

Building on the Strengths of Northerners

REPORT ON PROGRESS UNDER THE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK TO REDUCE POVERTY IN THE NWT: 2013-2018

Miser sur les atouts des Ténnois

RAPPORT SUR LES PROGRÈS RÉALISÉS DANS LA MISE EN ŒUVRE DU CADRE STRATÉGIQUE POUR RÉDUIRE LA PAUVRETÉ AUX TNO : 2013-2018

Tessa Macintosh



Government of | Gouvernement des
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Territoires du Nord-Ouest

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CONTENTS

- MINISTER’S MESSAGE 2
- INTRODUCTION 4
- ACTION COMMITMENTS – STATUS REPORT 6
 - Priority One: Children and Family Support.....7**
 - Priority Two: Healthy Living and Reaching our Potential 12**
 - Priority Three: Safe and Affordable Housing..... 16**
 - Priority Four: Sustainable Communities..... 20**
 - Priority Five: Integrated Continuum of Services 27**
- ANTI-POVERTY FUND – PROJECT RESULTS 31
- ANNUAL ROUNDTABLES – SUMMARY..... 37
- MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN –
STATUS REPORT 39
- SOCIAL INDICATORS OF POVERTY – STATISTICS 40
- SUMMARY 44



MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Since the release in 2013 of the Strategic Framework, much has changed in the NWT. In some respects, great progress has been made. The GNWT responded to the Strategic Framework with a GNWT Anti-Poverty Action Plan to reduce poverty, which was in place from 2014-2016. It set out 48 actions, 29 of which are complete. There are a further 13 actions that are continuous improvement exercises, and that while initial work is complete, the action is ongoing. The Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan (TAPAP), the collective plan of partners from across the NWT, was released in 2015, and progress in achieving those actions is detailed in this report.

This progress has been accompanied by new challenges. Economic growth has slowed significantly. The GNWT fiscal outlook is defined by a slow revenue projection and rising expenditures. Ensuring that meaningful, stable employment is available for all NWT residents will be an ongoing challenge as the nature of work itself changes through new technologies and approaches.

This too is an opportunity to truly Build on the Strengths of Northerners to create healthy, thriving communities with prosperity that is sustainable and true to the cultures and ways of life of all residents.

Glen Abernethy

Minister of Health and Social Services



MESSAGE DU MINISTRE

Depuis la publication du Cadre stratégique en 2013, beaucoup de choses ont changé aux TNO. À certains égards, de grands progrès ont été accomplis. Pour lutter contre ce fléau social, le GTNO a réagi au Cadre stratégique en mettant sur pied le Plan d'action anti-pauvreté qui a été en vigueur de 2014 à 2016. Ce plan présentait 48 mesures, et 29 d'entre-elles sont achevées. On compte 13 autres mesures qui sont des initiatives d'amélioration continue et qui, bien que les travaux initiaux soient terminés, sont toujours en cours. Le Plan d'action anti-pauvreté territorial publié en 2015 est le plan collectif des partenaires de l'ensemble des TNO. Les progrès accomplis dans la mise en œuvre de ces mesures sont décrits en détail dans le présent rapport.

Ces progrès ont été accompagnés de nouveaux enjeux. La croissance économique a considérablement ralenti. Les perspectives financières du GTNO sont caractérisées par une lente croissance des revenus et une augmentation des dépenses. Il demeurera difficile d'assurer un emploi stable et valorisant à tous les Ténois, car la nature même du travail est en constante évolution avec l'arrivée de technologies et d'approches nouvelles.

Par contre, c'est aussi le temps de vraiment miser sur les atouts des Ténois pour créer des collectivités en santé et dynamiques affichant une prospérité durable et fidèle aux cultures et aux modes de vie de tous les résidents.

Glen Abernethy

Ministre de la Santé et des Services sociaux

INTRODUCTION

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) adopted *Building on the Strengths of Northerners: A Strategic Framework toward the Elimination of Poverty in the NWT* in June 2013. *Building on the Strengths of Northerners* is a strategic policy framework which served as the first step in a long-term plan to eliminate poverty in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The framework set out five priority areas:

1. Children and Family Support
2. Healthy Living and Reaching Our Potential
3. Safe and Affordable Housing
4. Sustainable Communities
5. Integrated Continuum of Services

Following the introduction of the framework, the GNWT released the GNWT Anti-Poverty Action Plan 2014-2016. This short term action plan summarized the GNWT's immediate commitments to addressing poverty in keeping with the priorities of the framework. The GNWT Action Plan was intended as a bridging action plan to maintain momentum under the framework while work was completed to develop a shared, multi-stakeholder, territorial action plan that would replace the GNWT Action Plan and would include commitments from the GNWT and other partners.

In 2015, this Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan (TAPAP), titled *Working Together*, was released. Developed by an external committee with staff support from the GNWT, TAPAP affirmed the priorities of the framework and expressed the commitment of all partners to work together to address the causes and impacts of poverty in the NWT. Through TAPAP, the GNWT assumed the role of convener in supporting the efforts of all partners: a staff position was created as a central support;

an application-based fund was established to help resource the work of Indigenous and community governments and organizations; and an annual Roundtable meeting of all partners was mandated. The GNWT also committed to leading the development of a monitoring and reporting plan for TAPAP.

This progress report summarizes the activities and results from the first five years of the strategic framework, from 2013-2018.

Progress is reported in 4 areas:

1. Action Commitments – Status Report
2. Anti-Poverty Fund – Project Results
3. Annual Roundtables – Summary
4. Monitoring and Reporting Plan – Status Report
5. Social Indicators of Poverty – Statistics

This report was prepared with input from various GNWT Departments. A preliminary draft was shared with Anti-Poverty partners in advance of the 2018 Anti-Poverty Roundtable to allow all partners to collaboratively contribute to progress reporting and analysis, and priority setting.

At the Roundtable, participants were asked to report on their own organization's progress, and to identify priority areas for action moving forward. Participants contributed to analysis of statistical trends to help tell the story of poverty in the NWT.

TAPAP is intended to be a living document, continually renewed through the annual Anti-Poverty Roundtables and based on the actions of each partner. An updated written action plan has been developed for release in 2019. This progress report is a companion document to the renewed Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan.

INTRODUCTION

En juin 2013, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) a adopté un cadre stratégique intitulé *Miser sur les atouts des Ténos : Un cadre stratégique pour l'élimination de la pauvreté aux TNO*. Le Cadre stratégique constituait la première étape d'un plan à long terme visant à éliminer la pauvreté aux TNO. Le Cadre définissait cinq thèmes prioritaires :

1. Soutenir les enfants et les familles;
2. Favoriser un mode de vie sain et le développement de notre potentiel
3. Logement sûr et abordable
4. Viabilité des collectivités
5. Continuum intégré de services

Après avoir mis le Cadre en place, le GTNO a publié le Plan d'action anti-pauvreté 2014-2016. Ce plan d'action à court terme résumait les engagements immédiats du GTNO pour lutter contre la pauvreté, conformément aux priorités énoncées dans le Cadre. Le Plan d'action du GTNO se voulait un plan d'action provisoire visant à maintenir l'élan donné par le Cadre pendant que l'on travaillait à l'élaboration d'un plan d'action territorial, multipartite et commun pour remplacer le Plan d'action du GTNO et inclure les engagements du GTNO et d'autres partenaires.

En 2015, le Plan d'action anti-pauvreté territorial, intitulé *Travaillons ensemble*, a été publié. Élaboré par un comité externe avec l'aide du personnel du GTNO, le Plan d'action anti-pauvreté territorial est venu confirmer les priorités du Cadre et exprimer l'engagement de tous les partenaires à collaborer pour s'attaquer aux causes et aux conséquences de la pauvreté aux TNO. Par l'entremise du Plan d'action anti-pauvreté territorial, le GTNO a joué un rôle de rassembleur en soutenant les efforts de tous les partenaires. Un poste a été créé pour assurer un soutien central, un fonds a été créé pour financer les demandes des organismes gouvernementaux, autochtones et communautaires, et une table ronde annuelle de tous les partenaires a été instaurée. Le GTNO s'est

également engagé à diriger l'élaboration d'un plan de suivi et de production de rapports pour le Plan d'action anti-pauvreté territorial.

Le présent rapport d'étape résume les activités et les résultats des cinq premières années du Cadre stratégique, de 2013 à 2018.

Des progrès sont signalés dans 4 domaines prioritaires :

1. Engagements concernant la prise de mesures - Rapport de situation
2. Fonds anti-pauvreté - Résultats du projet
3. Tables rondes annuelles - Résumé
4. Plan de suivi et de production de rapport - Rapport de situation
5. Indicateurs sociaux de la pauvreté - Statistiques

Divers ministères du GTNO ont pris part à la préparation du présent rapport. Une version provisoire a été fournie aux partenaires de la lutte contre la pauvreté avant la tenue de la Table ronde anti-pauvreté de 2018 afin de permettre à tous les partenaires de collaborer à la préparation des rapports, à l'analyse des progrès et à la définition des priorités.

Pendant les travaux de la Table ronde, les participants ont été invités à faire rapport sur les progrès accomplis par leur propre organisation et à préciser des thèmes prioritaires pour lesquels des mesures doivent être prises. Les participants ont contribué à l'analyse des tendances statistiques pour décrire la situation de la pauvreté aux TNO.

Le Plan d'action anti-pauvreté territorial se veut un document évolutif, continuellement renouvelé dans le cadre des tables rondes anti-pauvreté annuelles et fondé sur les actions de chaque partenaire. Une mise à jour du Plan d'action a été produite en 2019. Le présent rapport d'étape constitue un document d'accompagnement pour le Plan d'action anti-pauvreté territorial renouvelé.

ACTION COMMITMENTS – STATUS REPORT

The Strategic Framework sets out five priorities for addressing poverty in the NWT, and for each priority identifies key areas where we need to do more, as well as the broad actions required in these areas. This section of the progress report summarizes the framework priorities and provides an overview of key highlights and milestones in each area.

Building on the framework, both the GNWT Action Plan and TAPAP set out specific action commitments. The status of each of these is also reported in the following pages using a colour-coded legend:

COMPLETE

The action has been fully delivered.

ONGOING

The action is a continuous improvement effort – work has been completed but action continues.

IN PROGRESS

The action is not yet complete, or has been revised.

INCOMPLETE

The action has not been completed.



Tessa Macintosh

Priority One: Children and Family Support

Framework Summary

We need to do more to:

- Improve access to, and participation in, early childhood development programs, services and supports for children and families
- Improve the quality of early childhood development programs, services and supports
- Increase support to families in accessing appropriate and affordable child care

We will get there by:

- Increasing access to affordable, high-quality early learning programs and child care services, expanding early intervention and assessment aimed at infants and new parents, and improving coordination and integration
- Increasing promotion, awareness and education initiatives for families and communities
- Supporting women who do not typically access prenatal services to have healthy pregnancies and supporting families to have positive early parenting experiences

GNWT Progress

Since the introduction of the Strategic Framework, key highlights and milestones in the area of children and family support include:

- \$6.4 million invested in early childhood development in 2017/18, with over half of that supporting children with exceptionalities and families who are most vulnerable
- *Early Childhood Development Action Plan for 2017-20* released (June 2017)
- Territorial Oral Health Service Delivery Model completed
- Evaluation of two rehabilitation services and an early childhood intervention pilot project
- Three regional Early Childhood Intervention Pilot projects supported (Dehcho, Inuvialuit Settlement region, Tlicho)
- Developed public awareness campaign on early childhood development programs with parent and caregiver input
- iPad Minis that have been loaded with resources and information about child development are provided for new parents and caregivers

- Junior Kindergarten implemented for 4 year old children in all NWT communities (2017/18)
- Child care subsidies reviewed and increased, with a significant increase to infant rates (2016)
- Licensed early childhood programs available in 22 NWT communities as of September 1, 2018
- Expanded school-based healthy eating programs to all 49 NWT schools
- The After School Physical Activity Program provides healthy snack funding to an average of 50 projects annually
- Creation of the Collective Kitchens Food Vouchers Initiative
- Programming in physical literacy and healthy lifestyle choices is being fully implemented annually, supporting an average of 280 projects each year
- Take a Kid Gardening program expanded to all regions
- Youth Mentorship Program created to provide students with workplace mentorship in tourism

Partner Progress

Key highlights and milestones in the area of children and family support were identified based on input from TAPAP Partners at the 2018 Roundtable, and include the following:

- Centre for Northern Families offered a parenting program for parents between the ages of 15 and 24 titled *Young Parent Bright Futures*. The program was developed through engagements with clients, and addresses potential participation barriers by providing transportation, meals, and childcare. The sessions included fun activities such as hosting movie and paint nights.
- Native Women's Association provided a range of frontline services to women and families living in poverty.
- Sambaa K'e First Nation delivered workshops on parenting and the impacts of residential schools.
- Kát'odeeche First Nation expanded their daycare space, and offered several men's and women's programs.
- MLA Julie Green started a knitting project with Hampton United Church, whereby the church receives knitted materials and redistributes to communities for the benefit of children.

Next Steps

The following priority areas for action were identified by TAPAP Partners at the 2018 Roundtable:

- Continue providing funding to, and continue delivering current programming in the areas of parenting, nutrition, cooking, and prenatal care.
- Support women and children fleeing family violence and homelessness.
- Increase program participation by adjusting programs based on client feedback, and addressing childcare needs and other participation barriers.
- Support families that cannot afford nutritious food through traditional efforts, such as organizing family activities on the land.
- Consider establishing a family fund for grieving and bereavement.
- Make day care accessible and affordable to encourage workforce participation.
- Consider systemic changes that will break the multi-generational poverty cycle, and set measurable reduction targets.



GNWT ACTION PLAN	
PILLAR ONE – CHILDREN AND FAMILY SUPPORT	
Action	Status
Expectant mothers will have access to evidence-based services that support improved outcomes for mom and baby	
Early intervention programming aimed at infants, children and parents will be expanded	
Early childhood assessment, intervention and responses will be improved	
Coordination and integration will be improved across the continuum of ECD programs and services	
Promotion, awareness and education initiatives related to early childhood development are available to all families and communities	
Access to high-quality, affordable early learning programs and childcare services are enhanced	
Provide nutrition support, education and training through community-based programs	
Standardize referral protocols, ensuring that expectant mothers with addictions issues have timely access to treatment	
Provide support and training to community organizations that deliver programming for children and youth to establish or improve services that: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage physical literacy • Increase physical activity levels • Improve mental wellness and resiliency • Develop lifelong healthy choice practices 	
Develop and implement a Healthy Eating Strategy in the NWT that will help to reduce childhood obesity, improve awareness and education to assist people to make healthy food choices while also promoting the consumption of traditional foods	
Enhance the Healthy Food in Schools Program	
Support for the Healthy Family Program Collective Kitchens	
Support for the After School to provide healthy foods	
Support for the Community Gardens Program	

TERRITORIAL ANTI-POVERTY ACTION PLAN	
PILLAR ONE – CHILDREN AND FAMILY SUPPORT	
Action	Status
Expand pre- and post-natal programs	
Implement and fund quality, affordable, accessible early childhood programs in every NWT community	
Review subsidies paid to child care providers	
Increase training and salaries for child care workers	
Expand the number of day care and school-based healthy eating programs	



Priority Two: Healthy Living and Reaching our Potential

Framework Summary

We need to do more to:

- Ensure people know what mental health services are available and where they can go for support, regardless of where they live
- Close gaps so that hard-to-reach individuals and groups are not missed
- Improve academic achievement, including graduation rates and numeracy and literacy skills

We will get there by:

- Helping people to find the right combination of culturally appropriate services, treatments, and supports
- Eliminating program barriers and improving outreach to marginalized populations
- Ensuring parents are engaged in the education of their children and students have the supports they need to learn

GNWT Progress

Since the introduction of the Strategic Framework, key highlights and milestones in the area of healthy living and reaching our potential include:

- Developed *Mind and Spirit: Promoting Mental Health and Addictions Recovery in the Northwest Territories* (October 2016)
- Annual support for On the Land Healing provided to Indigenous Governments and NGOs, totalling \$1.2 million
- 10-year Education Renewal Framework and Action Plan being implemented with a focus on Culture, Identity and Connection to the Land; Student and Teacher Well-Being; Academic Achievement; and Accountability and Reporting
- Student Financial Assistance program improvements to expand eligibility and increase benefit levels
- New labour market agreements signed in 2018 provide added flexibility and funding to better support residents with skills development, pre-employment training, and employment services
- GNWT Labour Market Programs redesigned in April 2018, with ongoing implementation
- Expanded training opportunities for community recreation staff through the School of Community Government and Recreation North
- Financial support for small community projects such as food security initiatives, soup kitchens, clothing, and meals on wheels provided via the NWT Housing Corporation's Small Community Homelessness Fund, totalling \$200K annually

Partner Progress

Key highlights and milestones in the area of healthy living and reaching our potential were identified based on input from TAPAP Partners at the 2018 Roundtable, and include the following:

Training and skill development: Deh Cho Friendship Centre Incorporated skill development and training in all their programming, taking a multi-faceted approach; Yellowknives Dene First Nation continued to run their Dechita Naowo training program, entailing several four-week programs which often result in successful employment; Colville Lake offered capacity building for ages 10-14 on a continuum of skills; Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre offered training and pre-employment programs; Since 2014, NWT Recreation and Parks hosted 194 training workshops, attended by 2004 participants.

- *Youth programming and Traditional skills:* The Délı̄ne Got'ine Government, similarly to other communities, organized workshops that brought together Youth and Elders. Another example is the Inuvik Community Corporation, whose summer student invited Elders to teach Youth how to make bannock and soup.
- *Wellness:* Inuvik provided a drop-in centre and addictions treatment referrals; Fort Good Hope offered counselling services to community members, and Sambaa K'e First Nation provided access to clinical and wellness counsellors through their *on the land* program; F.O.X.Y. / S.M.A.S.H. improved wellness behaviour of young and gender diverse northern men by increasing attention to healthy relationships and respect between intimate partners, and acceptance of sexual health options for young men and women.

Next Steps

The following priority areas for action were identified by TAPAP Partners at the 2018 Roundtable:

- Focus on youth to “invest in the future”— leadership and life skills development, cultural activities, re-engagement in employment and/or reintegration in the education system.
- Identify gaps in wellbeing and achievement between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students, and between Indigenous ways of learning, and current teaching practices in the NWT. Provide adequate training to NWT teachers to address these gaps.
- Continue providing opportunities for cultural healing; preserve Indigenous languages, and allocate additional funding for *on the land* programming.
- Increase wellness programming, including the provision of supportive resources for community members struggling with addictions, and investigate the feasibility of a treatment center in the NWT.
- Continue to empower clients by informing them about their rights, responsibilities, and available supports.

GNWT ACTION PLAN	
PILLAR TWO – HEALTHY LIVING AND REACHING OUR POTENTIAL	
Action	Status
Pilot on-the-land early intervention healing programs (2014/15)	
Explore options for providing mobile treatment (2014/15)	
Continue to access a range of southern placements in order to meet individual treatment needs (2013/14 and ongoing)	
Develop options for withdrawal management in small, medium and large communities (2014/15)	
Develop and implement a social marketing campaign that will firstly create awareness of what services are available, and secondly, motivate those who need the services to access them (2014/15)	
Promote community capacity, awareness and acceptance for those individuals living with mental health and addictions issues by offering: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Mental Health First Aid Training o Applied Suicide Intervention Skills Training (ASIST) o Talking About Mental Illness (TAMI) program in schools 	
“My Voice, My Choice” activities for youth	
Support the Yellowknife Day Shelter and day shelter programs in Inuvik (2013/14 and ongoing)	
Develop and implement a pilot project to integrate case management for high-risk clients with mental health and addictions needs (2014/15)	
Implement Junior Kindergarten program for 4 year-olds (2014/15)	
NWT Education Renewal Action Plan (under development)	

TERRITORIAL ANTI-POVERTY ACTION PLAN	
PILLAR TWO – HEALTHY LIVING AND REACHING OUR POTENTIAL	
Action	Status
GNWT residents have predictable and consistent access to mental health and addictions services at the community level	
Provide nutritious food to elders through lunch and community-based food sharing programs	
Make grade school education more relevant and better funded	
Expand Student Financial Assistance	
A cohesive approach with more opportunities and partnerships for pre-employment training, life skills, financial skills and literacy development will be available throughout the NWT	
Expand programs for youth, including mentoring	
Support the implementation of Community Wellness Plans	



Priority Three: Safe and Affordable Housing

Framework Summary

We need to do more to:

- Make more affordable housing available to NWT residents on a fixed or low income
- Ensure housing quality in smaller communities is improved
- Develop a northern approach to the Housing First model that centers on quickly providing homeless people with housing and then providing additional services

We will get there by:

- Supporting communities in promoting safe and affordable housing and improving accessibility, quality and sustainability

GNWT Progress

Since the introduction of the Strategic Framework, key highlights and milestones in the area of safe and affordable housing include:

- An average of \$15 million is allocated for modernization and replacement of NWT Housing Corporation assets each year
- 5 new 9-unit seniors independent housing units have been completed in Aklavik (2015); Fort Liard (2016); Whati (2017); Fort Good Hope (2018); and Fort McPherson (2018)
- Seniors Aging-In-Place Repairs and Renovations funding is available annually to individuals as a forgivable loan
- Homeownership funding is available to support major repairs, accessibility, or home purchase
- Northern Pathways to Housing provides support for homeless singles in small communities
- \$150K provided annually to support Housing First in Yellowknife
- New Rent Supplement Programs and Homelessness supports available in every region
- Strategic investment made in energy-efficient retrofits including biomass, solar power, and LED lights
- Lease-to-Own Public Housing program provides tenants the opportunity to own their unit
- Indigenous and community governments provided with financial and project support to implement housing solutions of their own design through the Community Housing Support Initiative

Partner Progress

Key highlights and milestones in the area of safe and affordable housing were identified based on input from TAPAP Partners at the 2018 Roundtable, and include the following:

- Inuvik Warming Centre Society has provided shelter, food and clothing to community members in need since 2014.
- YWCA helped fill the housing gap when public housing was not available.
- Side Door Youth Ministries has housed 17 youth aged 19-24 since 2017.
- Salt River First Nation built eight new houses for their members.
- City of Yellowknife launched their *Everyone is Home: Yellowknife's 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness* in 2017.
- John Wayne Kiktorak Centre gathered food from the community and provided meals, shelter and clothing to those in need.
- K'atl'odeeche First Nation repurposed 16 vacant units to be sold while maintaining some for public housing.
- Hay River Family Support Centre assisted women and children fleeing family violence and homelessness in Hay River and surrounding communities by providing a warm safe place to stay, and an opportunity to transition into their own home. They also connected clients with other community organizations and resources.

Next Steps

The following priority areas for action were identified by TAPAP Partners at the 2018 Roundtable:

- Take necessary steps to ensure adequate shelter for everyone, including facilitating the adoption of creative approaches such as tiny homes.
- Address the needs of various community members, such as lack of housing for temporary workers, single people and larger families, housing affordability for seniors, etc.
- Offer sustainable funding to programs that “target and support our most vulnerable and challenged people”, such as transitional housing and other programs that address barriers to access.
- Continue the implementation of the 10 year plan to end homelessness in Yellowknife, and evaluate existing, and new programs.

GNWT ACTION PLAN

PILLAR THREE – SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Action	Status
Introduce an affordable, predictable public housing rent scale that addresses the disincentive to work (2012/13)	
Implement a rent supplement program for low income residents in market rentals with affordability problems (2012/13)	
Revise the home ownership subsidy programs to expand the number of potential clients, recognize differences between market and non-market communities, and make home ownership a more affordable option (2013/14)	
Make targeted investments to increase the number of independent housing units for seniors (2014/15 and 2015/16)	
Change approach to repair programs to ensure low and modest income homeowners have access to support for emergency repairs, preventative maintenance and repairs to address health and safety concerns (2013/14 and 2014/15)	
Make incremental investments to improve the quality of the public housing stock (2014/15 and 2015/16)	
Undertake a research project on the development of a Housing First model that would be appropriate for NWT market communities with input from housing stakeholders (2014/15)	
Implement an initiative to address issues associated with the “hard to house” in smaller NWT communities where emergency or transitional housing is not available (2014/15)	

TERRITORIAL ANTI-POVERTY ACTION PLAN

PILLAR THREE – SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Action	Status
Pilot the Housing First approach for homeless people	
Strengthen transitional housing to provide people with support and skills to stabilize housing and move into public or private market	
Convert existing vacant houses to increase number of houses available	
Housing associations increase their engagement with their tenants to help them remain housed	
Provide incentives to increase the stock of affordable housing in market communities	
Reduce number of houses in need of major repairs with local resources	
Incentives will be increased to enable seniors to stay in their own homes	
Shelter programs and advice will be available to young people	
Introduce legislation to limit rent increases by unit, per year	

COMPLETE

ONGOING

IN PROGRESS

INCOMPLETE

Priority Four: Sustainable Communities

Framework Summary

We need to do more to:

- Improve basic infrastructure to support business opportunities, reduce cost of living, and support the effective delivery of services
- Invest in the development of a local skilled workforce, including greater opportunities for NWT residents to become ticketed in the trades
- Diversify the economy through greater support for the traditional economy (arts and fine crafts, trapping), commercial agriculture, fishing, forestry, tourism and small business enterprise

We will get there by:

- Improving access to programs and services that promote new economic opportunities for Northerners
- Investing in infrastructure and education so that there are more employment options for NWT residents
- Developing more local sources of energy and food

GNWT Progress

Since the introduction of the Strategic Framework, key highlights and milestones in the area of sustainable communities include:

- Skills 4 Success Strategic Framework and Action Plan introduced to increase skills levels through relevant education and training, bridge education and employment through targeted supports, grow the NWT workforce through partnerships, and improve decision-making with relevant labour market information
- Small Communities Employment Strategy 2018-2024 developed and being implemented
- The revised Small Community Employment Support Program provides support to communities and allows communities to identify their own priority areas for the creation of jobs in any sector
- Artists and Traditional Harvesters can access support to purchase traditional materials, supplies, and equipment under the *Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED)* Micro-Business program
- The Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program provides NWT trappers with “one window” access to the international fur market, a guaranteed interim market price, the prime fur bonus based on performance, and the Trapper’s Grubstake to defray seasonal start-up costs

- The Hide Procurement Program provides local artists with prime NWT-harvested hides to produce high-quality traditional arts and crafts
- Community Wellness Funds administered by the Department of Health and Social Services provide ongoing support for local capacity building
- The NWT On the Land Collaborative provides funding and other resources for land-based programs through a single, simplified application process to access multiple funders
- Enhancements have been made to the Child Benefit, Student Financial Assistance, Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit, and the Seniors Home Heating Subsidy
- The Income Assistance (IA) Program was restructured to insure that income intended for children is not included in the calculation of IA payments (July 2016)
- The newly enhanced NWT Child Benefit was implemented in July 2017. It is estimated that 2,209 low to modest income families will benefit from this non-taxable benefit
- The Senior Citizen Supplementary Benefit monthly amount increased from \$160 to \$196 (September 2017), an increase of 22.5% to reflect Consumer Price Index increases since 2006
- The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs has expanded support for community planning with an emphasis on building healthy, accessible, and sustainable communities
- Community gardens have been established in all 33 NWT communities, and many also have a community greenhouse
- In 2017-18, a total of \$1,303,932 was provided to ITI Regions in Growing Forward 2 (GF2) funding to encourage local food production. GF2 has been replaced with the newly signed Canadian Agriculture Partnership (CAP).
- Regions continue to support community garden programming through CAP and the Support to Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) Policy.
- The SEED Sector Support program has been updated and now includes agriculture designated as one of the priority sectors under the SEED Policy.
- Freight subsidy provided under the Northern Food Development Program helps make local food sources more affordable by subsidizing inter-settlement trade and shipping costs for agricultural supplies and equipment
- All 33 NWT communities have developed annual policing priorities and policing action plans, in partnership with the Department of Justice, which reflect their specific needs and priorities and provide the foundation for community safety initiatives

Partner Progress

Key highlights and milestones in the area of sustainable communities were identified based on input from TAPAP Partners at the 2018 Roundtable, and include the following:

- *Employment:* Tetlit Gwich'in Council has run a local radio station employing Youth reporters; Side Door Youth Ministries has placed 121 youth into work placements and training, and 3 of 12 are currently employed; CDÉTNO provided free clothing and work gear to low income jobseekers to help them secure and maintain employment, and served 5000 clients (resume writing, computer access, mock interviews, etc.); in Inuvik and Hay River local companies hired marginalized local workers to complete major projects.
- *Food security:* Community gardens and green houses have been developed/maintained in Aklavik, Jean Marie River, Sambaa K'e First Nation, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Gamètì, Fort Good Hope, West Point First Nation and Tsiigehtchic; Tetlit Gwich'in Council bought freezers of food from harvesters; K'atl'odeeche First Nation organized spring and fall hunts; Northern Farm Training Institute also supported community hunts through the community

harvest assistance program, and country food study; Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre own their own food and crafts store, which reduced food costs and created community jobs; Food Rescue supplies recovered food from grocery stores for distribution to those in need due to low income or family crisis situations. Since 2013, the organization has delivered almost 860,000 kg food (=\$3.7M) that would otherwise have been discarded. Children were provided meals at school in several communities, including Colville Lake, Délı̄nę and Aklavik, where snack programs were accompanied by additional donations to the school. Salt River First Nation donated \$3000 to the high school and elementary school for the implementation of lunch programs. The Hay River Soup Kitchen served up to 200 people each week, and sold at a reduced price up to 35 food hampers every other week; Ulukhaktok Community Corporation distributed fish in summer and fall; Tetlit Gwich'in Council ran a community soup kitchen where Youth were hired to share harvests with Elders; Nihtat Gwich'in Council purchased reindeer and other

traditional foods to distribute to elders and single parents; NWT Seniors Society provided meals to seniors, in addition to opportunities for social inclusion and for getting active.

- *Traditional knowledge:* Aklavik Community Justice has held workshops to teach people how to make their own clothing, harvesting tools, and jigging hooks for fishing; Inuvik Community Corporation has organized traditional family activities, such as harvesting berries, harvesting fish and preparing it traditionally, preparing soup and bannock with the help of Elders; Gwich'in Tribal Council organized healing programs for men; Ulukhaktok Community Corporation organized youth summer camps; NWT Métis Nation made available a sweat lodge, traditional healing opportunities, and a food program (hunting camps feeding Elders); One of Tetlit Gwich'in Council' programs targeted middle-aged men and entailed taking people out hunting, net setting, and harvesting wood.
- *Community wellness:* Sambaa K'e First Nation has organized feasts and wellness events; K'at'l'odeeche First Nation opened a wellness center running many programs and counselling services, established a Wellness Committee and has implemented the Community Wellness Plan; in Fort Resolution eight cabins and a meeting room with showers were built for *on the land* programming. The City of Yellowknife built the Arctic Indigenous Wellness Centre.
- *Fundraising:* Hay River Family Support Centre has been fundraising to build a new center; Hay River Soup Kitchen started in 2014 their annual "Taste of Soup" Dinner fundraiser. Aurora College student/staff initiatives have raised funds for Yellowknife community agencies.
- *Advocacy and addressing root causes of poverty:* Aurora College joined the No Place for Poverty coalition, and started a Social Justice Association to learn about the nature of poverty, understand barriers, and raise awareness about poverty; NWT Human Rights Commission has advocated for the right of being enfranchised, advised on legislative change, and reflected on what reconciliation means for the organisation; Alternatives North conducted research to determine the living wage for Yellowknife, and identified 10 employers who pay a living wage instead of minimum wage; Northern Territories Federation of Labour continues to be engaged in the Minimum Wage Adjustment Committee.

Next Steps

The following priority areas for action were identified by TAPAP Partners at the 2018 Roundtable:

- Review IA regulations to ensure that recipients “don’t get stuck in poverty” because of decreases in support when income is generated, as is the case of self-employed individuals such as artists and trappers. Consider reinstating power subsidies— “cuts hurt families and can impact connectivity”. Provide training to IA recipients.
- Create employment opportunities through federal/ territorial partnerships, and “plan for transition away from fly in workers”.
- Facilitate the implementation of the Guardianship program to “support traditional hunting and protect the land and water”. Investigate the feasibility of, and support the transition to, renewable energy sources, such as biomass, solar, wind, geothermal.
- Continue addressing food insecurity through traditional harvesting (training, hunts, fairs), community gardens, and the expansion of the Food Rescue model to other NWT communities.
- Examine laws/regulations that restrict the selling of traditional foods, so that it could be sold to, and made available in commercial facilities.
- Identify solutions to reduce the high cost of living.
- Continue providing funding, and opportunities for traditional skill development.
- Develop community capacity through identifying and sharing of best practices, providing templates, workshops and opportunities for networking, and increasing communication with community offices and Leadership.
- Shift from *band aid* responses that address acute needs (e.g. food banks) to approaches that address the root causes of poverty (e.g. no cost child care). Calculate the living wage rate for more NWT communities and consider increases in minimum wage and SFA.

GNWT ACTION PLAN

PILLAR FOUR – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES

Action	Status
Support and expand programs and public information initiatives related to promoting employment opportunities	
Build on existing wellness programs with a social media campaign linking healthy lifestyles with employment and career success	
Establish a program to connect NWT students directly with industry representatives and local role models to promote education and career development	
Engage the private sector to increase support to the GNWT's Take a Kid Trapping program (2014/15)	
Create a mentorship program for adults pursuing a return to harvesting	
Examine opportunities to incorporate traditional economic activities into social wellness and healing programs (2014/15)	
Support communities to build trust and confidence in their ability to identify and address community safety concerns	
Work with communities to identify community-based resources, partners and supports that may be drawn upon to address safety issues	
Assist communities with the development of safety plans and the evaluation of the effectiveness of the plans	

COMPLETE

ONGOING

IN PROGRESS

INCOMPLETE

TERRITORIAL ANTI-POVERTY ACTION PLAN	
PILLAR FOUR – SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES	
Action	Status
Review food freight subsidy programs	In Progress
Increase the local production of food	Ongoing
Encourage and support people to harvest, hunt and fish to meet their needs and those of their communities	Ongoing
Expand on the land programming such as Take A Kid Trapping that encourage youth to learn harvesting skills from elders	Ongoing
Reduce energy costs by providing alternative energy sources such as hydro, biomass and wind	Ongoing
Complete an inventory of labour and skills available in communities	Complete
Create partnerships with business to increase community capacity for resource development	Ongoing
Implement a living wage specific to each NWT community	Complete
Address lack of employment and barriers to jobs, especially in small, remote communities	Ongoing
Support traditional economies (harvesting, arts/crafts, tourism) through training, marketing and supply networks	Ongoing

COMPLETE
ONGOING
IN PROGRESS
COMPLETE

Priority Five: Integrated Continuum of Services

GNWT Summary

We need to do more to:

Improve support for community-based organizations in the effective and efficient delivery of programs to meet the needs of residents

- Ensure all orders of government and community-based organizations get better at working together as partners on shared priorities
- Streamline and simplify access points to social programs and services, including appropriate referrals

We will get there by:

- Addressing the need for multi-year funding to stabilize programming and reduce administrative burden
- Organizing and partnering around shared interests to build system capacity, with strong leadership from the GNWT
- Providing better integration and coordination of services through a team of support providers working together consistently

Framework Progress

Since the introduction of the Strategic Framework, key highlights and milestones in the area of integrated continuum of services include:

- The Integrated Case Management pilot program supports participants with complex needs in accessing existing services in Yellowknife through holistic case management. The program began accepting participants in October 2015 and funding has been extended until March 2020
- The Sobering Centre was piloted in Yellowknife in 2017, and moved into a permanent location in September 2018
- Continued support for the Safe Harbour Day Centre, operated by the NWT Disabilities Council, with services moving to a new facility co-located with the Sobering Centre in September 2018
- The Safe Ride Outreach Program was implemented in 2017, funded by the City of Yellowknife and delivered by the Yellowknife Women's Society
- The Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court (DVTO) encourages low to medium risk offenders who take responsibility for their actions to participate in programming aimed at their behaviours as the perpetrators of violence. In 2015/16 the DVTO Court was expanded from Yellowknife to Hay River with individuals from surrounding communities also able to participate

- The Wellness Court, launched in 2014, is an alternative to conventional court that focuses on the offender rather than the offence by providing intensive supervision and targeted programming for chronic offenders who have mental health issues, addictions, or cognitive challenges that contribute to their criminal behaviour.
- The Home Support Worker Pilot is testing a client-centred, strengths-based and trauma-informed approach to serve NWT HC tenants at risk of eviction
- Government Service Officers (GSOs) are now in place across the NWT, increasing from 15 to 22 communities. GSO services have been expanded to include services provided on behalf of Service Canada in 15 communities, and services to neighbouring communities without a GSO

Partner Progress

Key highlights and milestones in the area of integrated continuum of services were identified based on input from TAPAP Partners at the 2018 Roundtable, and include the following:

- *System navigation:* Hay River Family Support Centre and Deh Cho Friendship Centre staff has helped their clients with system navigation, referring them to other community organizations when needed; Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre has bridged community services through the support offered to Youth and Elders, and by linking them to services; YWCA has also acted as a bridge, supporting transitions and helping families build on strengths and prevent further crises.
- *Client-centered services:* NTNU Council of Friendship Centres has been identifying the unique needs of clients and providing services to meet those needs. Hay River Family Support Centre has helped clients apply for IA, birth certificates, tax returns, etc. NWT Seniors Society has made available a *seniors' hotline* to assist with problems and issues; F.O.X.Y. / S.M.A.S.H. has supported clients in increasing use/ access rates of various healthcare options. CDÉTNO has delivered presentations and workshops to homeless people in the Yellowknife shelter.

- *Collaborations and partnerships:* Hay River Soup Kitchen has built positive relationships with other community groups; Hay River Family Support Centre created an outreach position to foster connections with other organizations; Food Rescue distributed food through 18 Yellowknife and Behchokò agencies that serve socially and economically marginalized individuals, including Centre for Northern Families, Side Door Youth Ministries, Hope's Haven, etc. Alternatives North led or participated in local actions organized by national groups on poverty, health, and seniors.
- *Funding:* Ulukhaktok Community Corporation has provided financial assistance to the local food bank. City of Yellowknife has supported Food Rescue, and Arctic indigenous Wellness Center. DeBeers has funded community programs through Impact Benefit Agreements.

Next Steps

The following priority areas for action were identified by TAPAP Partners at the 2018 Roundtable:

Strengthen partnerships and collaborations between governments, NGOs, businesses, and other community groups to facilitate coordinated approaches, sharing resources, bridging service gaps, and avoiding service duplication. Create/revive inter-agency committees across the NWT.

- Engage communities to ensure their unique needs are met, and “help outsiders such as the federal government understand realities and challenges of communities”.
- Ensure funding is consistent, and multi-year core funding is made available to provide stable services offered by NGOs and other groups to their clients. Provide support to organizations to apply for funding, and facilitate securing additional funding sources.
- Review and address barriers “between and within services”. Enhance integrated service delivery and ensure equitable access. Review the IA application process to make it more accessible and respectful by providing cultural safety training to program officers.
- Reduce costs for public services (e.g. recreation ice/ gym rentals) to improve access and increase wellness.
- Share stories of projects including context, challenges, lessons learned and tips, best practices, barriers and achievements.
- Adopt a coordinated, collaborative, longer-term approach to address the root causes of poverty.

GNWT ACTION PLAN	
PILLAR FIVE – INTEGRATED CONTINUUM OF SERVICES	
Action	Status
Enter into a 5 year (2013-18) block funding agreement with Health Canada for the delivery of community-based wellness programs. The block agreement will allow eligible communities to enter into multi-year agreements for wellness funding (2014/15)	
Increase collaboration between government departments and non-government organizations that provide programs and services for youth, such as Take a Kid Trapping, Youth Centres and After School Programs (2014/15)	
Establish a funding program for non-government organizations, Aboriginal organizations and community based organizations to advance specific priorities of the Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework (2014/15)	
Provide support for an annual multi-stakeholder meeting to establish priorities and review the results of actions undertaken by the GNWT and other partners (2014/15)	
Develop an integrated, team-based “wrap around” service plan to support families at-risk and implement in targeted communities (2014/15)	
Develop integrated case management approach to support establishment of specialized courts (2014/15)	

TERRITORIAL ANTI-POVERTY ACTION PLAN	
PILLAR FIVE – INTEGRATED CONTINUUM OF SERVICES	
Action	Status
Establish or re-establish interagency committees to create and work on shared priorities	
Establish single window approach to government services in every community	
Hire a systems navigator or co-coordinator to pursue integrated case management	
Enact legislation to establish an Anti-Poverty secretariat	
Provide multi-year core funding to NGOs	
Hold Annual Anti-Poverty Round Table	

COMPLETE

ONGOING

IN PROGRESS

INCOMPLETE

ANTI-POVERTY FUND – PROJECT RESULTS

Cumulative Overview

The Department of Health and Social Services established the Anti-Poverty Fund in 2014. The Fund is intended to support the efforts of partner organizations to take action in alignment with the five priority areas of the Strategic Framework. There have been five years of projects funded:

- 14 in 2014-15
- 16 in 2015-16
- 28 in 2016-17
- 27 in 2017-18
- 43 in 2018-19

The Fund was valued at \$500K for the first three years, and increased to a \$1 million funding envelope beginning in 2017/18. The Fund is consistently oversubscribed, with the amount of funding requested averaging four times the amount of funding available for disbursement each year.

Approximately 13,000 people have been touched by the funding in the first four years of disbursement.

Satisfaction

Overall, the Fund can be seen to have a positive reputation amongst organizations active in the Anti-Poverty space. Almost all reports explicitly indicated that organizations plan to access funding again. Specific comments on the fund include:

“The Anti-Poverty Funding is one of the most accessible funds that we have utilized at the GNWT, and it is very helpful to NGOs like ... [ours] that minimal reporting is required and funds are provided in advance (rather than through reimbursement).”

“Yes, the process was straightforward, the amount of funding was worth the effort of applying and reporting and the process involved with the funding has given us motivation to improve how we see ourselves in poverty reduction.”

Overarching Trends

The Fund supports a wide range of project types and sizes, making it difficult to establish standard measures for project success. However, while there is not a standard reporting format for the program and few of the projects had formal evaluations, the following overarching trends can be identified:

The most common project proponents were

- (1) direct food support to those in need
 - (2) training in either life skills or for employment readiness
 - (3) supplies
 - (4) employment services
 - (5) policy
- The most common programs supported were soup kitchens, food hampers, cooking and food preparation classes, and lunch programs.

- Indigenous knowledge was an explicit component of just over a quarter of projects.
- Youth were the most frequent recipient of program support, followed by families, homeless persons, and elders. Women, people with disabilities, men, and newcomers were also explicitly targeted by programs for support.
- The vast majority of the funds were used for supplies to run the program or for wages to support casual or part-time staff to administer programs.
- Yellowknife (24 projects) and Inuvik (16) were most frequently involved in projects, while Aklavik (9), Hay River (9), Fort Simpson (7), and Tuktoyaktuk (6) were also quite active in accessing program funds.
- There was no standard size of project; some reached thousands in several communities across the territory, while others reached a handful of people in one community.



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Many organizations accessed the funding more than once, including:

- Hay River Committee for Persons with Disabilities (4)
- Liidlii Kue First Nation (4)
- Sambaa K'e Dene Band (4)
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (4)
- Inuvik Emergency Warming Centre (4)
- CDÉTNO (3)
- YWCA (3)
- Yellowknife Women's Society (3)
- Food First Foundation (3)
- Northern Youth Leadership (3)
- Yellowknives Dene First Nation (3)
- Smith's Landing First Nation (3)
- Pehdzeh Ki First Nation (2)
- Ehdiitat Gwich'in Council (2)
- Tetlit Zheh Gwich'in Council (2)
- Sidedoor (2)
- Food Rescue (2)
- FOXY (2)
- Northern Farm Training Institute (2)

Working Collaboratively

Also notable was the number of organizations supported by the Anti-Poverty Fund who worked collaboratively to either pool resources or to reinforce each other's programs. For example, Food Rescue provided food to many of the soup kitchens or lunch programs active in Yellowknife.

In response to the Fund's impact on addressing poverty, the following quotes are illustrative:

"Barriers remain in terms of making people feel this program isn't a 'welfare giveaway' or that they are 'poor' rather it is a program that promotes the gathering of elders and their families."

"Those that are not clients of the warming centre mentioned that without the soup kitchen they would not know where their next meal would come from and that they looked forward to attending and taking part."

"The lack of jobs in our community has played a major role in the causes of poverty in our community. I've been told by a few people that they would not go to Income Security for help, and that they will make it somehow... It's the way they were brought up."

Almost all of the organizations reported that they had met their objectives. Those who did not meet their objectives cited delays in funding or receiving less funding than anticipated as the barrier which created the delay.

Highlights: Annual Impact

2014-2015

- The largest program supported this year was the *Tastemakers Nutritional Education Program*, which provided cooking classes to thirty-two elementary schools across the territory.
- Yellowknife, Inuvik, and Aklavik, were the beneficiaries of several programs supported, while there were also multiple initiatives in Fort McPherson, Fort Simpson, Gamètì, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Tuktoyaktuk, and Ulukhaktok.
- The majority of projects provided direct food support through soup kitchens, food hampers, or cooking classes with two exceptions: CDÉTNO's *Dress to Impress Program* focused on ensuring that clients had appropriate attire for office jobs, as well as safety clothing; and the Hay River Committee for Persons with Disabilities' *Lifeskills Employment Assistance Program*, focused on training, counselling, and direct assistance for jobseekers facing barriers to employment.
- Many of the projects, especially those in the smaller communities, had multiple elements such as direct food support through hampers or meal programs, purchasing from hunters and trappers' associations to provide direct cash support, and training regarding hunting and trapping skills.
- Several of the reports spoke to the positive social implications in terms of community spirit or less social isolation for individuals.
- Based off of the nine projects that provided figures, over 1700 people were reached by the funding provided in 2014-2015.

2015-2016

- The largest program continued to be the Tastemaker's Program, while the Yellowknives Dene First Nation's project on *Revitalizing Traditional Economies* also reached a substantive numbers of people (just over 200).
- Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith, and Inuvik all benefited from multiple projects.
- While the majority of projects funded focused on the direct provision of food and training for employment, one project that focused on addressing the policy conditions that inhibit addressing poverty was the *Living Wage Campaign* from Alternatives North.
- Additionally, the NWT Literacy Council undertook a project to support other community-based organizations to apply for Anti-Poverty funding by providing training workshops on writing strong proposals for Government of the Northwest Territories funding.
- Based off the ten projects that provided figures, approximately 1300 people were reached by the funding provided in 2015-2016.
- Also notable was the number of programs supported who worked together, expanding the impact of project funding. For example, *Food Rescue*, redistributed food to programs run by the Centre for Northern Families, Safe Harbour Day Centre, Salvation Army, Sidedoor, Hopes Haven, Yellowknife Food Bank, YWCA, as well as schools and daycares.

2016-2017

- Yellowknife, Inuvik, Fort Simpson, Hay River, and Aklavik all benefited from multiple projects.
- The largest program supported was CDÉTNO, who's Career Centre reached over 2600 people and was notable in terms of providing services to newcomers and Francophones.
- Formal evaluations, while not the norm for projects under the Anti-Poverty Fund, were carried out by Northern Youth Leadership and FOXY.
- There was a greater diversity of projects funded this year, though direct food support and training remained strong elements. These programs included:
 - » *The Tlicho Interpreter/Training Program*: provided four-week interpreter training program with a one-week practicum for Tlicho translators;
 - » *Conseil de Développement Économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest*: runs the NWT Career Centre, which provides support for jobseekers, such as a computer lab, job search board, mock interview assistance, printers, etc.;
 - » *Service Navigator*: support and services to families and individuals who find it difficult to navigate the variety of programs and supports available with a particular focus on housing, human rights, law society, matrimonial property, and employment insurance complaints;
 - » *FOXY*: provides comprehensive sexual health education focused on prevention of family violence and intimate partner violence;
 - » *Yellowknife Women's Society*: provides support to young parents; and
 - » *Inuvialuit Regional Corporation*: focused on reviving inter-community country food exchanges.
- Based off the sixteen projects that provided figures, over 4100 people were reached by the funding provided in 2016-2017.



Tessa Macintosh

2017-2018

- Projects continued to focus on direct meal assistance and training for employment. Policy work included the Inuvialuit Regional Council's *Development of an Anti-Poverty Strategy for the ISR*.
- Yellowknife, Inuvik, Aklavik, Fort Smith, Hay River, Norman Wells, and Tuktoyaktuk all benefited from multiple projects. Northern Youth Leadership reached 17 communities.
- In comparison with past years, there were several projects this year which reached substantive numbers of people, notably Liidlii Kue First Nation's Soup Kitchen, Food First Foundation, and FOXY's *Strength, Masculinities and Sexual Health*.
- Based off the projects that provided figures, over 5800 people and almost 300 families were reached by the funding provided in 2017-2018.

2018-2019

- The 43 projects supported are currently underway. Reporting will be received by mid-2019.

ANNUAL ROUNDTABLES – SUMMARY

Annual Anti-Poverty Roundtables have been held in the NWT since 2013. Indigenous and community governments, NGOs, business and industry, and other partners are invited to participate, with attendance ranging between 70-100 people each year.

The 2013 Roundtable took place in Dettah, NWT. Building on the Strategic Framework, the focus of this Roundtable was the initial development of the Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan. Participants were guided through workshop sessions to discuss the priorities set out in the framework. Participants were also given the opportunity to sign an Anti-Poverty Charter for the Northwest Territories.

The 2014 Roundtable continued the development of the Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan by giving participants the opportunity to put forward regional priorities, activities, and action plans and to identify common themes and priorities for the action plan. The Roundtable was held in Yellowknife.

The 2015 Roundtable was delayed due to the territorial election period and was held in March 2016, again in Yellowknife. Following the completion of the Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan, which had been released in June 2015, this Roundtable was structured to provide participants with an update on the status of immediate and medium term actions. Presentations were provided by projects that had been supported by the Anti-Poverty Fund. Moderated discussions focused on progress towards the long term vision as well as identifying priorities, actions, and commitments for the upcoming year.

The 2016 Roundtable was held later that same year. For the first time, the Roundtable was held outside of the Yellowknife region, in keeping with a GNWT commitment to hold the Roundtables in different regions each year to allow participants an opportunity to learn about the context and unique challenges of poverty in different parts of the NWT, and to provide greater understanding of the programs and services offered in each place. Hosted in Inuvik, the 2016 Roundtable included site visits to local projects including the Inuvik Emergency Warming Centre, the Inuvik Youth Centre, and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation's mobile traditional foods processing facility. Participants reviewed the draft list of broad social indicators proposed to measure progress over time, and provided feedback to assist in finalizing the list of indicators. Presentations were offered on the growing presence of philanthropic or charitable funding in the NWT as a resource for poverty reduction efforts, progress on the federal government's efforts to develop a national poverty reduction strategy, and the impacts of Anti-Poverty Fund recipient projects in the Beaufort Delta region. Participants were also offered space and facilitation supports to conduct their own partnership building and project planning activities.

The 2017 Roundtable was held in Norman Wells. An update was provided on the GNWT actions under the Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan. The results of a process evaluation of the Anti-Poverty Fund, which was conducted in 2017, were presented and participants discussed the recommendations for improvement and provided direction for changes to the Fund's administration going forward. Participants worked on the development of a definition of poverty for the NWT, giving consideration to the need for cultural relevance and the ability to translate a definition in all official languages. Presentations were made on new programming developed under the Action Plan, including the Stanton Child Development Team, Yellowknife's Street Outreach Program and Sobering Centre, and the Community Entrepreneurs Support Program launched by Tides Canada. Small group discussions were held on priority topics such as children, homelessness, and poverty management vs. poverty reduction.

The 2018 Roundtable took place in Hay River, November 6-7. Presentations were delivered on the following topics: updates on the GNWT actions under TAPAP, and next steps; highlights from several community projects funded through the Anti-Poverty Fund; development of the NWT Market Basket Measure to determine the official territorial poverty line; and *Opportunity for all: Canada's Poverty Reduction Strategy*. Participants were also offered space and facilitation supports to further discuss the NWT Market Basket Measure, specifically how it could better capture local contexts. The Roundtable included site visits to the following local organizations: Northern Farming Training Institute, Hay River Committee for Persons with Disabilities, Hay River Family Support Centre, and Hay River Soup Kitchen. A preliminary Anti-Poverty progress report draft was shared with TAPAP partners in advance of the Roundtable to facilitate partners' contribution to progress reporting and analysis, and priority setting. Participants were asked to report on their own organization's progress, and to identify priority areas for action moving forward. Participants also contributed to analysis of statistical trends to help tell the story of poverty in the NWT. The Roundtable agenda was structured to facilitate these discussions and gather partner input to the report.

MONITORING AND REPORTING PLAN – STATUS REPORT

One of the GNWT commitments under the Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan was to support Monitoring, Reporting, and Evaluation by developing a set of broad social indicators of poverty in the NWT. The draft list of indicators was presented at the 2016 Inuvik Roundtable before being finalized by the Anti-Poverty Advisory Committee.

The NWT Bureau of Statistics has taken on responsibility for reporting on the indicators and updating the data as it becomes available. A page on the NWT Bureau of Statistics website has been created for the poverty indicators so information can be accessed electronically.

The full list of indicators currently being reported includes:

- Families with Less Than \$30,000
- Income Assistance Cases
- Persons in Low Income (After Tax)
- Families in Low Income (After Tax)
- NWT Market Basket Measure
- Hourly Wage Distribution
- Households with One or More Housing Problems and in Core Need
- Food Security
- Concern Over Running Out of Food, by Community Type
- Women & Children Admitted to Shelters
- Lone Parent Families
- Children Receiving Services

- Sense of Community Belonging
- Highest Level of Schooling, by Community Type and Selected Characteristics
- Employment Rates by Region and Community Type
- General Health Indicators
- Birth Weight
- Potential Years of Life Lost
- Percentage of Aboriginals that Speak an Aboriginal Language
- Volunteering & Internet Access
- Crime Incidences and Rates by Region and Community Type
- Minimum Wage
- Consumption of Meat or Fish Obtained by Hunting or Fishing by Community

The indicators can be used to consider different dimensions of poverty, including adequate housing, essential goods and services, health and well-being, community participation, and income. A selection of the indicators is provided in graph format in the following pages.

Whether the indicators show improvement, decline, or remain stable over time, it's important to understand the story of what is driving these changes, with perspectives from individuals, communities, and organizations.

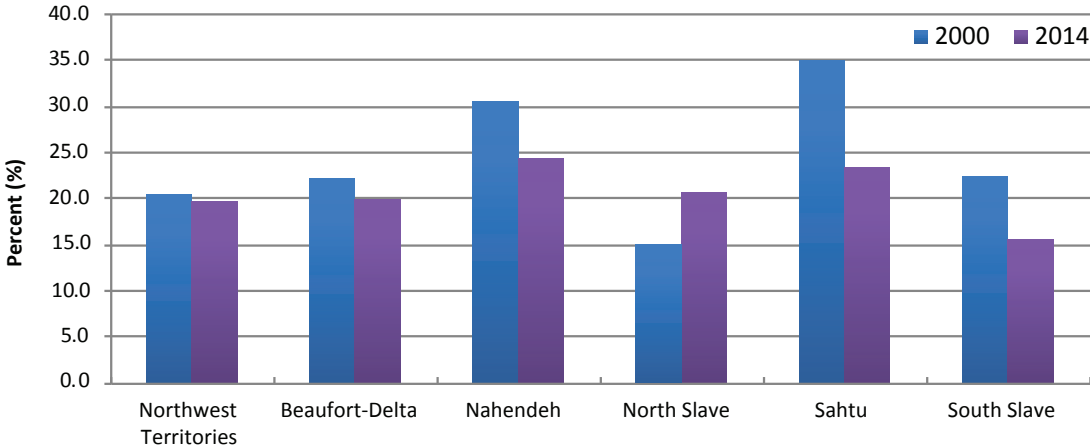
At the Roundtable, participants will be asked to help tell the story behind the statistics. Feedback will be incorporated into this report.

SOCIAL INDICATORS OF POVERTY – STATISTICS

Households in Core Housing Need

A household in core housing need is one whose dwelling is considered unsuitable, inadequate or unaffordable and whose income levels are such that they could not afford alternative suitable and adequate housing in their community. In 2014, 19.8% of dwellings in the Northwest Territories were considered to be in core need, a slight decline from 20.3% in 2000. During the same period, the proportion of households in core housing need declined for all housing districts except for the North Slave housing district.

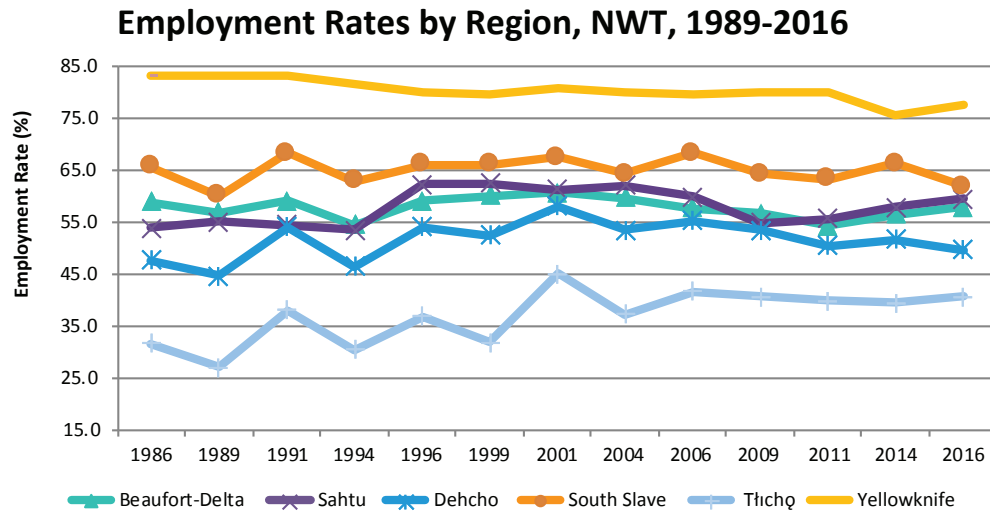
**Percent of Households in Core Need by Housing Districts
NWT 2000 & 2014**



Source: NWT Community Surveys & Statistics Canada Census

Employment Rates by Region

Employment rates in the NWT averaged 67.5% between 1986 and 2016. Among the regions, employment rates were consistently higher in the Yellowknife and South Slave regions, while lower in the Tlcho region.

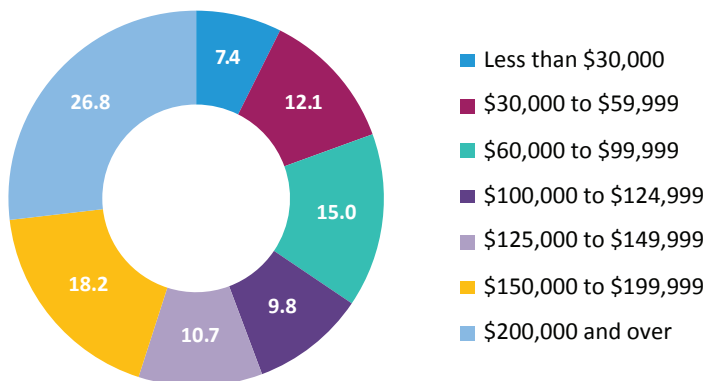


Source: NWT Community Surveys & Statistics Canada Census

Income

In 2015, the NWT had the highest median personal income (\$50,618) in Canada. Despite the high personal median income, 795 NWT families earned less than \$30,000. Among lone parent households, about 60% had income below the Canadian median of \$70,336.

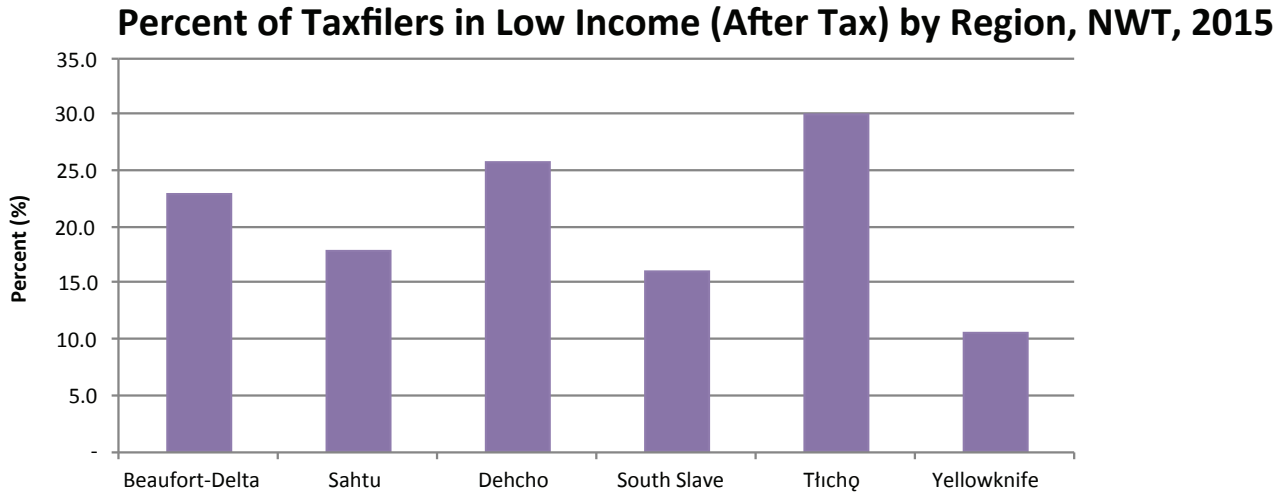
Family Income by Income Groups, NWT, 2015



Source: NWT Community Surveys & Statistics Canada Census

Taxfilers in Low Income (After Tax)

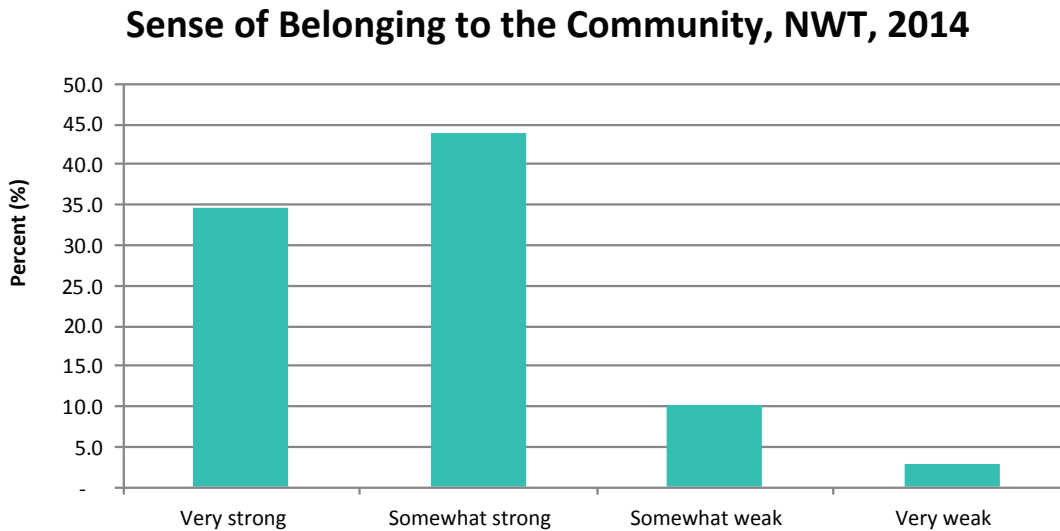
The Tłı̨chó region (30%) followed by the Dehcho region (26%) had the highest proportion of taxfilers in low income, while Yellowknife had the lowest proportion at 11%.



Sources: 2016 Census

Sense of Belonging to the Community

People in the NWT have a strong sense of belonging to their community. In 2014, approximately 8 out of 10 people felt a somewhat strong or very strong sense of belonging. People from smaller communities in the NWT were most likely to indicate a very strong sense of belonging.

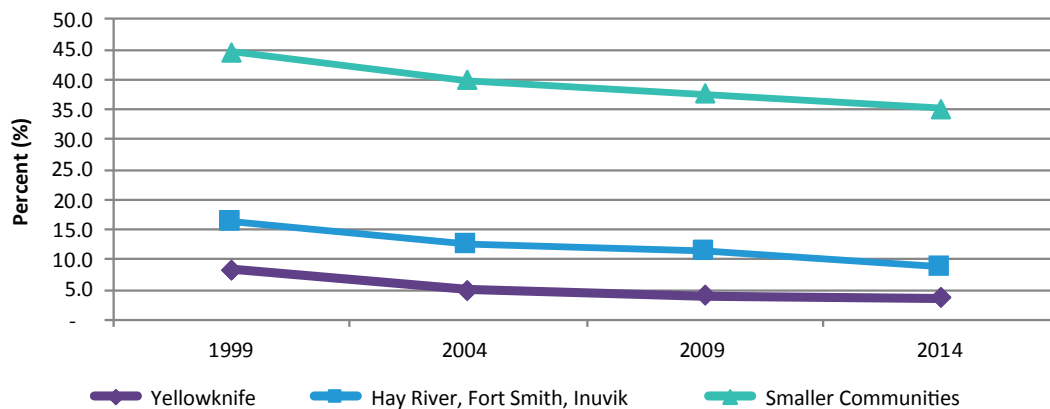


Source: 2014 NWT Community Survey

Hunting or Fishing for Household Consumption

Since 1999, the proportion of households where 75% or more of the meat or fish eaten in the household was obtained through hunting or fishing has declined. In 2014, Yellowknife and the regional centers of Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik had fewer than 10% of households eating the majority of fish or meat from hunting or fishing, compared to 35% of households in smaller NWT communities.

Households Where 75% or More of the Meat or Fish Eaten was Obtained through Hunting or Fishing, NWT 1999 - 2014

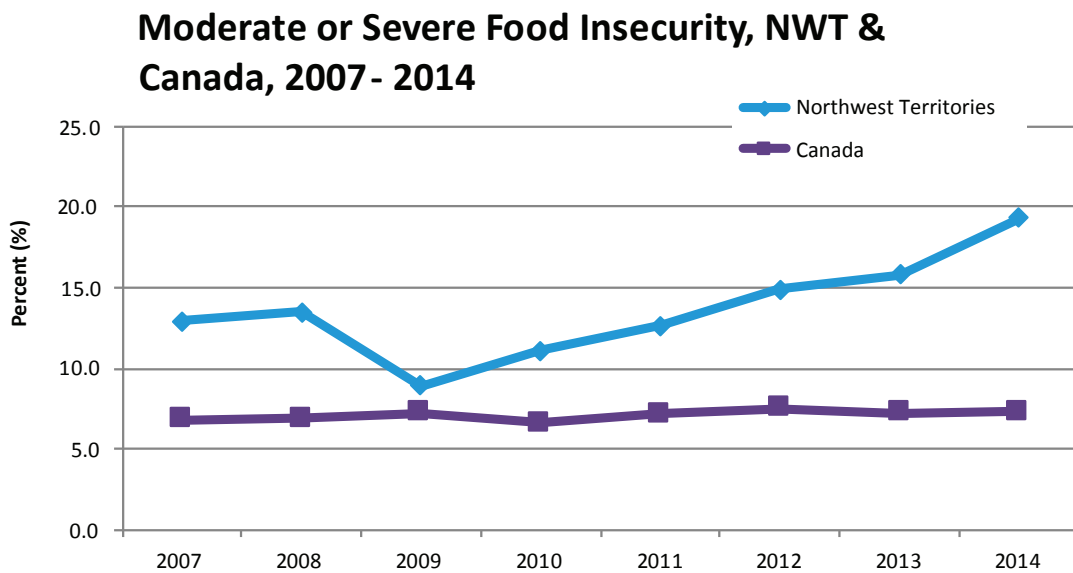


Sources: 2004, 2009 & 2014 NWT Community Surveys, 1999 NWT Labour Force Survey

Food Insecurity

Between 2007 and 2014 about 7% of persons 12 years or older had moderate or severe food insecurity concern in Canada each year. In the NWT, moderate or severe food insecurity in this age group increased from 13% to 19% during the same period.

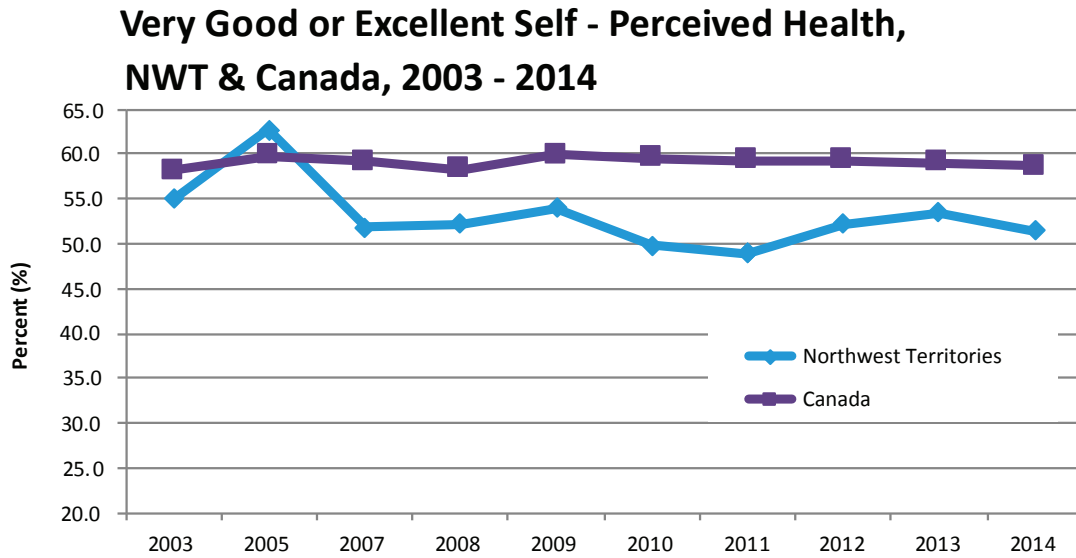
Moderate food insecurity means households had indication of compromise in the quality and/or quantity of food consumed while severe food insecurity indicates reduced food intake and disrupted eating patterns.



Sources: 2004, 2009 & 2014 NWT Community Surveys, 1999 NWT Labour Force Survey

Self-Perceived Health

With the exception of 2005, NWT residents aged 15 and older indicated lower levels of self-perceived health than Canada between 2003 to 2014.

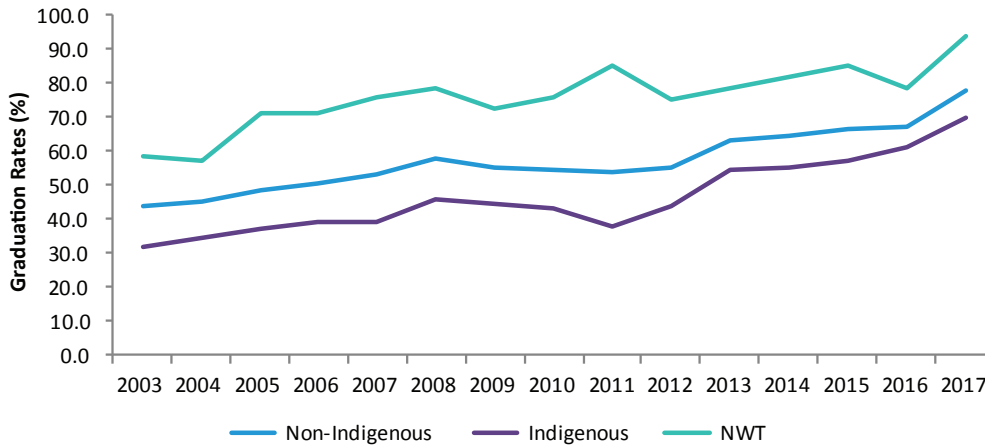


Source: Statistics Canada, Canadian Community Health Survey (CCHS).

Graduation Rates of Senior High Graduates

While NWT graduation rates have improved over the years, the gap between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous students persists. In 2017, the graduation rate among Indigenous students was about 70% compared to 78% among their Non-Indigenous counterparts.

Graduation Rates of Senior High Graduates, by Ethnicity, NWT, 2003 to 2017



SUMMARY

There has been a great deal of activity and collaborative effort to address poverty in the NWT since the release of the Strategic Framework in 2013. The sustained commitment of all partners towards this effort has been essential in driving momentum and focused action.

Poverty is complex. There are no easy solutions, and it is essential that our efforts are flexible, responsive, and continually informed by lived realities. Partners must not lose sight of the need for continued work to meaningfully address poverty. After five years, it is also important to take the opportunity to recognize how far we have come and to celebrate some shared successes.

Significant financial investments have been made since 2013. Direct funding for non-government partners through the Anti-Poverty Fund alone has doubled to its current value of \$1 million annually. Innovative new approaches to service delivery for persons experiencing homelessness or mental health and addictions issues have been implemented through partnership models that bring together government and community partners. New initiatives have been launched under each priority of the Strategic Framework, providing people experiencing poverty with a range of additional services and supports. Within government, pilot projects such as the Integrated Case Management program have helped to create new ways of working together across departments, addressing siloes and increasing coordination within government.

Moving forward, there are opportunities to strengthen the support structure for the TAPAP by formalizing some of the ways partners work together. Establishing a permanent external Anti-Poverty Advisory Committee to guide the work, creating a dedicated internal working group on poverty within the GNWT, and committing to a regular schedule for progress reports and action plan renewal would all help to clarify roles, responsibilities, and expectation. Exploring opportunities to deepen engagement with the Federal government, following the release of Canada's Poverty Reduction Strategy in August 2018, to ensure that benefits are maximized for NWT residents is also essential.

At the 2018 Anti-Poverty Roundtable TAPAP Partners reaffirmed their strong commitment to addressing the various aspects of poverty, including access to adequate housing, food security, health and wellbeing, and workforce participation. Depending in part on stable funding and support, they will continue to provide programs and services that address both the causes and impacts of poverty. Their work will be targeted to individual needs and local contexts, grounded in culture and traditional knowledge, and carried out to the greatest extent through partnership and collaboration across and within sectors. TAPAP Partners remain open to further engagement with all levels of government to identify and implement systemic changes that address the root causes of poverty and break the multi-generational poverty cycle.

