

Traditional Knowledge Annual Report



2010-2011

Introduction

Traditional knowledge and skills accrued from centuries-old connections between the people and the land in the Northwest Territories, and the immense knowledge base that has been generated, are recognized as being important to the way the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) delivers its programs and services.

This recognition was reflected in the first Annual GNWT Report on Traditional Knowledge compiled by the GNWT Departments which provided an in-depth report on the traditional knowledge initiatives undertaken during 2009-2010.

GNWT Departments participate in the Interdepartmental Traditional Knowledge Working Group coordinated by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR). The Working Group is responsible for coordinating government-wide traditional knowledge initiatives and leads the efforts to build upon the GNWT successes in incorporating traditional knowledge into programs and services. All of the GNWT Departments participated fully in the Interdepartmental Traditional Knowledge Working Group which also coordinates the production of this report.

This annual report highlights the work of the GNWT in fulfilling its traditional knowledge implementation objectives during 2010-2011.

Culture

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Oral Traditions and Cultural Enhancement	ECE	Offered through the department's regional service centres to promote, preserve, practice and protect local cultural identity through traditional skills camps and projects such as cataloguing, mapping and digitizing existing cultural values and oral histories.	Continuing on an annual basis
Dene Music Project	ECE	The NWT Archives is working cooperatively with the Dene Nation and CBC North to produce and release an album of Dene Drum music which was recorded in 1982 in Behchoko, Deline, Tulita and Fort Smith.	Expected completion in 2011
Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) Exhibit Development	ECE	The PWNHC has engaged several traditional knowledge advisors to help develop new permanent dioramas that highlight muskrats, caribou, muskox and polar bears and Arctic landscapes through stories, museum artifacts and interactive cultural displays.	Continuing for the next 5 years
Inuvialuit Artifacts from Kuukpak, NT	ECE	Inuvialuit elders contributed to a 30-page bilingual book, being produced by the PWNHC, showing artifacts found at an archaeological site, Kuukpak, located in the Mackenzie Delta.	Completed and to be printed by March 31, 2011
Aurora College Annual Culture and Winter Camps	ECE	Held as part of the Social Work, Bachelor of Education and Environment and Natural Resources Technologies Programs at Aurora College, Aboriginal experts teach students about traditional knowledge.	Continuing on an annual basis
Oral History Preservation Program	ECE	The NWT Archives actively acquires, stores and reformats for preservation purposes oral history materials generated in the NWT.	Continuing on an annual basis
Arts and Crafts Workshops	ITI	The Department of ITI offers a variety of public workshops and presentations to promote arts and fine crafts as part of the Aboriginal traditional way of life. An example is the workshop held at the Great Northern Arts Festival in Inuvik that helped Aboriginal artisans to better promote and share their traditional skills and artwork by offering information on the pricing of artwork and education about the branding logo program.	Continuing on an annual basis

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Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Traditional Craft Trade	ITI	The Department of ITI supports the production of traditional crafts by providing finished beaver and seal pelts to crafters throughout the NWT at cost. Two aims of the project are to promote the traditional harvesting of furs at guaranteed prices paid to harvesters and to increase the supply of low cost tanned pelts in NWT communities. The result has been a significant interest in and demand for pelts from all regions. This will hopefully translate in the production of more traditional crafts for home use and market.	Continuing on an annual basis
Interpretive Displays and Trails	ITI	Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park near the Hamlet of Enterprise is being upgraded with new trail extensions and interpretive signage. Various trails within the park now have signs that share traditional knowledge about local flora, traditional uses of the areas and the customs and spiritual beliefs of local Aboriginal People.	
Guided Tour	ITI	Guided tours were conducted at Twin Falls Gorge Territorial Park in the South Slave Region. The tour was themed “Walk a Mile in My Moccasins” and delivered by a local traditional knowledge holder from the Hay River Dene Reserve.	
Aboriginal Gallery	ITI	At the 60th Parallel Visitors Centre a trapper’s cabin and associated interpretive exhibits were constructed to showcase northern Aboriginal trapping activities, technique changes over the years and the importance of trapping to the Aboriginal lifestyle today.	
LA Times Travel and Adventure Show	ITI/ MACA/ NWT Tourism	Northwest Territories Tourism partnered with MACA to showcase athletes and performers from the Northwest Territories at the March 2011 Los Angeles Times Travel and Adventure Show, an event that will share the traditions, knowledge and culture of the Northwest Territories with top travel companies from all over the world and over twenty thousand consumers from the greater Los Angeles area.	Continuing

Culture

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Weekly Cultural Information Sessions	Justice	NWT youth correctional facilities incorporate seasonal cultural camps, sharing circles, traditional cooking programs, igloo-building workshops, and Dene hand games into programs and services provided at each facility.	Weekly
Wilderness Camps	Justice	Wilderness camps help renew the offender's links with the land, cultural values, practices and traditions. Activities include canoeing, plant and animal identification, counselling on the land, fleshing and cleaning moose hides, and trapping.	Some are year-round, others are two to four times a year
Traditional Games Tour	MACA	The Traditional Games Tours introduce various traditional Aboriginal games to students as a part of MACA's emerging Traditional Games Strategy, which will be focused around the pillars of promoting pride in northern culture and encouraging greater participation in physical activity and healthy lifestyles.	Continuing
NWT Youth Corps	MACA	The 2010-2011 NWT Youth Corps program has funded the Dehcho First Nations Youth and Elder Gathering, the Ts'uah Youth Leadership Program in Nahanni Butte, Fort Liard's Walking in Both Worlds Program, youth leadership initiatives offered by the Deninoo Community Council in Fort Resolution, a Youth Leadership Development program at Deh Gah School in Fort Providence, the Strengthening Culture and Traditional Healing on the Land program in Deline First Nation, the Arctic Youth Leadership Expedition Program out of Inuvik and the Ivavik National Park Field Program out of Inuvik.	Continuing
Regional Youth Sport Events Program	MACA	The Regional Youth Sport Events (RYSE) program funded traditional Aboriginal games events including: the Chief T'selehye School Dene Games Workshop in Fort Good Hope, two programs in Tsiigehtchic, the Sports Festival in Inuvik, the Youth Dene Games in Fort Simpson, the Youth Leadership Workshop in Fort Resolution, a Dog Sledding Clinic in Fort Resolution and the Chekoa Hand Games tournament in Dettah.	Continuing

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Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Community Learning Centre (CLC) – Hay River Reserve – Cultural Enhancements	PWS	A new Community Learning Centre was constructed with funding from the Federal Knowledge Infrastructure Fund. As part of this project, the Department of ECE, along with funding support from the Katloodeeche First Nation, approved cultural enhancements. The cultural enhancements include the addition of a viewing room that was designed with input from the band, that will be used to teach the Dene Sky Program. The room has a high ceiling and a teepee made up of timber poles on the inside, with benches arranged in a circle throughout. Traditional knowledge will be shared by local elders and community leaders with students as they learn about the traditional importance of constellations, aurora, the changing seasons, the sun and the moon.	Completed
Research and Monitoring			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
NWT Ice Patch Study	ECE	The project combines the physical, biological and social sciences with traditional knowledge to investigate past and present environmental and human change in the Mackenzie and Selwyn Mountains contributing to our understanding of the human history of the North and the ecology of mountain caribou populations over time.	Continuing on an annual basis
Saamba K'e Archeology Project	ECE	Archaeologists from the PWNHC are working with elders and students from the Samba K'e Dene Band to record archaeological sites and other places of cultural importance in the Samba K'e cultural landscape.	Continuing on an annual basis
Bridging Traditional Knowledge and Western Science	ENR	Traditional knowledge researchers assisted in outlining an education and development strategy for ENR scientists, biologists and technicians.	Completed March 31, 2011

Language			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Aboriginal Languages Revitalization	ECE	ECE provides financial support to Aboriginal language communities and other Aboriginal organizations for community-based language and literacy activities and for the development of language-related resources.	Continuing on an annual basis
Dr. Robert Howren Tlicho Linguistic Tape collection	ECE	The NWT Archives is involved in the creation of indexes and public copies of Tlicho linguistic recordings created by noted linguist Dr. Robert Howren between 1960-1980.	Expected completion 2012
Official Languages Consultant	HSS	The HSS Official Languages Consultant regularly provides training and information sessions to HSS and HSSA staff about Aboriginal languages and works to ensure compliance with the obligations of the NWT Official Languages Act by the HSS system.	Continuing on an annual basis

Traditional Healing

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Aboriginal Healers: Working in Harmony with Western Medicine Project	Dehcho Health and Social Services Authority (HSSA), HSS and Dene Nation	The project has developed a model for delivery of traditional healing services across the NWT and provides for collaboration between the Indigenous and Western medical systems.	Continuing on an annual basis
Traditional Healing Practices in Acute Care Facilities	HSS	A recent review to determine how traditional healing practices could be better incorporated into acute care settings, as well as an inter-jurisdictional review resulted in recommendations to hire liaison workers in hospitals, provide cultural awareness training to staff, and allow traditional ceremonies in acute care settings. These recommendations are still under development.	Continuing on an annual basis
Incorporation of TK and Care with Palliative Home Care Programs and Services Project	HSS, HSSAs and Dene Nation	Specific culturally relevant palliative care standards were developed for use in the regions of the NWT and distributed to care managers for implementation.	Continuing on an annual basis
Pre Treatment Healing Program – SMCC Hay River	Justice	The program is open to all offenders and is intended to restore dignity and integrity and prepare offenders for the group format of other programs.	Four times a year for a period of three weeks
Healing Circles and Traditional Activities	Justice	All NWT correctional facilities have a designated space for healing circles and other traditional activities to aid rehabilitation and healing. Elders were consulted in the design of both Yellowknife Correctional Centres.	Daily
Wellness Programs	Justice	In Inuvik and Fort McPherson, Corrections staff participate in Gwich'in wellness programs, helping launch them and promote them.	Continuing on an annual basis

On-the-Land Skills

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Bliss Lake Fire Ecology/ Trapper Training	ENR	The program introduces students to traditional and cultural winter harvesting. Activities include ice fishing, hunting, trapping and on-the-land skills by traditional knowledge holders at ENR.	Annual
Ekali Lake Youth Camp	ENR	The annual youth ecology camp uses traditional and scientific knowledge to teach students about the land. Elders contribute to the program. The camp has been running since 2003.	Annual
Samuel Hearne Secondary School Hunter Education and Cultural Program	ENR/ECE	Part of the school's outdoor education curriculum, the program gives students an opportunity to travel on the land and learn traditional hunting skills taught by an elder. ENR provides delivery support and funding.	Annual
Take a Kid Trapping	ITI/MACA/ ENR	The "Take a Kid Trapping" program had another successful year. ENR staff worked with Aboriginal instructors to deliver this "on the land" program that shares traditional knowledge while demonstrating and incorporating visits to trap lines, hands-on experience setting traps, snares and fishnets, traditional life skills, conservation teaching and best practices in preparing pelts for market.	Continuing on an annual basis
Take a Kid Harvesting – Tuktoyaktuk	ITI/MACA/ ENR	The objective of the 2010 Canoe Building Program was to enhance the youth's outdoor survival and big game harvesting skills. The program was developed to teach the youth Bear Safety, Boat/Water Safety, Navigation, Traditional Knowledge, Career Development and Firearm Safety.	Continuing on an annual basis
Take a Kid Trapping – Aklavik	ITI/MACA/ ENR	Moose Kerr School in Aklavik developed a program where two elders introduced ten students to traditional and cultural winter harvesting with activities that included ice fishing, hunting, trapping, winter travel and survival skills.	Continuing on an annual basis

Core Services			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Implementation of GNWT Consultation Framework	DAAIR	DAAIR continues to emphasize the importance of traditional knowledge by educating GNWT employees on how to implement the GNWT Consultation Framework.	Continuing on an annual basis
Negotiation and Implementation of Land, Resources and Self-government Agreements	DAAIR	DAAIR continues to facilitate and lay the basis for the GNWT and Aboriginal governments to use, preserve and promote traditional knowledge through the negotiation and implementation of Aboriginal rights agreements.	Continuing on an annual basis
Student Financial Assistance (SFA) and Income Assistance's (IA) Programs	ECE	SFA supports postsecondary studies that contains TK curriculum by financially assisting students while attending approved programs at universities and colleges, while able IA clients are required to participate in an activity that can incorporate TK, to ensure continuation of their IA benefits.	Continuing on an annual basis
Cultural Organizations Operating Funding	ECE	This program provides operating funding contributions to organizations which undertake the research, preservation and promotion of cultural diversity in the Northwest Territories.	Continuing on an annual basis
Experiential Science 30	ECE	Traditional knowledge infusion and nine specific layout items highlighted in the student textbook.	Completed April 2011 and going to print June 2011
Community Justice Committees Diversions	Justice	This program allows offenders to divert from conventional methods of sentencing to deal with the crime and make amends in the community. Diversions may be done in Aboriginal languages.	Continuing on an annual basis
Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway	DOT	For route selection, impact mitigation, and permit acquisition.	October 2009 and ongoing

Core Services			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Trout Lake, Colville Passenger Shelter	DOT	Community meetings regarding infrastructure construction.	Ongoing
Tlicho Winter Road Operation	DOT	Community members and elders accompanied DOT to areas along the route where realignments were necessary. This enabled DOT to avoid sensitive cultural and subsistence areas, while meeting the construction/ improvement needs of the winter road.	On-going
Dempster Highway (No. 8) Widening Projects	DOT	Discussions around species to be included and protected in a Wildlife Management Plan.	March 2009 and ongoing
Peel and Arctic River Ferry Landings	DOT	Information has been collected from Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson community members and elders to identify areas potentially sensitive to operational impacts.	2010 and ongoing
Dempster Highway, km 36.7	DOT	Information collected for consideration during LUP and Quarry Permit Application process.	2009 and ongoing
Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour Air Terminal Buildings	DOT	Community meetings regarding infrastructure construction.	On-going
Cross-cultural Awareness			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Cultural Orientation for Teachers	ECE	ECE provides funding to the Divisional Educational Councils for the provision of a two day, on-the-land cultural orientation for teachers, with the assistance of community members.	Takes place at the beginning of the school year
Tundra Science Camp	ECE/ENR	Brings Aboriginal elders and scientists together to share their knowledge with high school students at the GNWT research stations at Daring Lake.	Annual
Correctional Northern Recruit Program	Justice	All new Correctional Officers participate in this program. There is a half day training dedicated to cultural awareness and diversity.	Done twice a year for all new Correctional Staff

Cross-cultural Awareness

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training Framework	HR	The Department of Human Resources is coordinating the development of a government-wide framework for Aboriginal cultural awareness training for GNWT employees consisting of e-training courses and on-the-land experience-based cultural opportunities developed for employees in specific communities.	Expected completion in 2011-2012
Community Health Representative Certification Program	HSS	Community Health Representatives represent the link between a western medical system and traditional Aboriginal communities. Through Community Health Representatives, services are delivered in a culturally specific manner.	Continuing on an annual basis
Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act	HSS	Through this legislation, the GNWT recognizes and supports Aboriginal custom adoption rights and practices.	Continuing on an annual basis
Child and Family Services Act (CFS Act) and Associated Services	HSS, HSSAs and communities	HSS has accepted most recommendations in the Act and conditionally accepted several others. A review and report have been tabled.	Expected to continue on an annual basis in the near future
Community Counselling Program Toolkit	HSS and HSSAs	The Toolkit includes standards and resources for community counsellors and traditional healing practices.	Continuing on an annual basis
Seasonal Circle of Northern Life: a Different Way of Living Guidelines and DVD, 2007	Pan-Territorial HSS Departments	The DVD and guidelines specific to the NWT were developed by the NWT Task Force and Local Advisory Group (HSS and Aboriginal Group membership). These resources continue to provide orientation and continuing development training for HSS providers.	Continuing on an annual basis
Victims Services	Justice	This program encourages women to use traditional, spiritual practices wherever appropriate in accessing Victims Services.	Continuing on an annual basis
Aboriginal Wellness Program	Stanton Territorial Health Authority	The Aboriginal Wellness Coordinator, with input provided by elders, coordinates the Aboriginal Wellness Program and language interpretation services for the HSSA. The Program is expanding to include kinship and cultural visits to patients, and cultural activities that can provide physical and cognitive therapy to support patients.	Continuing on an annual basis

