).
<i>Resource management</i>		Status	GNWT Actions
2.4.50	- Improve Aboriginal access to forest resources on Crown lands and promote Aboriginal involvement in planning, etc.	- Comprehensive land claims provide increased access for beneficiaries (e.g. Gwich'in) and increased Aboriginal involvement in resource management and decisions.	- Being promoted in areas without land claim agreements through integrated resource management plans.
2.4.62 & 65	- Resource management legislation acknowledge priority of Aboriginal subsistence harvesting and, when resources are scarce, the order of priority should be: conservation; subsistence Aboriginal; subsistence non-Aboriginal, commercial Aboriginal; commercial non-Aboriginal; and recreational	- Although land claim agreements give priority harvesting rights to beneficiaries, define orders of priority and establish co-management boards, the GNWT retains authority for wildlife management (including polar bears) and the federal Department of Fisheries and Oceans retains authority for fisheries management.	- The NWT <i>Wildlife Act</i> is being revised in accordance with provisions of land claim agreements.
2.4.67-68	- GNWT conduct joint studies with Aboriginal people to collect data on wildlife stocks and harvests	- Joint studies with Aboriginal people and renewable resource management boards have been conducted for many years. Both scientific and traditional knowledge contribute to research studies and management plans for many species (e.g. polar bear, caribou, furbearers, geese). As well, Aboriginal people, the federal government and the GNWT have worked in partnership to monitor the levels of contaminants in northern country foods since 1989.	- Examples = local bear hunters hired to capture polar bears with snowmobile and dogs to document movement and population size in Jones Sound; local hunters hired to assist with capture of wolverine by snowmobile to study movement in Lac de Gras area; local hunters hired to survey reindeer population by snowmobile in Belcher Islands; traditional knowledge used to develop Beverly/Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Plan.
2.4.70	- Allow Aboriginal governments to work out cross border Aboriginal harvesting and introduce specific big game quotas or season for local non-Aboriginal residents	- The NWT <i>Wildlife Act</i> has provisions for issuing conditional Border A and B licences (Alberta, Saskatchewan and Manitoba) and establishing seasons for non-Aboriginal residents and non-residents.	- Land claim agreements (e.g. <i>Inuvialuit Final Agreement</i> ) include provisions to allow for reciprocal agreement and may make recommendations on quota allocations.

Resource management cont'd		Status	GNWT Actions
2.4.71	- Increase allocation of tourist outfitters' licences to Aboriginal people	- In accordance with land claim agreements, GNWT is increasing allocation of tourism outfitters' licences. No amendments required to <i>Tourism Act</i> .	- In accordance with the <i>Inuvialuit Final Agreement</i> , the <i>NWT Wildlife Act</i> was amended to give first priority to Inuvialuit for outfitting, guiding and other activities in their settlement area. GNWT consults with affected communities prior to granting licences.
2.4.72	- Devolve trapline management to Aboriginal govts. through agreements	- Trapline management has/is being delegated to Aboriginal groups via agreements, however, the GNWT retains ultimate authority.	- Examples = agreement has been developed with Inuvik Hunters and Trappers Committee.
2.4.78, 4.6.11 & 22	- Develop co-management regimes for land, water and resources and incorporate use of traditional knowledge by regulatory boards (other Canadian jurisdictions to emulate NWT models)	- These principles guide GNWT renewable resource management. Co-management boards for renewable resources are established under NWT land claim agreements and have also been used to manage migratory wildlife (e.g. Beverly/Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board involves NWT, Saskatchewan and Manitoba governments and user groups). Federal government retains land and water management authority.	- Examples = polar bear management agreements; integrated resource management plans; draft federal <i>Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act</i> .
2.4.58-61 & 3.6.2-3	- Enact legislation to recognize Aboriginal people as owners and managers of cultural and historic sites; to protect sites; and to allow traditional Aboriginal activities in National Parks	- The <i>Territorial Parks Act</i> recognizes that territorial parks are subject to terms and conditions of land claim agreements and does not prohibit Aboriginal subsistence harvesting activities.	- Protection and Aboriginal management of cultural sites will be addressed through the NWT Protected Areas Strategy which is being prepared by the GNWT in partnership with NWT Aboriginal organizations, industry, the federal government and other interest groups.
3.6.1, 4.3.2	- Work with Aboriginal groups and elders to establish inventory of historical and sacred sites	- GNWT supports this recommendation.	- Through implementation funding, ECE is assisting Sahtu Secretariat to develop an inventory. ECE Cultural and Heritage staff often work with Aboriginal groups and elders to record traditional land use and spiritual sites.
Housing		Status	GNWT Actions
3.4.12	In cooperation with Canada and Aboriginal people, meet housing needs for non-reserve Aboriginal people within 10 years.	- GNWT supports this recommendations.	- Block funding agreements have been established with Yellowknives First Nation and Dogrib Rae Band.
Municipal Infrastructure		Status	GNWT Actions
3.4.5	- Provide funding and technical resources to First nation governments to operate and maintain community water and sewer systems	- In the NWT, the majority of elected municipal officials in 55 of the 60 communities are Aboriginal. GNWT funding and technical expertise has been dedicated to municipal infrastructure for both capital and O&M expenditures. Training of local municipal staff (who are often Aboriginal) has been ongoing.	- Greater control and management of municipal infrastructure is being transferred to local governments who are being trained to manage these new responsibilities. Arrangements are being made to provide block funding to local governments, including First nations, to take over full responsibility and accountability for municipal infrastructure expenditures and operations.

Health and Social Services	Status	GNWT Actions
3.2.11-12	- GNWT recognizes Aboriginal customary family law (e.g. custom adoption has been recognized for over 20 years). The 1992 Family Law Report contained recommendations to reform existing legislation. Provisions are made for Aboriginal research into customary laws.	- Example = The 1995 <i>Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act</i> sets up a process for custom adoption: Adoption commissioners (elders) issue certificates of adoption; birth certificate identifies natural and adoptive parents; Act allows customary law to be applied according to each Aboriginal culture. Three new family law acts were passed in October 1997 that incorporate Aboriginal customary family law: <i>Child and Family Services Act</i> to replace <i>Child Welfare Act</i> ; <i>Family Law Act</i> ; <i>Children's Act</i> .
3.3.1 & 24-25	- GNWT Community Wellness Initiative based on concept that people not agencies hold key to wellness. The initiative identifies 4 areas of action: prevention, healing & treatment; education & training; interagency collaboration; and community empowerment. GNWT has completed review of health and social services delivery system.	- H&SS has completed a "Community in Action" document that identifies community wellness initiatives taken by communities in 1994-95 as well as GNWT and other funding sources. GNWT is consulting on the 1997 Med-Emerge Report's proposed framework for integrated health and social services system.
3.3.21-23	- GNWT promote collaboration between traditional and professional health practitioners	- Since 1995, NWT professional associations have included traditional medicine and healing practices and healers in workshops.
3.3.4	- When making social, economic or political policies, review impact on Aboriginal health and communities	- Will be taken into account for new policies being developed for health and social services (formula funding, human resources, child welfare, addictions' services and care facilities).
3.3.5, 7, 9 & 4.7.17	- GNWT provides Health Benefits to eligible Metis. H&SS is working with Aboriginal organizations to develop formula funding allocations based on population and regional health profiles (that have been completed by regional Health and Social Services Boards) and to implement the recommendations of the 1993 GNWT Special Committee on Health and Social Services to incorporate traditional healing methods into health and social service systems. GNWT has also made agreements with Health Canada to pool funding for community-based initiatives.	- These recommendations are reflected in 1997-98 goals of Health and Social Services. The 1997-98 gathering of Western Arctic Elders and traditional healers will make recommendations to GNWT and regional Health and Social Services Boards on how health system can support traditional health practices.
3.3.12	- Give planning responsibility for health and social services programs to Aboriginal agencies	- Example = through their transfer agreement, the Doh Cho Regional Health and Social Services Board has the responsibility to plan, manage, deliver and integrate health and social services.
3.3.25	- Non-Aboriginal agencies that deliver H&SS programs and services must incorporate Core Services into those programs that reflect needs and priorities of their communities and regions.	- H&SS has developed a Core Services Policy. Through transfer agreements, H&SS Boards are required to develop comprehensive H&SS plans, in participation with communities in their regions and the department.