

# Self-reliant People, Communities and Northwest Territories – A Shared Responsibility

## **Government of the Northwest Territories Strategic Plan**

June 2004



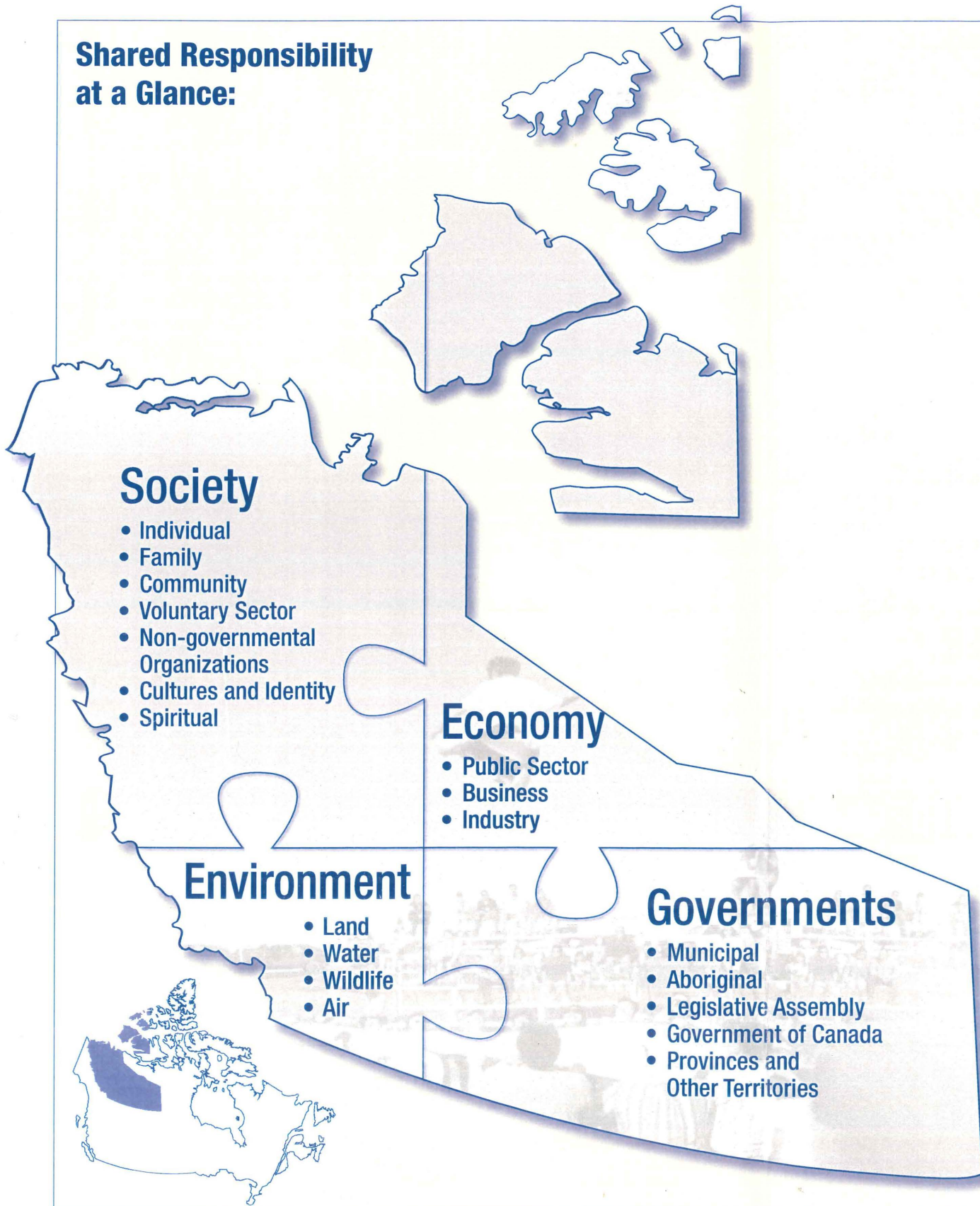




# Self-reliant People, Communities and Northwest Territories – A Shared Responsibility

## Government of the Northwest Territories Strategic Plan Poster

### Shared Responsibility at a Glance:



### Vision of the 15th Legislative Assembly:

Self-reliant individuals and families sharing the rewards and responsibilities of healthy communities and a prosperous and unified Northwest Territories

### Core Values:

These core values will guide the actions of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

#### Self-reliance:

Northern people, families and governments having the tools and resources they need to function and live independently and to exercise self-determination.

#### Partnership:

Working with others to maximize our resources and potential and to achieve the best results for Northerners.

#### Accountability:

Enhancing the fiscal responsibility, effectiveness and credibility of governments through openness and transparency.

#### Respect:

Treating all residents with respect, dignity, compassion, and fairness, and having respect for the value of our natural environment.

#### Identity:

Supporting the development of strong individual, cultural and territorial identities.

#### Integrity:

Decision-making that is fair, balanced, transparent, and consistent, and a public service that continues to be professional and impartial.

### Priorities:

Priorities identify those areas of key importance during the life of this government. As with all of the actions identified in the plan, individuals, families, communities, the private sector, and governments will need to work together and do their part to make progress in each case.

#### 1. Helping people help themselves – our personal, family and community responsibilities

- Educating ourselves – improving education levels for children and adults;
- Meeting our housing needs – addressing housing shortages and homelessness;
- Living healthy lifestyles – breaking addictions and making productive and healthy choices; and
- Supporting greater community autonomy – negotiating a new deal with community governments.

#### 2. Negotiating fair deals with Canada and Aboriginal governments

- Benefiting from the development of northern resources – concluding fair devolution and resource revenue sharing agreements with Canada;
- Concluding unfinished business – settling outstanding land, resources and self-government agreements; and
- Negotiating, through the devolution process, authority for northern governments over the regulatory regime – establishing consistent standards and practices.

#### 3. Focusing on our economy and infrastructure

- Diversifying our economy – supporting small businesses, traditional economies, agriculture development and fisheries, and expanding our tourism sector;
- Enhancing accessibility to markets – improving transportation and community infrastructure;
- Reducing the cost of living in the north – finding ways to lower transportation, utility, communications, and land costs; and
- Maximizing northern benefits from the proposed pipeline – ensuring Northerners have the skills and take advantage of the economic opportunities associated with the construction of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

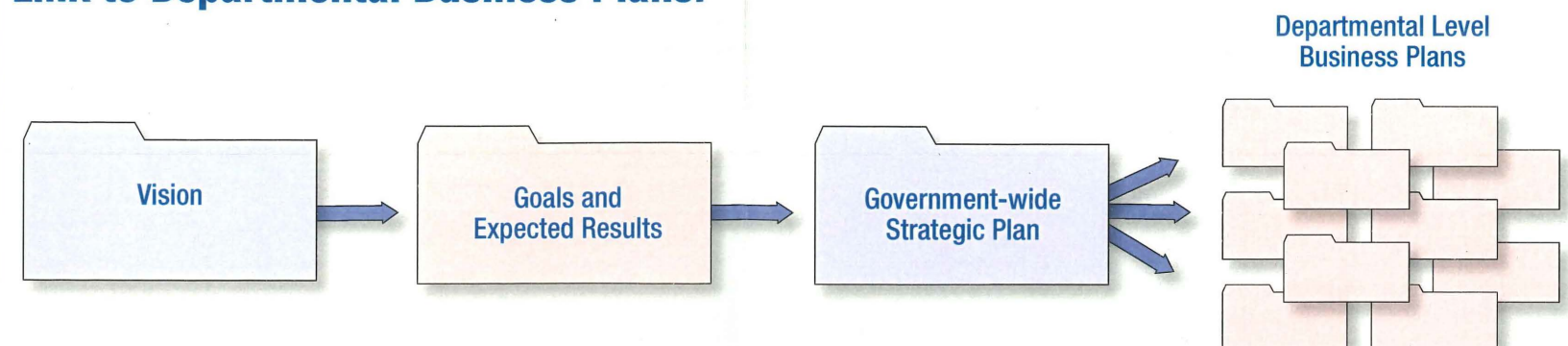
#### 4. Environmental stewardship

- Protecting our air, water, forest, and land – facilitating responsible development of non-renewable and renewable resources;
- Building an efficient and effective energy sector – providing clean and affordable energy to northern consumers, and encouraging conservation; and
- Remediating contaminated sites throughout the NWT – encouraging the federal government to rehabilitate abandoned contaminated sites on federal land in a timely manner and to acceptable environmental standards.

### Actions:

A number of actions have been identified in the Strategic Plan to advance these priorities.

### Link to Departmental Business Plans:









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## Message from the Premier



When the 15th Legislative Assembly came into office in December 2003, we made a commitment to find new ways of doing business. We agreed to work together to find ways of making consensus government stronger and more

responsive to the needs of the people of the Northwest Territories. We also agreed to work in partnership with other governments in the Northwest Territories to build an agenda that has a broad base of support throughout the territory.

For the past six months, we have listened to leaders and residents of the Northwest Territories about the issues and priorities that they believe are important to our territory. We have been guided by the input of the Members of the Legislative Assembly, through the Standing Committee on Accountability and Oversight, who have provided timely and important advice.

This Strategic Plan is based upon the vision and goals for the 15th Legislative Assembly, jointly developed by all Members. It sets out the initial direction for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the next 10 years.

The GNWT's Strategic Plan represents a starting point in our ongoing discussions with the people of the Northwest Territories. The Strategic Plan will change and evolve as we move forward to build an agenda that has broad support throughout our territory, by engaging the people of the Northwest Territories and other northern leaders through forums such as the Circle of Northern Leaders. We look forward to continuing to work with our partners to build a strong, vibrant and self-reliant territory.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'J. Handley', written in a cursive style.

Premier Joseph Handley







## Introduction

The phrase “*Self-reliant people, communities and Northwest Territories – a shared responsibility*” captures the spirit of this 10-year government-wide strategic plan. It points out that we must each do our part – as individuals, families, communities, governments, and collectively as a territory – if we are going to improve the lives of Northerners and achieve self-reliance.

### *A Vision and Goals for the Northwest Territories*

The 15th Legislative Assembly has adopted a vision and goals, which focus on self-reliance and shared responsibility. They create a sense of optimism and confidence that together we can build a vibrant Northwest Territories – one that we can all be proud of.

### *The Strategic Plan – Setting the Broad Direction*

Guided by this vision and goals, the Government of the Northwest Territories has prepared this Strategic Plan. It sets out broad direction for government by listing priorities and actions in support of the goals of the Legislative Assembly. Underlying these priorities and actions are a set of core values supported by the Government of the Northwest Territories. These values are ones that we encourage members of the public service to embrace and uphold, and they should be reflected in the work that we do on behalf of the people of the Northwest Territories.

### *The Link to Departmental Business Plans*

The core values, priorities and actions described in this plan are intended to show where we are headed. Along with the vision, goals and expected results of the 15th Legislative Assembly, these values, priorities and actions will provide direction to departments in the development of detailed business plans. These departmental business plans will be reviewed and enhanced to ensure a direct link to the Strategic Plan. Results measures will be developed for both this plan and for business plans, which will allow all residents to better evaluate our success.

### *A Living Document*

This Strategic Plan lays out priorities and actions for the Government of the Northwest Territories for the next 10 years. Some of our priority initiatives will be completed during the term of the 15th Legislative Assembly. Others may begin to show results in this period, yet the benefits of some initiatives may only be fully realized during the 10-year planning time frame.

This plan is not carved in stone, but should be treated as a living document. The actions described in this plan will change as our operating environment changes and as we work with northern leaders and the public. As we monitor results, we need to remain open to changing our course of action to achieve the desired outcomes.



## Where We are Today - Opportunities and Challenges

### *Our Natural Environment*

The connection that Aboriginal peoples have to the land is an important part of their cultures. In fact, it has been only 30 years since the wage economy became a reality for northern Aboriginal peoples. We are lucky to still have elders who can tell stories about living on the land. This body of traditional knowledge adds to scientific knowledge about the land and environment. It is becoming increasingly important, as large-scale resource development and global warming change our landscapes and climate patterns.

We are blessed with marketable resources. The diverse northern landscapes and wildlife attract adventurers from across the world who want to experience the raw beauty of northern lakes, boreal plains and forests, wildlife and the Arctic Ocean. Recreational use of the environment brings adventure not only for tourists but also for many Northerners who hunt and fish to add to the food they purchase in stores.

Over the years, however, the traditional use of the land has competed with the demands of large-scale development. Fragile northern ecosystems are suffering from the combined effects of development and pollution on wildlife and species at risk. Pollution, much of which originates from sources outside of the Northwest Territories, shows up in northern food chains. Contaminated sites, such as Giant Mine, need to be cleaned up. The effects of global warming have become a reality in the north. This negatively affects our transportation infrastructure and harvesting patterns. Governments and industry have a responsibility to avoid the errors of the past and to protect the environment.

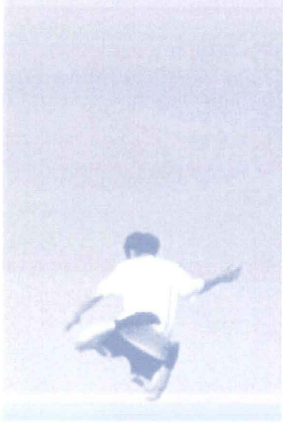
Pollutants and large-scale resource development are not the only factors placing a strain on our fragile ecology. Northerners are consumers of resources in large quantities. We each need to do our part to conserve energy and use only what we need. It is everyone's responsibility to exercise care and to make sure that the land and environment are protected for present and future generations to enjoy.

### *Our Health, Social and Cultural Well-being*

Physical, spiritual and social well-being is necessary for individuals to lead fulfilling lives, to actively participate in their communities and to take advantage of economic opportunities available to them. All children deserve to grow up in enriching, safe and loving environments. They rely on their parents and family, the community, society, and governments to make that happen. Expectant mothers need to make healthy and responsible choices leading to good prenatal care. Children should be raised with love and a respect for language, culture and other people; educated in schools that teach relevant skills; nurtured when they are sick; provided with food, shelter and clothing; and taught to be self-reliant and to live with dignity.

On the positive side, living conditions for Northerners have improved over the years. Communities and regions are beginning to take ownership of the social well-being of their residents. The challenges of delivering quality health programs in remote communities has led to new ideas such as the successful diabetes program, which was developed by Northerners for Northerners. Unlike in other parts of the world, where different cultures are at war with one another, our children grow up in culturally diverse communities, learning first-hand about mutual respect, tolerance and acceptance.

However, the Northwest Territories continues to deal with serious issues. Far too many Northerners continue to make unhealthy choices. There are too many people who smoke, drink excessively, and suffer from addictions. Too many women and children are victims of family violence. Rates of physical activity among NWT residents are lower than national averages. This, and unhealthy eating habits, can have negative effects on personal health and well-being.





We need to focus more on promoting healthy lifestyles, on preventing illnesses and on individuals taking responsibility for their health and well-being. We need to increase women's participation in the political, social, economic, and cultural growth of the NWT. We need to ensure that our resources are used in the best possible ways to achieve good results. We also need to attract and retain a stable front line workforce that can provide the right services, at the right time and place.

As is the case elsewhere in Canada, there is still a big gap between the education levels, health and housing conditions and employment rates for Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations. The continuing shortage of affordable, suitable and adequate housing, both in smaller communities and larger centres, does little to assist people to meet their basic needs for shelter.

Creating an environment that supports healthy people is truly a shared responsibility and requires each of us to do our part. This means that governments must deliver effective public policies and adequate resources to support social programs. It means that communities should support individual members to achieve healthy lifestyles and behaviour. It also means that families and individuals must make healthy lifestyle choices – good prenatal care, staying in school, healthy eating, active living, and no smoking, drinking, drugs or violence.

### *Our System of Governance*

The way we govern ourselves says a lot about who we are as a people. Our rich cultural diversity, combined with our history, has led to a unique and fairly complex system of governance. While the implementation of self-government agreements will add to the complexity of the system, it is important to the achievement of Aboriginal peoples' aspirations. It is also a critical step toward building a solid foundation for the territories' political, social, cultural, and economic development.

Aboriginal residents are asking their leaders to establish self-governments in the Northwest Territories. At the same time, citizens generally are lobbying to have decision-making closer to home and are expecting their governments to be more accountable, transparent and capable of delivering quality programs.

This has brought northern leaders together, signifying an historic first step toward developing common ground and working together toward improving the quality of life of Northerners. This progress has been marked by an April 2004 commitment by northern leaders to work together on an overall agenda for the NWT.

The challenges ahead are tremendous, but they can be overcome if all leaders continue to work together. Our system of governance will change with the implementation of self-government, devolution and more responsibility for municipal governments. As this happens, it will be important to make sure that all levels of government have enough capacity to deliver quality programs and that governments are accountable for the actions they take.

### *The Economy*

The Northwest Territories is blessed with an abundance of resources. These support an economy, which is largely based on diamonds, gas, oil, gold, and other minerals. We are home to the only two commercially producing diamond mines in North America, with a third in the planning stages. Diamond production for 2003 was \$1.7 billion, representing 12% of global diamond production, making the NWT the third largest producer of rough diamonds by value in the world.



The Northwest Territories has huge oil and gas reserves, enabling the NWT and Canada to supply secure energy to North American markets. There are an estimated 6 trillion cubic feet of discovered gas reserves and an additional 55 trillion cubic feet of likely gas reserves within the Mackenzie Delta/Beaufort Sea region.

Opportunities also exist in forestry, fishing, fur harvesting, and hydro-electricity. The Northwest Territories has the potential to generate more hydro-electric power than James Bay or Churchill Falls, using modern technology that will limit environmental impacts. And, while renewable resource industries are relatively minor in terms of the territories' cash economy, they remain important as a source of food and for maintaining our northern cultures and lifestyles. About 40% of territorial residents over 15 years of age spend time on the land hunting or fishing.

The tourism industry in the Northwest Territories was worth \$44 million in 2002. With lots of room to grow, new opportunities are developing for Aboriginal and cultural tourism that will promote unique cultural experiences. Improvements and expansions to our transportation infrastructure are key to making this happen.

While the Northwest Territories has a wealth of resources, a resource-based economy is dependent upon market forces outside its control. It is, therefore, vulnerable to boom and bust cycles. Diversifying the economy and maximizing benefits to Northerners from other sectors is a key priority of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

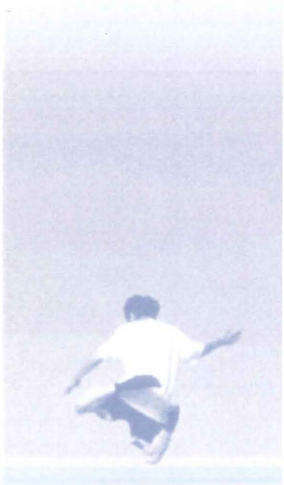
### *The Fiscal Picture*

An important responsibility of the Government of the Northwest Territories is to ensure that Northerners benefit from the development of northern resources and that economic development is sustainable and environmentally responsible. Both federal and territorial governments need to make strategic investments: in Northerners, to ensure they have the skills to seize the economic opportunities; in infrastructure; in small business and industry; and in the regulatory processes established to ensure responsible resource development.

A dilemma for the GNWT is that it does not have the revenues to make those needed investments. Despite our goal to provide affordable public services, revenue growth is not keeping pace with our expenses. To avoid burdening future generations with a huge debt, expenditure growth will have to be reduced and additional revenues will need to be raised. The challenge will be to protect basic services and ensure that social well-being is not compromised, while making needed investments now to secure future fiscal and economic gains.

The GNWT's options for securing additional revenues are limited. The high cost of providing basic public services in the north means that NWT taxpayers cannot generate all of the revenues necessary to fund these programs and services. As well, NWT tax rates must remain competitive with other provinces. Making matters worse is the fact that, under the current fiscal arrangement, the GNWT does not benefit from the royalties or taxes generated by the major resource operations in the NWT. At the same time, these large-scale developments place extraordinary demands on infrastructure and social programs that the GNWT is required to fund. While devolution and resource revenue sharing negotiations with the federal and Aboriginal governments are underway, these are not likely to yield revenues to the NWT before 2007.

Without a fair share of resource revenues, the GNWT will continue to depend on the federal government for 75 per cent of its revenues. It is for this reason that formula financing discussions, involving adequacy of federal/territorial funding arrangements, will continue to be a key priority of the GNWT.





## The Vision of the 15th Legislative Assembly

This vision describes the future we are working towards and what we hope to accomplish:

*Self-reliant individuals and families sharing the rewards and responsibilities of healthy communities and a prosperous and unified Northwest Territories*

### Goals and Expected Results (not listed in any particular order)

#### Goal 1

*A strong northern voice and identity.*

*This means...*

- All NWT leaders working together with mutual trust and respect.
- NWT indigenous cultures and languages that are a source of strength for present and future generations.
- Successful negotiation and implementation of Aboriginal land, resource, and self-government agreements in all regions.
- The Northwest Territories being a full partner, and having a strong, unified voice in the Canadian federation.
- Adequate resources available to support operations of and investments by northern governments.

#### Goal 2

*Healthy, educated people living in safe communities, who are able to contribute and take advantage of life's opportunities.*

*This means...*

- Babies who are born healthy and become healthy adults.
- Children getting the care and nurturing they need.
- Youth, parents and adults who see wellness as the preferred alternative, and who make healthy and productive lifestyle choices for themselves and their families.
- Elders and persons with disabilities who are well, supported by their families and community, and able to live with dignity.
- Housing that is adequate, affordable and accessible.

#### Goal 3

*Well-governed, sustainable communities and regions able to fulfill their potential.*

*This means...*

- Community and regional goals are achieved by cooperation and shared responsibility among all NWT governments.

- All governments have clear, accountable and efficient governance structures.
- Communities and regions having the capacity they need to achieve their goals.

#### Goal 4

*A diversified economy that provides Northerners with opportunities and choices.*

*This means...*

- A traditional economy capable of creating and maintaining a good living and healthy lifestyle for those Northerners who choose to participate in it.
- Renewable resource, small business and tourism ventures that are viable and sustainable in every community.
- A balanced approach to the economic development of all sectors that is sustainable over the long term.
- Northerners being the primary beneficiaries of the development of our resources.

#### Goal 5

*Care and protection of the natural environment.*

*This means...*

- Respect for the land, water and traditional knowledge guiding decisions of governments, industry and individuals.
- Responsible, coordinated management of the environment to protect the land, water and wildlife.
- Resource development that balances economic benefits, social impacts and environmental preservation and protection.
- Governments acting on their responsibilities to clean up contaminated environmental sites.
- Responsible consumption and conservation of resources and energy by all governments, industries and individuals.



## Priorities (not listed in any particular order)

Priorities identify those areas selected as being of key importance during the life of this government. As with all of the actions identified in the plan, individuals, families, communities, the private sector, and governments will need to work together and do their part to make progress in each case.

### Priority 1

#### *Helping people help themselves – our personal, family and community responsibilities*

- Educating ourselves – improving education levels for children and adults;
- Meeting our housing needs – addressing housing shortages and homelessness;
- Living healthy lifestyles – breaking addictions and making productive and healthy choices;
- Supporting greater community autonomy – negotiating a new deal with community governments.

### Priority 2

#### *Negotiating fair deals with Canada and Aboriginal governments*

- Benefiting from the development of northern resources – concluding fair devolution and resource revenue sharing agreements with Canada;
- Concluding unfinished business – settling outstanding land, resources and self-government agreements; and
- Negotiating, through the devolution process, authority for northern governments over the regulatory regime – establishing consistent standards and practices.

### Priority 3

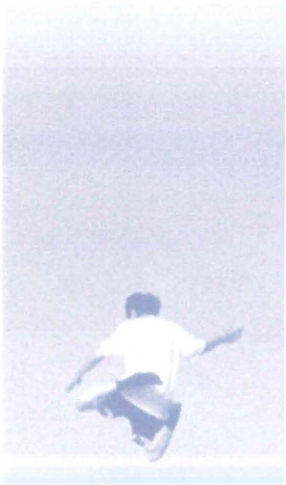
#### *Focusing on our economy and infrastructure*

- Diversifying our economy – supporting small businesses, traditional economies, agriculture development and fisheries, and expanding our tourism sector;
- Enhancing accessibility to markets – improving transportation and community infrastructure;
- Reducing the cost of living in the north – finding ways to lower transportation, utility, communications, and land costs; and
- Maximizing northern benefits from the proposed pipeline – ensuring Northerners have the skills and take advantage of the economic opportunities associated with the construction of the Mackenzie Valley pipeline.

### Priority 4

#### *Environmental stewardship*

- Protecting our air, water, forest, and land – facilitating responsible development of non-renewable and renewable resources;
- Building an efficient and effective energy sector – providing clean and affordable energy to northern consumers and encouraging conservation; and
- Remediating contaminated sites throughout the NWT – encouraging the federal government to rehabilitate abandoned contaminated sites on federal land in a timely manner and to acceptable environmental standards.





## Core Values

These core values will guide the actions of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

### *Self-reliance*

Northern people, families and governments having the tools and resources they need to function and live independently and to exercise self-determination.

### *Partnership*

Working with others to maximize our resources and potential and to achieve the best results for Northerners.

### *Accountability*

Enhancing the fiscal responsibility, effectiveness and credibility of governments through openness and transparency.

### *Respect*

Treating all residents with respect, dignity, compassion, and fairness, and having respect for the value of our natural environment.

### *Identity*

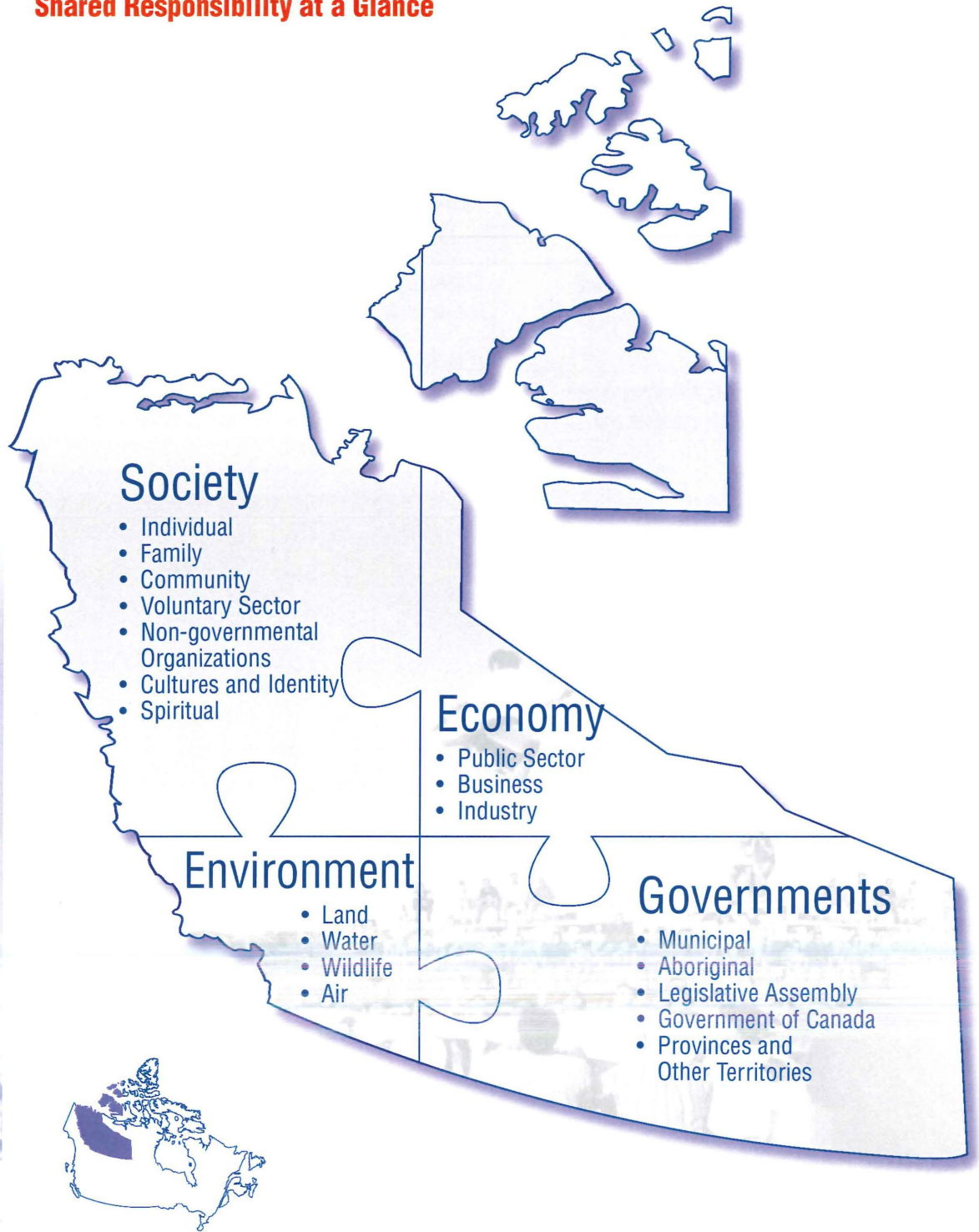
Supporting the development of strong individual, cultural and territorial identities.

### *Integrity*

Decision-making that is fair, balanced, transparent, and consistent, and a public service that continues to be professional and impartial.



## Shared Responsibility at a Glance





## Actions

The government has set out its priorities and what we want to focus on. The extent to which we can advance our priorities will depend, in part, on the resources we have available and the support we get from Members of the Legislative Assembly and northern leaders.

The government's fiscal situation and strategy will affect how quickly the government can implement the actions identified here. We have long-term plans to increase our revenues and negotiate a better deal with Ottawa. If we are successful in implementing our fiscal strategy, we should be able to undertake these actions within the next 10 years. Those actions that can be achieved during the life of this government will be reflected in detailed departmental business plans.

Not all actions are new initiatives. Implementation of some actions is already underway. Others may require the redirection of existing resources, which will also be addressed in departmental business plans.

### Goal 1

#### *A strong northern voice and identity*

##### *Expected Results*

- ✓ All NWT leaders working together with mutual trust and respect.
- ✓ NWT indigenous cultures and languages that are a source of strength for present and future generations.
- ✓ Successful negotiation and implementation of Aboriginal land, resource and self-government agreements in all regions.
- ✓ The Northwest Territories being a full partner, and having a strong, unified voice in the Canadian federation.
- ✓ Adequate resources available to support operations of and investments by northern governments.

##### *Actions*

The Government of the Northwest Territories will:

- Implement school programs to support culture and language, in partnership with families and communities.
- Promote the NWT as a prime location to live, raise a family, visit and do business, and build on initiatives that promote and distinguish the NWT's unique northern identity.
- Actively promote the interests of the NWT through its intergovernmental relations.
- Work with northern leaders to design and establish a northern intergovernmental assembly and work jointly to develop a northern agenda.
- Work in partnership with Members of the Legislative Assembly to make consensus government strong and effective.
- Continue to work with all regions and communities towards settling outstanding Aboriginal land, resources and self-government agreements and implement those that have been finalized.
- Work jointly with our northern partners, Aboriginal governments and the federal government to build the capacity of northern governments, at all levels, to ensure the successful implementation of self-government.
- Work in partnership with northern leaders to negotiate a fair deal on devolution and resource revenue sharing and continue to develop positions jointly to project a strong and unified northern voice.
- Ensure that the general public is informed throughout the process of devolution, resource revenue sharing and self-government negotiations.
- Implement communications strategies to inform the public of the territorial government's plans and to support our commitment to transparent and accountable government.
- Expand partnerships and optimize federal contributions to economic and social development.
- Make it a top priority to negotiate a more adequate formula financing agreement with the federal government.
- Improve the GNWT's fiscal position and performance, and avoid incurring levels of debt that we cannot afford.



**Goal 2**

*Healthy, educated people living in safe communities,  
who are able to contribute and take advantage of life's opportunities*

**Expected Results**

- ✓ Babies who are born healthy and become healthy adults.
- ✓ Children getting the care and nurturing they need.
- ✓ Youth, parents and adults who see wellness as the preferred alternative, and who make healthy and productive lifestyle choices for themselves and their families.
- ✓ Elders and persons with disabilities who are well, supported by their families and community, and able to live with dignity.
- ✓ Housing that is adequate, affordable and accessible.

**Actions**

The Government of the Northwest Territories will:

- Continue to provide programs to support healthy prenatal lifestyles, positive parenting skills, childcare and child development supports.
- Support initiatives that encourage individuals, especially youths, to make positive lifestyle choices that improve health status and help avoid lifestyle-related diseases.
- Support recreation and sport initiatives that provide opportunities for physical activity and personal development.
- Implement a disabilities strategy.
- Implement the use of nurse practitioners and midwives to complement the work of traditional health providers such as doctors, nurses and traditional healers.
- Continue with the Seniors Action Plan, and other programs such as home care, to support elders living within their homes and communities wherever possible.
- Implement student success initiatives to promote literacy and numeracy.
- Increase educational choices at the high school level to improve links with vocational and work opportunities.
- Focus adult training institutions to respond to labour market conditions and to support the use of career action plans.
- Strengthen support for families in conflict by implementing the *Protection Against Family Violence Act*; developing a mediation program, making maintenance enforcement more effective, and working with the Legal Services Board to improve access to Legal Aid.
- Improve outcomes for offenders by providing effective, culturally appropriate programs in facilities and communities.
- Restructure the social safety network so that it more directly focuses on promoting self-reliance and supporting those most in need.
- Introduce standard program principles, policies and criteria for income security programs to improve consistency and transparency and to simplify access for NWT residents.
- Maintain continued commitment to the Social Agenda and implement "Doing our Part" – the GNWT's response to the Social Agenda recommendations.
- Review the mandate of the Northwest Territories' Housing Corporation with a view to better positioning it to provide and manage suitable, adequate and affordable housing in NWT communities.
- Promote partnerships, where possible, to make available vacant land to build affordable housing and infrastructure.
- Encourage private sector development of housing and infrastructure in NWT communities through partnerships.
- Remove barriers to competition in the transportation industry to help reduce the cost of living.



### Goal 3

#### *Well-governed, sustainable communities and regions able to fulfill their potential*

##### *Expected Results*

- ✓ Community and regional goals are achieved by cooperation and shared responsibility among all NWT governments.
- ✓ All governments have clear, accountable and efficient governance structures.
- ✓ Communities and regions having the capacity they need to achieve their goals.

##### *Actions*

The Government of the Northwest Territories will:

- Support all regions and communities to implement mutually agreed upon aspects of their agendas (e.g. the Beaufort/Delta agenda).
- Work with Aboriginal governments towards implementing their regional transition plans and their land claim and self-government agreements.
- Reform territorial boards and agencies to focus on accountability and on efficient and effective service.
- Promote and sustain a professional public service at all levels.
- Implement legislative and policy changes to provide expanded authority and accountability to community governments.
- Implement legislative and policy changes to provide community governments with access to increased revenues and with greater authority over infrastructure development.
- Work with regions and communities to improve capacity to analyze and have access to information needed to monitor socio-economic conditions in their respective areas.
- Continue to work with Aboriginal and community governments in building capacity at all levels.
- Use partnerships in federal initiatives to enhance the development of data communications infrastructure within the GNWT. Where feasible, the benefits of these developments will be extended to the public benefit.
- Improve key transportation infrastructure to support economic growth, investment, tourism, and reduced cost of living.
- Continue to support initiatives to build safer communities (e.g. community justice activities; community policing, crime prevention, support to victims of crime, and working with RCMP to improve policing services).
- Continue to support court services that are impartial, efficient and timely.
- Continue to support efforts by the RCMP and communities to address crime and, more specifically, internet and organized crime.
- Continue to work with communities to provide safe drinking water to residents.



## **Goal 4**

### *A diversified economy that provides Northerners with opportunities and choices*

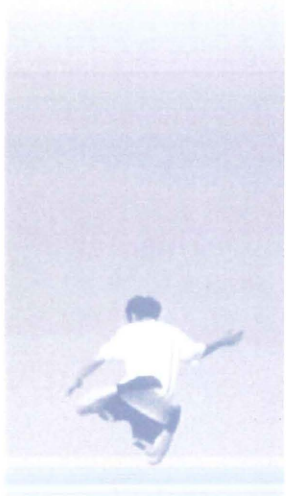
#### **Expected Results**

- ✓ A traditional economy capable of creating and maintaining a good living and healthy lifestyle for those Northerners who choose to participate in it.
- ✓ Renewable resource, small business and tourism ventures that are viable and sustainable in every community.
- ✓ A balanced approach to the economic development of all sectors that is sustainable over the long term.
- ✓ Northerners being the primary beneficiaries of the development of our resources.

#### **Actions**

The Government of the Northwest Territories will:

- Implement sector specific economic diversification strategies ( e.g. the NWT Fur Strategy and the NWT Tourism Strategy) to benefit regions and communities.
- Review the design and delivery of programs in support of harvesters.
- Work with partners to market the NWT as a location for tourism and ensure that NWT interests are reflected in a national tourism strategy.
- Develop, in partnership with governments and stakeholders, a national diamond strategy that will nurture value-added industries.
- Continue to explore private/public partnerships to build needed infrastructure.
- Support post-secondary institutions to respond to the needs of regional economies.
- Strengthen the focus on critical functions related to employment and labour to support employment development and mutually beneficial relationships between employees and employers.
- Create partnerships with Aboriginal business leaders, business associations and the federal government to encourage investment to meet the needs of NWT business sectors.
- Work with the federal government to secure strategic federal investments in the NWT economy.
- Negotiate socio-economic agreements in cooperation with communities and industry, to help ensure NWT residents derive maximum benefits from development (e.g. training, employment, building community capacity, infrastructure development, etc.).
- Establish a new Business Development and Investment Corporation to meet business' financing needs.
- Promote and encourage sustainable development of the NWT's natural resources.





## Goal 5

### Care and protection of the natural environment

#### Expected Results

- ✓ Respect for the land, water and traditional knowledge guiding decisions of governments, industry and individuals.
- ✓ Responsible, coordinated management of the environment to protect the land, water and wildlife.
- ✓ Resource development that balances economic benefits, social impacts and environmental preservation and protection.
- ✓ Governments acting on their responsibilities to clean up contaminated environmental sites.
- ✓ Responsible consumption and conservation of resources and energy by all governments, industries and individuals.

#### Actions

The Government of the Northwest Territories will:

- Establish the *Species at Risk Legislation*;
- Establish a new *Wildlife Act* that is consistent with land claim agreements.
- Participate with partners in continuing to implement the Protected Area Strategy.
- Participate with partners on key elements of the NWT's Greenhouse Gas Strategy.
- Develop policies and programs that facilitate the increased use of hydro-electricity, natural gas and new technologies and practices.
- Encourage innovation in the development, application and deployment of improved technical standards to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels and to control territorial greenhouse gas emissions.
- Enter into agreements with the provinces and the federal government for the establishment of national guidelines for pollutants.
- Continue to work with the federal government and other regulatory bodies in the identification and mitigation of cumulative effects of development.
- Enhance the local, regional and territorial capacity of governments and Aboriginal organizations to monitor and mitigate environmental impacts, and ensure environmental standards are maintained.
- Preserve, protect and enhance the quality of the environment through the use of regulatory and non-regulatory tools.
- Participate in federal and provincial environmental negotiations for trans-boundary environmental protection concerns.
- Pressure the federal government and industry to complete the clean up of contaminated sites.
- Encourage the incorporation of cost-effective innovation, best-available technologies and clean energy sources into government and other operations.
- Encourage the conservation of resources at all levels.
- Continue to work with communities to implement waste recycling programs and initiatives.



