

***PROPOSED* MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF  
THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES  
2016-2019 (REVISED) – with Tracked Changes**

(Original clean version tabled in the Legislative Assembly on September 19, 2017)

**PROPOSED MANDATE OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST  
TERRITORIES  
2016-2019 (REVISED)**

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## Foreword

On March 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2016, the Members of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted the *Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016 – 2019*. The mandate represents the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) commitment to enhancing transparency and accountability by clearly stating how the GNWT will advance the priorities of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly over its four-year term.

In June 2017, the GNWT and the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning (SCOPP) each tabled a mid-term progress report on the GNWT's implementation of our mandate. While both reports acknowledge that the GNWT is making significant progress toward fulfilling our commitments, it was determined that new information, changing external factors and the need for improved clarity and reporting warranted adjustments to the mandate and priorities to better reflect our focus and direction for the remainder of the term of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

The *Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019* has been revised based on input received from SCOPP and Caucus and the GNWT's own assessments of our progress and work remaining. Revisions to the mandate include new commitments and sub-commitments, the clarification of existing commitments, the removal of duplicate commitments, and the restructuring of existing commitments to allow progress to be better tracked and reported. While much of the feedback presented in SCOPP's progress report has been addressed through changes to the mandate, other comments will be addressed through revised milestones and enhanced reporting and communication between the GNWT and Standing Committees.

The mandate review process has provided a valuable opportunity for all Members to reflect on progress made towards achieving the GNWT's commitments, and to continue to communicate and seek solutions that are in the best interests of the residents of the Northwest Territories. The GNWT remains committed to working with all Members toward fulfilling the government's existing and new commitments in the mandate for the remainder of the term of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

## Introduction

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has a responsibility to all residents to develop and implement an integrated, long-range plan for creating a territory where all [of](#) our people, communities and regions share in the benefits of a healthy, just, sustainable and prosperous society. We want to see a [Northwest Territories \(NWT\)](#) where our people can thrive and be healthy, where a well-managed environment contributes to our economic well-being and quality of life, and where a strong economy provides jobs and opportunities for our communities as well as funding for government programs.

The GNWT [remains](#) is committed to achieving this vision of social progress, environmental sustainability and economic development built on a foundation of strong consensus government and the [revised](#) priorities agreed upon by all Members of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly.

A strong territory needs a strong society. All residents of the NWT should have the chance to enjoy the benefits of living in a prosperous, well-governed territory and to participate fully in a healthy, just society. The GNWT is committed to helping our residents achieve their aspirations for themselves, their families and their communities.

The land is our life and the source of our wealth and well-being. Healthy people depend on a healthy environment, and our natural resources have the potential to support a strong, sustainable economy that all residents and future generations can share in. We have a responsibility as stewards of the land to make prudent decisions about how we use, share and protect the land, in a way that reflects the values and priorities of our residents.

A thriving economy gives NWT residents the chance to support themselves and their families, and gives government the financial means to pay for the programs and services our people need. But we can't [not](#) have a thriving economy without healthy, educated people. We need people to own and run businesses and employees to work in them. And people need education and training to play a role in the economic life of the territory.

A strong, effective and efficient government will help northerners achieve their social, environmental and economic goals. All northerners must have an opportunity to shape and influence decisions about the things that matter most to them: about their economy, about their environment and about the kind of society they want to have. And once those decisions are made, governments need to have the capacity, legislative authority and

financial resources to implement those decisions and be accountable for their choices.

In our decision-making and planning, we will [continue to](#) be guided by principles of respect, openness and collaboration, ensuring that we are hearing from the people that we serve and making decisions that consider their wishes. We will [continue to](#) seek the guidance of the Legislative Assembly and the people represented, and adopt a territorial perspective that considers the needs and aspirations of every region and community to make decisions that are in the best interest of all residents. We will [continue to](#) be prudent and fiscally responsible, making best use of limited resources to ensure the long-term sustainability of the programs and services that the people of the NWT need to realize their hopes for themselves and for the territory.

This mandate describes the strategic direction that the Government of the Northwest Territories will undertake [in the remainder of the term](#) to advance the [updated](#) priorities of the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Our purpose is to create a secure and sustainable future for the territory and its people under the guidance of the Legislative Assembly and its Members. We [remain](#)are committed to working in every sector to advance the priorities of the Assembly ~~with plans, strategies and programs~~ [in a way](#) that will provide for current and future needs, and create a foundation for the long-term success of all northerners.

## Priorities of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly (Revised)

These priorities were developed by all Members of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly to guide their work over their four-year term. The priorities were first, and tabled in the Assembly on December 17th, 2015, and revised at the mid-point of the term.

### **Economy, Environment and Climate Change**

*The 18th Legislative Assembly will lead economic diversification and environmental stewardship in the NWT by:*

1. Making strategic investments in ~~transportation~~ infrastructure, resource development, ~~and~~ workforce development and the knowledge economy ~~utilizing partnerships with northern and Aboriginal businesses;~~
2. Investing in renewable resources and energy, agriculture, arts, fisheries, forestry, manufacturing, tourism, and traditional harvesting;
3. Improving coordination and effectiveness in resource management systems, recognizing traditional knowledge, land claims agreements, and devolution;
4. ~~Implementing a strategy to m~~ Mitigating and adapting to climate change in collaboration with other governments, businesses and ~~organization~~ NGOs.

### **Cost of Living**

*The 18th Legislative Assembly will lower the cost of living by:*

1. Increasing the availability of safe, affordable housing and creating solutions for addressing homelessness;
2. Improving food security by encouraging local food production, traditional harvesting, and effective co-management of caribou herds and other wildlife;
3. Supporting the use of energy-efficient technologies in residential, commercial, and public sectors;
4. Increasing the production and transmission of renewable and alternative energy;
5. Promoteing federal investment in reducing the cost of living for northerners;
6. ~~Implementing universal and affordable~~ Making childcare available and affordable.

### **Education, Training and Youth Development**

*The 18th Legislative Assembly will foster lifelong learning, skills development, training, and employability by:*

1. Supporting quality early childhood development in collaboration with existing organizations;
2. Increasing IK-12 support systems to improve educational outcomes;

3. Expanding opportunities for post-secondary education, trades-oriented learning, and northern educational institutions;
4. Increasing cultural programming in education and revitalizing Aboriginal languages;
5. Enhancing [and promoting](#) capacity-building programs for our youth.

### **Community Wellness and Safety**

*The 18th Legislative Assembly will foster well-being and safety by:*

1. Focusing on mental health and addictions by ensuring that services are delivered locally with culturally appropriate methods;
2. Taking action so that seniors can age in place;
3. [Taking action on the crisis of family and community violence;](#)
4. Fostering healthy families by focusing on wellness, prevention, and improved nutrition;
5. ~~[Taking action on the crisis of family and community violence;](#)~~
6. Creating opportunities for healthy lifestyles and community leadership for our youth.

### **Governance: Improving accountability, transparency, and collaboration**

*The 18th Legislative Assembly will change the way it does business by:*

1. Collaborating and fostering government-to-government relationships with Aboriginal governments;
2. Advancing, finalizing, and implementing land, resources, and self-government agreements, including ongoing post-devolution initiatives;
3. Increasing transparency and accountability and strengthening consensus government [through improved communications;](#)
4. Building stronger relationships with community governments and stakeholders;
5. Supporting initiatives designed to increase the number of women running for elected office in the NWT.

## Economy, Environment & Climate Change

The sustainability and growth of the NWT economy requires strategic investment, diversification, and modernization towards a high-tech and lower-carbon future. In the NWT, the direct and indirect contribution of the non-renewable resource sector accounts for one-third of the economy. Mining and mineral-related activities are, and for some time will be, the largest provider of high-paying NWT jobs and the main driver of the territorial economy. Benefits from non-renewable resource production enable investment into other sectors of the economy, into energy systems, and into lowering the cost of living. While commodity prices for oil and gas and the price of rough diamonds are currently low, the government recognizes the need to invest now to capitalize on future resource demand.

Mining will play a significant and continuing role in the NWT's economy. However, the government also supports economic diversification through strategic investment to support tourism, import substitution, manufacturing, and other renewable resource-based activities locally, within Canada and internationally. Economic development must be supported by improved and intensified skills development for the labour market, so that NWT residents can take advantage of current and future job opportunities. With the [\*Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement\*](#) having been completed by the previous government, it is now time to work with Canada, Aboriginal governments, industry and environmental partners to continue to evolve and improve our regulatory system. The government believes in a responsible, sustainable and balanced approach to land use. This will be achieved in partnership with northerners, through a mix of legislative amendments, regulations, and strategic policy. We need to work together to create the conditions for foreign and domestic economic investment while preserving the values of sustainability. This also means having a strategic response to climate change that recognizes international and national emissions targets and pricing schemes, alongside the realities of our northern geography and climate which drive energy consumption and the cost of living.

Our plan [is to continue investing](#) ~~begins with continuing to invest~~ in developing a skilled northern workforce, [making](#) strategic investments in infrastructure, and working in partnership to improve the regulatory system and adapt to climate change. This is how:

1. **Making strategic investments in ~~transportation~~ infrastructure, [resource development](#), and workforce development and [the knowledge economy](#) ~~utilizing partnerships with northern and Aboriginal businesses~~;**



- We will ~~capture opportunities for investment in transportation infrastructure by~~ working to secure funding to advance [planning and construction of transportation projects, including three priority corridors](#): the Mackenzie Valley Highway, ~~make an all-weather road from Highway 3 to Whati~~[Thcho All-season Road](#), and ~~improve access into~~ the Slave Geological Province [Access Corridor](#).
- We will strengthen connections with private sector partners in transportation infrastructure, ~~(such as encouraging CN Rail, trucking, airline, and marine) to continue improving the rail line to Hay River to serve resupply needs and expand the system in accordance with demand.~~
- We will strengthen connections with public sector partners in transportation infrastructure, ~~such as encouraging Fisheries and Oceans Canada~~[including working with the federal government](#) to maintain federal community resupply port facilities and marine services in the NWT, to restore safe marine operating conditions in the Port of Hay River and at key sections of the Mackenzie River Corridor, and to improve charting and navigational aids.
- We will continue to implement the government's Hard-to-Recruit initiative to link regional job vacancies with potential employees and on-the-job training for residents.
- We will get more 18-24 year olds into the labour market by [removing barriers to employment](#), using a better mix of improved educational attainment, skill development, and matching skills with employer needs through improved career development supports.
- ~~We will take steps to close the skills gap using the Skills4Success strategic framework, and by working with Aurora College on a renewed strategic plan, refocusing support for postsecondary institutions in NWT, improving outcomes from our Community Learning Centres, strengthening the apprenticeship program, and improving our career development services.~~
- [In collaboration with the federal government,](#) ~~W~~[we](#) will increase the number of immigrants working in the NWT and increase investment by immigrants, ~~by~~[We will](#) implementing an immigration strategy that prioritizes streamlining application

processes, increasing awareness of immigration programs, and consolidating our administrative supports.

- We will support mineral exploration and the mining sector, by implementing the Mineral Development Strategy, capturing opportunities to build transportation infrastructure that enables resources to get to market, closing the skills gap in the mining sector, implementing the Mining Incentive Program, developing and proposing a *Mineral Resources Act*, and supporting Aboriginal governments to build capacity in dealing with mining-related activities.
- We will develop a long-term strategy to attract [investment in oil and gas resources development in the territory](#) that will [provide economic and energy benefits to NWT residents and businesses, while recognizing and protecting environmental, social, cultural and economic values](#).
- We will ensure that residents have meaningful opportunities to participate in the assessment of potential benefits and risks associated with resource development, including hydraulic fracturing.
- We will [develop and foster the knowledge economy by:](#)
  - ◇ [Completing the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link](#) in order to help modernize the economy and enable growth in all economic sectors.
  - ◇ [Implementing the NWT Geological Survey Strategic Plan, including carrying out Slave Province geoscience studies, ensuring the availability of high quality geoscience knowledge to promote the successful exploration for and discovery of NWT mineral resources, and defining permafrost conditions that may impact future infrastructure development.](#)
  - ◇ [Implementing the Resources and Energy Development Information \(REDI\) initiative to increase public awareness and understanding of NWT renewable and non-renewable mineral and energy resources and the means by which they can be developed in a responsible and sustainable manner.](#)
  - ◇ [In partnership with other organizations, supporting the creation of a central repository that supports knowledge dissemination, research, and best practices for northern farming conditions, and promoting innovative farm practices and northern based greenhouse and related technologies.](#)

- ◇ [Build upon the research vision developed in the GNWT Knowledge Agenda: Northern Research for Northern Priorities, and other strategic instruments, to support the generation of knowledge \(e.g. traditional and local knowledge and western science\) and innovation to enhance decision making and sustainable economic opportunities.](#)
  - We will support the growth of Aboriginal business development corporations and the capacity of Aboriginal governments, through the completion and implementation of memoranda of understanding that reflect the economic opportunity objectives found in modern land claims.
  - We will [support small communities by enhancing job-creation programs, building community capacity and supporting new economic opportunities, by:](#)~~develop and implement a strategy to increase employment in small communities~~
    - ◇ [Updating the Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development \(SEED\) programs as necessary to better align with the needs of NWT entrepreneurs and businesses, including those in small communities.](#)
    - ◇ [Implementing the Economic Opportunities Strategy.](#)
    - ◇ [Enhancing the Small Communities Employment Support Program.](#)
    - ◇ Developing and implementing a strategy to increase employment in small communities [that guides the delivery of territorial programming and includes a performance measurement plan.](#)
    - ◇ [Establishing a committee with Cabinet Ministers and Regular Members on rural and remote communities.](#)
  - We will reduce taxes on small businesses.
- 2. Investing in renewable resources [and energy](#), agriculture, arts, fisheries, forestry, manufacturing, tourism, and traditional harvesting.**
- We will expand the agricultural sector by: ~~developing and implementing an Agriculture Strategy.~~
    - ◇ [Implementing the Agriculture Strategy.](#)
    - ◇ [Improving access to agricultural land.](#)

◇ [Updating agricultural funding programs.](#)

◇ [Supporting training for commercial farmers.](#)

- We will invest in artist-to-market and product-to-market opportunity chains, with a particular emphasis on making investments that enable the showcasing of art and increase sales at the regional level.
- We will support the film industry to further develop the skills and competencies of NWT film producers, build infrastructure, assist below-the-line crew and support services, and help develop marketing and communications plans for films made in the NWT.
- We will finalize and implement the Commercial Fisheries Revitalization Strategy to increase fish production, encourage and mentor new entrants to the Great Slave Lake fishery, [secure and build access to local and new markets for fishers](#), ~~negotiate an agreement with the Fresh Water Fish Marketing Corporation to access markets outside of NWT, seek federal funding to~~ build a new fish processing plant in Hay River, and work with the Tu Cho Co-operative to promote and market fish caught in Great Slave Lake.
- Through agreements with communities, we will help to establish and/or expand self-sufficient businesses that sell products from renewable resource harvesting.
- We will develop a northern manufacturing strategy in collaboration with industry and the NWT's Manufacturers' Association to expand the manufacturing sector, identify potential areas of growth, promote and market products manufactured in the NWT and aid in the professional and technological advancement of the industry.
- We will [expand tourism options and](#) provide high quality public ~~tourism~~ facilities by:
  - ◇ [Expanding and](#) modernizing our parks infrastructure and signage, ~~erecting emergency shelters along remote highways, and expand tourism options by building new parks such as Doi'Toh Territorial Park in the Sahtu Region.~~
  - ◇ [Improving road side facilities along remote highways.](#)
  - ◇ [Building new parks such as Doi'Toh Territorial Park in the Sahtu Region.](#)
- We will increase exports by working with the tourism, diamonds, and traditional economy sectors to promote NWT products to international markets.
- We will attract foreign direct investment, and cross-promote minerals, furs, fish, forest

products, and tourism to investors and markets.

- We will build partnerships to expand resources available for community-based traditional economy programs, which could be used to support, amongst other things, local operators, culturally-based tourism, and the conservation economy.

### **3. Improving coordination and effectiveness in resource management systems, recognizing traditional knowledge, land claims agreements, and devolution.**

- Using the Land Use and Sustainability Framework to be clear and transparent, we will:
  - ◇ Create a defined set of collective land use and sustainability objectives.
  - ◇ Develop a method for integrating our land use and sustainability objectives into GNWT decision processes.
  - ◇ Develop an approach to monitor and evaluate the degree to which GNWT decisions are contributing to our collective objectives.
  - ◇ Complete land-use plans for all areas, including regions without land and resources agreements, in collaboration with Aboriginal governments.
  - ◇ Implement the agreed upon governance structure for land use planning in the Wek'èezhii Management Area.
  - ◇ Finalize the Recreational ~~Land~~Leasing Management Framework, and the plan for the Yellowknife Periphery Area.
  - ◇ Finalize and implement the Conservation Action Plan in order to finalize existing candidate protected areas.
  - ◇ Establish Thaidene Nene Park.
  - ◇ Finalize and implement the Water Stewardship Strategy action plan.
  - ◇ Develop an integrated comprehensive approach to the management of contaminated sites including prioritizing, sharing of responsibility in collaboration with other governments, monitoring, and a sound financial security system to prevent public liabilities.
- In order to advance the territorial vision of land and resource management in accordance with the Land Use and Sustainability Framework, we will evolve our legislative, regulatory, and policy systems by:
  - ◇ Developing and proposing a *Mineral Resources Act*.

- ◇ Making amendments to the *NWT Mining Regulations*.
  - ◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the *NWT Lands Act*.
  - ◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the *Commissioner's Land Act*.
  - ◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the *Territorial Parks Act*.
  - ◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the *Petroleum Resources Act*.
  - ◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the *Oil and Gas Operations Act*.
  - ◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the *Waters Act*.
  - ◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the *Environmental Protection Act* (including the development of air quality regulations).
  - ◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the *Forest Management Act*.
  - ◇ We will review and develop amendments to the *Northwest Territories Heritage Fund Act* in light of devolution to ensure a defined revenue stream and stronger public governance.
- We will develop a strategy to manage the resources and potential economic and environmental benefits derived from household, commercial, and industrial garbage from private sector sources and in our municipalities.
  - We will continue to implement the Traditional Knowledge Policy and Framework across the GNWT, while working with Aboriginal governments to develop an action plan to improve the inclusion of traditional knowledge in program development, implementation and decision making.
  - We will support the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) [that supports the regulatory process and builds community capacity related to environmental monitoring](#). We will ~~and~~ respond to recommendations in the Northwest Territories Environmental Audit for improved environmental management.
  - We will negotiate with Yukon, Nunavut, and Saskatchewan towards the completion of transboundary water agreements.
4. ~~Implementing a strategy to m~~**Mitigating** and **adapting** to climate change in collaboration with other governments, [businesses](#) and ~~organization~~**NGOs**.
- We will develop a territorial climate change strategy that takes into account northern energy demands and the cost of living, while reflecting international and national

commitments to lower greenhouse gas emissions, exploring options for carbon pricing systems, and capturing local alternatives such as hydro, biomass, wind, geothermal and solar.

- We will work with our partners in the territory and in the federation to implement a Canadian Energy Strategy, by participating in intergovernmental working groups on energy efficiency, energy delivery, technology and innovation, and transitioning our country towards a lower-carbon economy.
- We will reduce diesel use for heating and electricity in off-grid communities under participate in the pPan-Canadian Task Force Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, as well as set targets for greenhouse gas reduction in the new NWT Energy Strategy and Climate Change Strategic Framework on Reducing Diesel in Off-Grid Communities.
- We commit to assisting community governments as they innovate to address climate change by supporting the development of community government capital plans and asset planning, and ensuring that training recognizes the challenges of climate change.
- ~~• We will expand and improve access to incentives for residents to invest in energy-efficient products, help businesses, condominiums, and cooperatives invest in energy conservation and efficiency, support residents and communities so that they can make investments into renewable energies, such as solar, and improve the energy efficiency of public housing.~~
- We will support Net Metering through clear policy direction to the Public Utilities Board (PUB), to provide certainty to allow customers to recover their investments in renewable energy.

## Education, Training and Youth Development

Education is a key element to achieving the overall goals of a strong and sustainable territory with healthy communities and residents. Employment and education are inextricably linked, with 83 per cent of residents 15 years of age and older with post-secondary education having a job, compared to an employment rate of 49 per cent for those without a post-secondary diploma, certificate or degree. Employment and education also have strong linkages to reduced issues related to health, crime and housing.

There have been improvements in education outcomes over time in the Northwest Territories, but gaps continue to exist. Disparities in education outcomes between large and small communities and between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents are apparent.

Improving education outcomes requires a multi-faceted approach from early childhood development, to the school system, to post-secondary education and training programs. There is a need for strong linkages between each phase, to support residents as they pass through each phase, and as they develop the skills and knowledge to fully participate in their communities. In recent years, the GNWT has developed key strategic frameworks such as Right from the Start, an early childhood development framework, the Education Renewal and Innovation Framework, to reform the school system, and the Skills 4 Success 10-Year Strategic Framework, associated with post-secondary education and training. These foundational documents provide a path, and it will be critical that we continue to develop and implement actions [and measure outcomes](#) in support of the goals we have outlined.

Our plan [is to continue investing](#) ~~begins with continuing to invest~~ in quality early childhood development, supporting the JK-12 system, supporting effective post-secondary opportunities, strengthening cultural and Aboriginal language programming, and building capacity for our youth. This is how:

### 1. **Supporting quality early childhood development in collaboration with existing organizations.**

- We will implement the Right from the Start Framework to invest in early childhood development by:
  - ◇ Working with stakeholders and communities to explore options for free play-based care for 4-year olds.
  - ◇ Revising the funding support model for licensed early childhood programs.



- ◇ Strengthening licensed early childhood programs through improving resource materials and increased training for early childhood workers.
- ◇ Improving access to and outcomes of early intervention services for children 0-5 by looking at the results of evaluating NWT rehabilitation services and by continuing pilot projects in the Dehcho, Tłıchǫ, and Beaufort Delta regions, along with territorial program design.
- ◇ Supporting parents with programs and supports to help ensure their children have a strong foundation.
- ◇ [Working with our partners to identify the need for any additional assessments for 3 and 4-year-olds entering school, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.](#)

## **2. Increasing JK-12 support systems to improve educational outcomes.**

- We will implement the Education Renewal and Innovation Framework by:
  - ◇ Implementing the renewed K-12 Inclusive Schooling Directive which provides greater direction on roles and responsibilities, increases the number of Program Support Teachers, increases emphasis on training, and increases accountability.
  - ◇ Implementing a renewed Aboriginal Language and Culture-based Education Directive in order to strengthen the role of schools in supporting Aboriginal language development and culture in programming.
  - ◇ Implementing a comprehensive accountability framework for the JK-12 education system with integrated program and financial reporting processes.
  - ◇ Developing options to increase the approaches available to students that lead to graduation, to improve graduation rates, and to provide greater linkages to post-secondary schooling.
  - ◇ Expanding the NWT distance learning pilot project to increase access for NWT senior secondary students in all communities.
  - ◇ Undertaking a planning study on options for shared service administration across NWT school boards.

## **3. Expanding opportunities for post-secondary education, trades-oriented learning, and northern educational institutions.**

- We will take steps to close the skills gap ~~using the Skills4Success strategic framework,~~ by [conducting a Foundational Review of working with Aurora College followed by](#) ~~on~~ a renewed strategic plan [and any necessary updates to the Aurora College Act as informed by the Foundational Review,](#) ~~refocusing support for post-secondary institutions in NWT,~~ improving outcomes from ~~our~~ Community Learning Centres, strengthening the apprenticeship program, and improving our career development services.
- We will offer online delivery of community government training curriculum to build capacity for careers that focus on community governance.
- [We will develop legislation that outlines a quality assurance system on the basis of which post-secondary institutions will be recognized/authorized in the NWT.](#)

#### **4. Increasing cultural programming and education, revitalizing aboriginal languages and promoting use of official languages.**

- We will strengthen culture and heritage in the NWT by implementing a renewed Aboriginal Language and Culture-based Education Directive in order to strengthen the role of schools in supporting Aboriginal language development and incorporate culture in programming, work with the Government of Canada towards a strengthened multi-year Canada-Northwest Territories Co-operation Agreement for French and Aboriginal Languages, develop an action plan for the Culture and Heritage Strategic Framework, and work with stakeholders to update the 2010 NWT Aboriginal Languages Plan: A Shared Responsibility.
- We will finalize, in conjunction with Aboriginal governments, co-management partners and traditional user groups, a culturally appropriate, made in the north, hunter education program for delivery in all communities of the NWT.
- ~~We will build partnerships to expand resources available for community-based traditional economy programs.~~
- ~~We will continue to implement the Traditional Knowledge Policy and Framework across the GNWT while working with Aboriginal governments to develop an action plan to improve inclusion of traditional knowledge in program development, and in~~

~~implementation and decision-making.~~

- We will work collaboratively with the NWT's francophone community to support French language education.

## **5. Enhancing and promoting capacity-building programs for our youth.**

- ~~• We will get more 18-24 year olds into the labour market by using a better mix of improved educational attainment and skill development, while matching skills with employer needs through improved career development supports.~~
- ~~• We will implement the Youth Resiliency program in schools and during after school programs to help improve student outcomes and increase graduation rates.~~
- We will support opportunities for youth by ensuring effective youth programming such as the Youth Corps, Youth Contributors, Youth Ambassador Programs, Youth Centres, and Youth Tours.
- We will promote and improve student financial assistance to support NWT youth in developing the skills and abilities to meet their potential as well as territorial labour demand.
- We will implement programs that support youth in their communities and in their schools to encourage local food production and consumption.

## Cost of Living

Lowering the cost of living in the NWT is essential to improving our residents' quality of life, attracting more people to make their homes in the territory, and expanding economic opportunities for residents, investors, and entrepreneurs. People and businesses in the Northwest Territories experience higher costs of living and higher operating costs primarily as a result of fuel and electricity costs that greatly exceed rates in the rest of Canada, an aging and underdeveloped transportation system that raises the price of goods, and high building and operating costs that make for expensive housing. These are factors that result from the NWT's climate, distance from major markets, and a relatively small, widely dispersed population. At a time when interest rates are comparatively low, and the demand for a better quality of life and need for population growth is high, now is the time to build for our future.

The government ~~is seizing~~ ~~sees~~ opportunities for partnership with the Government of Canada and local governments on areas of mutual priority such as infrastructure investment and addressing climate change. We recognize that those who feel the territory's high cost of living most intensely are our most vulnerable residents, including those who are homeless and unemployed. Vulnerable conditions can be bridged by better managing our wildlife and traditional economy to provide local food options, improving coordination between governments to address homelessness and housing options, and using innovation to get communities off expensive diesel fuel consumption.

Longer term investments are required to strengthen connections for the movement of goods into communities and to move resources to markets. There is potential to expand hydroelectric capacity and diversify energy production with solar, wind, biomass and geothermal sources. We believe that improving the security and affordability of housing requires attention to the full spectrum of shelter options, including partnering on homelessness solutions, addressing demand with forward thinking planning and building, and using common sense management and appropriate pricing structures.

Our plan ~~is to continue~~ ~~begins with~~ focusing attention on the cost drivers that directly affect families, so that people are secure in their shelter, food, and childcare to allow for participation in the economy, while expanding and modernizing territory-wide energy, transportation, and housing infrastructure. This is how:

- 1. Increasing the availability of safe, affordable housing and creating solutions for addressing homelessness.**

- We will continue to implement northern solutions for northern housing by:
    - ◊ Working in partnership with other orders of government to address affordable housing requirements in support of their service delivery to NWT residents.
    - ◊ Developing program approaches such as Housing First to address high demand for single person households, including those that are homeless.
    - ◊ Reviewing the GNWT's homelessness supports and implementing recommendations that improve policy and program consistency between departments.
    - ◊ Implementing community-based housing property management services in rural and remote communities to improve service levels.
    - ◊ Developing options for rationalizing public housing utility pricing structures to promote self-reliance.
    - ◊ Demolishing vacant housing units that are beyond their useful life in order to support land requirements for new housing investment.
    - ◊ Developing options to support Aboriginal and local governments in their housing aspirations and initiatives to address homelessness.
    - ◊ [Ensuring that housing programs and services reflect community values and priorities.](#)
    - ◊ [Developing housing programs and services that deliver households from core housing need.](#)
  - We will support community-based planning to help make land available for the construction of affordable [and market](#) housing and to support community governments in dealing with derelict properties in their community.
  - [We will address the shortage of market housing in tax-based communities through collaboration with stakeholders, including the private sector, other governments, and third party organizations.](#)
- 2. Improving food security by encouraging local food production, traditional harvesting, and effective co-management of caribou herds and other wildlife.**
- We will develop and implement a multi-year management strategy for barren-ground

caribou in the Northwest Territories.

- We will develop a range plan for boreal caribou in the Northwest Territories.
- We will develop species-specific wildlife management strategies for [the three](#) wood bison [herds and continue to monitor the populations of](#) muskox and moose.
- We will develop country food programming to promote opportunities for the consumption of foods such as fish, wildlife, berries, and mushrooms.
- ~~• We will finalize and implement the Commercial Fisheries Revitalization Strategy to increase fish production, encourage and mentor new entrants to the Great Slave Lake fishery, negotiate an agreement with the Fresh Water Fish Marketing Corporation to access markets outside of NWT, seek federal funding to build a new fish processing plant in Hay River, and work with the Tu Cho Co-operative to promote and market fish caught in Great Slave Lake.~~
- ~~• We will develop and implement an Agriculture Strategy to increase domestic food production, improve distribution networks for NWT-produced foods, and to increase producer and supplier opportunities.~~

### **3. Supporting the use of energy-efficient technologies in residential, commercial, and public sectors.**

- We will expand and improve access to incentives for residents to invest in energy-efficient products, help businesses, condominiums, and cooperatives invest in energy conservation and efficiency, [and](#) support residents and communities so that they can make investments into renewable energies, such as solar, ~~and improve the energy efficiency of public housing.~~
- We will create a new three-year energy action plan, building on previous investments made over the past three years and the outcomes of the energy plan review.
- We will assist community governments to improve energy efficiency and conservation, to reduce the impact of climate change by supporting development of community governments' capital, [energy](#) and asset plans, to ensure training includes challenges related to climate change, and enable community governments to ~~set up revolving funds for energy efficiency measures~~ [use local improvement charges for the purpose of](#)

assisting residents and/or businesses in implementing energy efficiency retrofits and/or renewable energy technologies.

- We will improve the energy efficiency of public housing.

#### **4. Increasing the production and transmission of renewable and alternative energy.**

- ~~We will develop a territorial climate change strategy that takes into account northern energy demands and the cost of living, while reflecting international and national commitments to lower greenhouse gas emissions, exploring options for carbon pricing systems, and capturing local alternatives such as hydro, biomass, wind, geothermal and solar.~~
- We will implement a new NWT Energy Strategy that will include renewable and alternative energy solutions and actions that the GNWT and our partners will undertake to meet targets for greenhouse gas reductions in heating and power generation as well as a 10-year strategy for investing federal and other funding towards energy projects.~~We will continue to investigate and implement renewable and alternative energy solutions to replace the use of imported diesel fuel for power generation in the Thermal Zone and reduce the use of diesel fuel for heating in all regions, including looking at the feasibility of wind energy, solar generation, geothermal and biomass energy initiatives.~~
- We will continue to develop and advance initiatives to displace diesel generation in the NWT, including~~explore the potential for the development of, as well as the development of wind and solar energies to displace diesel generation while diversifying the NWT economy.:~~
  - ◇ ~~h~~Hydroelectric power and transmission lines, including the Taltson expansion.
  - ◇ Wind energy projects, including the Inuvik High Point Wind Project, and assessing the feasibility of wind energy in other communities or regions.
  - ◇ Solar energy projects.
  - ◇ Biomass energy projects.
  - ◇ Seeking federal funding under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.

- We will better use our existing hydroelectric resources by exploring options to respond to low water in the North Slave hydroelectric power system, improve hydro system water monitoring and reservoir management, and find ways to make use of surplus Taltson hydroelectric power in the South Slave region and beyond.

~~• We will work with our partners in the federation and in the territory to implement a Canadian Energy Strategy, by participating in intergovernmental working groups on energy efficiency, energy delivery, technology and innovation, and transitioning our country towards a lower carbon economy.~~

- ~~We will participate in the pan-Canadian Task Force on Reducing Diesel in Off-Grid Communities.~~

5. ~~Working collaboratively to p~~**Promote**~~ing~~ federal investment in reducing the cost of living for northerners;

- In collaboration with our partners in Yukon and Nunavut, we will work with the Government of Canada to increase the federal Northern Resident's Tax Deduction by at least 33 per cent, indexed to inflation.

~~• We will capture opportunities for investment in transportation infrastructure by working to secure funding to advance the Mackenzie Valley Highway, make an all-weather road from Highway 3 to Whatì, and improve access into the Slave Geologic Province.~~

~~• We will strengthen connections with private sector partners in transportation infrastructure, such as encouraging CN Rail to continue improving the rail line to Hay River to serve resupply needs and expand the system in accordance with demand. 21~~

~~• We will strengthen connections with public sector partners in transportation infrastructure, such as encouraging the Fisheries and Oceans Canada to maintain federal community resupply port facilities and marine services in the NWT, to restore safe marine operating conditions in the Port of Hay River and at key sections of the Mackenzie River Corridor, and to improve charting and navigational aids.~~

- We will ~~leverage~~ support community governments to access available federal funding through the ~~New Building~~ Investing in Canada Plan to invest in community public infrastructure.



- In collaboration with our partners in Yukon and Nunavut, we will work with the Government of Canada to increase federal investment in Nutrition North by at least \$40 million over four years and seek improvements to the transparency, accountability and effectiveness of the overall federal program.
- We will participate in all Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) proceedings that effect the north to ensure competitive and affordable broadband and telecommunication services for NWT residents.

6. ~~Implementing universal and affordable~~ Making childcare available and affordable.

- ~~• We will implement the Right from the Start framework to invest in early childhood development by:~~
- ~~• Working with stakeholders and communities to ensure the territory has free play-based care for 4-year-olds.~~
- ~~• Revising the funding support model for licensed early childhood programs~~
- ~~• Strengthening licensed early childhood programs through improving resource materials and increased training for early childhood workers.~~
- We will improve the accessibility, affordability and inclusivity of ~~develop an action plan for universal daycare within the next two years, including a timeline for~~ implementation child care in the NWT to allow all children aged 0 to 5 to experience an enriching, quality early learning environment, by:
  - ◇ Supporting the creation of new child care spaces and programs in all communities.
  - ◇ Ensuring the sustainability of existing early childhood development programs.
- ~~• We will improve affordability of daycare, ensuring sustainability for operators of early childhood programs and expanding access to early childhood programs across the territory.~~

## Community Wellness and Safety

Much of the social context of the NWT is the product of historical factors such as colonization, residential schools, rapid cultural change, and the removal of people's power to make decisions about their own lives. There exist significant gaps when comparing the social conditions of people in the NWT with those in the rest of Canada, comparing Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal residents in NWT, comparing between genders, and considering whether a person lives in a smaller or larger NWT community. Most social conditions in the territory are showing improvement over time; for example, graduation rates are going up, rates of violent crime are going down, and infant mortality rates have decreased. There is evidence that intervention at the earliest stages of life, preventative measures, and having sustainable social systems in place that recognize root causes such as culture and social history can make a difference.

Community wellness and safety begins with supports to encourage individuals and families to be and stay healthy. Healthy lifestyles, including mental health, [may be achieved and maintained through](#) ~~are kept with~~ the promotion of physical activity, volunteerism, positive relationships within families, and time on the land. These are the things we believe help to prevent chronic disease, [partner and family violence](#) ~~domestic abuse~~, and feelings of helplessness. This means getting it right from the start, before children are even born and when they are under age 5, through until late in life when planning is required to ensure independence for seniors in the places where they are most comfortable. When mental health concerns do arise, especially for youth, our communities and health care system need to be prepared with services that take into account one's culture, location, and social [setting](#) ~~circumstances~~. When chronic disease is diagnosed, it needs to be caught early, by health practitioners who understand the cultural and historical dimensions of health-care in NWT. When ~~family~~ violence or crime does occur, we need measures in place to reintegrate offenders and heal families. Territorial government is one partner in ensuring the wellness and safety of our communities, alongside families, community groups, police, courts, and schools.

Our plan [continues to be to focus on](#) ~~begins with~~ prevention, by encouraging healthy lifestyles and strong families, making sure sustainable and responsive systems are in place for people when they are needed, and planning for individual well-being from birth to old age, being mindful of our history and culture, but confident that our residents have many strengths to build upon and anchor us towards a better future. This is how:

## **1. Focusing on mental health and addictions by ensuring that services are delivered locally with culturally appropriate methods.**

- To enhance access to culturally appropriate programs and services, we will develop a comprehensive mental health and addictions framework that:
  - ◊ Prioritizes improvements to outpatient mental health services, with a particular focus on youth mental health services in schools and the broader community.
  - ◊ Addresses gaps in integrated community-based services.
  - ◊ Evaluates our land-based addictions healing programs.
  - ◊ Models a mobile addictions treatment team.
  - ◊ Enhances treatment options at local and regional levels, including aftercare.
  - ◊ Compiles baseline data so that government can be better held to account for the performance of mental health and addictions services.
- Taking into account mental health and addictions, we will look at innovative ways to prevent and reduce crime such as integrated case management, wellness courts, domestic violence treatment options courts, and culturally appropriate correctional programs.
- We will enhance support to communities in crisis by providing appropriate responses to suicide, which include:
  - ◊ Establishing a support team of headquarters and regional staff, to form a crisis response network that can respond and provide support to communities.
  - ◊ Providing specialized trauma informed training and critical incidence stress debriefing (CISD) training to the crisis response network.
  - ◊ Building surge capacity so there is coverage for team members participating on the network.
  - ◊ Utilizing the expertise of the crisis response network team members to promote enhanced suicide intervention activities.
  - ◊ Developing a program monitoring framework.

## **2. Taking action so that seniors can age in place.**

- We will support elders to live in their own homes for as long as possible and ensure

adequate supports are available for those who can no longer do so, by:

- ◇ Completing a review of existing programs in order to project, over a 20-year period, policy and financial needs.
- ◇ Developing updated capital projections for long-term care and dementia beds.
- ◇ Developing financing options for long-term care facilities.
- ◇ Proposing a regulatory framework for long-term care.
- ◇ Developing and implementing an action plan for enhanced home and community care services.
- ◇ Developing and implementing an action plan for expanded palliative care services.
- ◇ Building more Seniors' Supported Independent Living units.
- ◇ Marketing preventative maintenance, renovation and mobility upgrades to assist seniors to age in place.

### **3. Fostering healthy families by focusing on wellness, prevention, and improved nutrition.**

- We will continue implementing the Building Stronger Families action plan to transform child and family services by:
  - ◇ Auditing to ensure compliance with the *Child and Family Services Act*
  - ◇ Implementing a standardized approach to assessing children's immediate safety needs and future risk of harm.
  - ◇ Developing caseload and workload measures for child protection in order to monitor and track the resources that are required to ensure compliance with the *Child and Family Services Act*.
  - ◇ Reviewing the standards and delivery methods of the Healthy Family Program to determine whether there are more effective ways to reach families-at-risk.
- We will explore options for expanding beyond Yellowknife the Mediation and Parenting after Separation and Divorce Program.
- We will continue to support at-risk children and families through preventative and collaborative approaches, including:
  - ◇ Introducing a risk assessment tool to enable child protection workers to support

- families more effectively.
  - ◇ Ensuring services for children in care focus not just on safety, but also on stability and child development.
  - ◇ Improving the coordination, delivery and effectiveness of family services through an integrated care model.
  - ◇ Improving system supports for Aboriginal children and families, including improving the cultural competence of service providers.
- We will continue implementing Right from the Start to improve early childhood development, by:
  - ~~◇ Working with stakeholders and communities to ensure the territory has free play-based care for 4-year olds~~
  - ~~◇ Revising the funding support model for licensed early childhood programs~~
  - ~~◇ Strengthening licensed early childhood programs through improving resource materials and increased training for early childhood workers~~
  - ◇ Improving oral health and developmental outcomes for children aged 0-5.
  - ◇ Developing options to enhance access to birthing services and pre- and post-natal care, including development of a territorial midwifery model.
  - ~~◇ Reviewing the standards and delivery methods of the Healthy Family Program to determine whether there are more effective ways to reach families-at-risk~~
  - ~~◇ Enhancing access to early intervention services for children 0-5~~
  - ◇ Supporting community wellness initiatives with early childhood development funding.
- We will reduce the burden of chronic disease by promoting healthy lifestyles and improving screening and management, with specific focus on:
  - ◇ Promoting healthy eating in NWT communities through a variety of programs including Healthy Family Collective Kitchens and Drop the Pop.
  - ◇ Hosting Healthy Living Fairs in communities.
  - ◇ Increasing awareness and availability of smoking cessation aids.
  - ◇ Standardizing access to cancer screening across the NWT.
  - ◇ Developing improved supports for patients and families battling cancer.
  - ◇ Giving health care providers tools and training to support patients and families in

the management of chronic disease such as diabetes.

- ◇ Developing and proposing updated tobacco control legislation.
- ◇ Expanding the production and availability of local foods such as fish, country food, and garden produce.
- We will continue integration of the health and social services system, [including taking steps to bring the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority into the public service](#), to improve care for our people, by clarifying timelines, appointing people to Regional Wellness Councils and the NWT Health and Social Services Leadership Council, finalizing roles and responsibilities, and ensuring seamless service delivery for all residents during the transition.
- We will continue to work collaboratively to [reduce](#)~~eliminate~~ poverty in the NWT by funding community-based partners, convening meetings of stakeholders, finalizing indicators that allow performance to be assessed, and developing additional options for action.
- We will ensure effective supports and programs are in place for persons with disabilities by preparing an accessible inventory of the GNWT supports systems that already exist, and then by responding to previous evaluations of government supports.
- We will develop and implement a Northwest Territories physical activity strategy for all residents to improve health and fitness.
- We will finalize a strategic plan to enhance existing programming and build new partnership initiatives to support healthy and sustainable traditional lifestyles.
- We will promote volunteerism by ensuring effective programming such as the Volunteer Development Fund, Outstanding Volunteer Awards, NGO Stabilization Fund, and the Community Volunteer Recognition Program.
- We will reduce poverty in the NWT by implementing the GNWT commitments in the territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan, continuing to work with our partners to advance the plan and supporting communities' priorities for wellness.
- [In collaboration with residents, Aboriginal governments, community governments and other stakeholders, we will develop and implement the policy, program and legislative regimes necessary to support the legalization of cannabis in the Northwest Territories.](#)
- [We will work with all relevant stakeholders, including non-government organizations](#)

[from the disabilities sector, to complete the NWT disability review and develop a strategic framework and five-year action plan to ensure effective supports and programs are in place for persons with disabilities.](#)

#### **4. Taking action on the crisis of family and community violence.**

- We will strengthen initiatives and partnerships to prevent and reduce family violence by:
  - ◊ Examining the feasibility of expanding the Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court beyond Yellowknife and Hay River.
  - ◊ Providing training, public information and outreach on the protections provided under the *Protection Against Family Violence Act*.
  - ◊ Supporting five family violence shelters across the NWT, including support for the overall capacity of the people who work in these shelters.
  - ◊ Providing funding to develop family violence protocols and response teams in regions with no shelters.
  - ◊ Supporting programming for children who have witnessed violence.
  - ◊ Continuing to implement 'What Will it Take?', the social marketing campaign on family violence.
  - ◊ Continuing the support for a healing program for men who use violence in intimate relationships such as the Wek'eahkaa A New Day Healing Program.
- We will support the RCMP and communities in their efforts to strengthen partnerships to prevent and respond to violence by supporting the development of policing action plans in each community in accordance with each community's priorities.
- We will seek to improve access to justice in the NWT, by expanding community legal outreach programs, making family law duty counsel services available to assist self-represented family members on first appearance in family court, and expanding public education on programs and services so that people know what help is out there and how to access it.
- We will improve our social response to crime reduction by examining and analyzing social indicators, conducting research on what works to reduce crime, and identifying

any gaps in territorial programming.

- We will implement the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that fall within the jurisdiction of the territorial government, especially related to violence against indigenous women and girls.
- We will support and participate in a National Round Table and National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women in collaboration with families, Aboriginal governments, the federal government, and other organizations.
- We will implement a territorial 9-1-1 program, including establishing new territorial legislation to help manage and govern the system.

## 5. **Creating opportunities for healthy lifestyles and community leadership for our youth.**

- ~~• We will support the RCMP and communities in their efforts to develop policing action plans in each community that reflect local priorities, including issues relating to youth.~~
- We will fund after-school programs that build physical literacy and resiliency among youth through the efficient delivery of the Children and Youth Resiliency Program.~~We will implement the Youth Resiliency program in schools and during after-school programs to improve student outcomes and lower overall dropout rates.~~
- ~~• We will support opportunities for youth by ensuring effective programming such as the Youth Corps, Youth Contributors, Youth Ambassador Programs, Youth Centres, Youth Tours, and Children and Youth Resiliency Program.~~
- We will build youth resiliency in schools by supporting school staff in using self-regulation instructional practices.



## Governance

Governance in the NWT continues to evolve as territorial, regional, and local governments take on new responsibilities. What has not changed, is the significant and ongoing role that respect and recognition play in northern governance. With the [Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement](#) having been completed by the previous government, now is the time to evolve towards greater land use sustainability, through effective and coordinated land, resource, and water management systems. To be successful, we need [to build and maintain](#) strong relations ~~between~~ [with](#) our government and our partner Aboriginal and community governments.

We believe that better governance starts with the GNWT being a better government. Consensus government will constantly evolve, and to support that evolution this government will [continue to work to](#) ensure that the public is better informed about the decision-making process and that all people have an opportunity to take part in our system. With the appointment of a Minister responsible for Public Engagement and Transparency, we are ~~prepared to move~~ [moving](#) towards stronger policy for open government by enhancing our communications, service delivery, and ways of doing business. From ~~there~~, we intend to lead the country in building progressive relationships with Aboriginal governments, recognizing that having these relationships not only benefit Aboriginal governments, ~~but also make,~~ [it makes](#) all governments stronger. Moreover, resolving outstanding land, resource, and self-government agreements provides increased certainty to promote economic development. Community governments are playing stronger roles in NWT governance, but still require investment, training, and capacity building to ensure that their infrastructure, decision making systems, and planning processes reflect the needs of the people who live there. Finally, government has a role in addressing the long-standing underrepresentation of women in territorial elected office, but promotion and facilitation by government must be matched by other societal groups supporting more women in leadership roles.

~~Our plan begins~~ [We will continue to implement initiatives toward](#) ~~with being a~~ modern open [and accountable](#) govern~~ance~~ [ment](#), by working with our partner Aboriginal and community governments to complete agreements and build capacity, and by supporting efforts to see increased participation and success for women in politics. This is how:

- 1. Collaborating and fostering government-to-government relationships with Aboriginal governments.**

- Consistent with the policy of *Respect, Recognition & Responsibility*, we will invite any regional or community Aboriginal governments that are not yet a party to one, to strengthen their intergovernmental relations with the GNWT through the negotiation of an intergovernmental memorandum-of-understanding.
- We will consult with Aboriginal governments to complete the next phase of regulation-making under the *Wildlife Act*.
- We will work in partnership with Aboriginal governments to explore the design and launch of a training program for First Nations governments with municipal-like responsibilities in order to help improve the governance and management capacity of those governments.
- We will work to resolve outstanding land, resource and self-government agreements with the Akaitcho, Dehcho, Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Acho Dene Koe and the Government of Canada during the term of our government, and advocate that particular focus in our negotiations be placed on land quantum.
- We will provide funding to Aboriginal community governments and work with communities to develop wellness plans that meet local needs and priorities.
- ~~We will implement the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that fall within the jurisdiction of the territorial government.~~
- We will continue to support the Intergovernmental Council towards implementation of the vision of cooperative and collaborative management of lands and resources, as set out in the *Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement*.

## **2. Advancing, finalizing, and implementing land, resources, and self-government agreements, including ongoing post-devolution initiatives.**

- We will seek to establish a joint committee between Cabinet Ministers and Regular Members to share information and discuss approaches on the advancement of land, resource, and self-government agreements as well as initiatives to enhance relationships with Aboriginal governments.
- ~~We will negotiate with Yukon, Nunavut, and Saskatchewan towards the completion of transboundary water agreements.~~
- We will work with Aboriginal governments to jointly develop their human resource

capacity, for example by finalizing and evaluating the existing pilot project with the Gwich'in Tribal Council.

- We will pursue an agreement with the federal government on the management of offshore resources.
- We will work to improve the NWT integrated resource management regime to ensure the regime reflects NWT interests and priorities.

### **3. Increasing transparency and accountability and strengthening consensus government [through improved communications.](#)**

- We will improve access to information and the protection of privacy by:
  - ◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (ATIPP Act)*.
  - ◇ Creating a GNWT privacy framework and management programs, so that the privacy protections in the *ATIPP Act* are administered consistently and fairly.
  - ◇ Ensuring online training is available on access to information and protection of privacy requirements for GNWT employees as well as employees of territorial public bodies.
  - ◇ Continuing to safeguard and improve the security and integrity of the information entrusted to government on behalf of residents, businesses and visitors.
- We will implement the government's new *Financial Administration Act* in order to improve government-wide planning and accountability, and overall fiscal responsibility.
- We will improve collaboration for easier access to government programs and services online, including by:
  - ◇ Aligning territorial approaches with pan-Canadian efforts to establish and use digital identities for online government.
  - ◇ Creating a single integrated online portal for residents and businesses to securely transact with government.
  - ◇ Increasing online accessibility to driver and motor vehicle services as well as commercial permitting services.
  - ◇ Participating in national surveys to assess both resident and business satisfaction

with government service delivery.

- We will maximize citizens' ability to access government by using consistent approaches to social media, visual identity, and overall communications.
- We will establish an Open Government Policy to enhance civic participation, increase the availability and accessibility of information about government activities, and explore new technologies for openness and accountability.
- We will improve public visibility and accessibility of Cabinet by organizing Cabinet meetings in each region of the NWT, holding selected Committee-of-Cabinet meetings in public, and meeting with standing committees in public more frequently.
- We will improve opportunities for meaningful public input into government decision making by improving access to government public engagement initiatives and reporting on how public views have shaped government decisions.
- We will enhance collaboration between Cabinet and Regular Members by [ensuring early, regular and open consultation by Cabinet with Regular Members and Committees of the Legislative Assembly](#), exploring more options to formally work together, and strengthening processes for consistently sharing and tracking information provided to standing committees.
- We will develop and implement an effective communications plan to make residents aware of the mechanisms available to appeal government decisions.
- We will do a better job of making our residents, particularly those in smaller communities, aware of available government programs and services, and how to access them, through Single Window Service Centres and our Government Service Officers.
- We will develop legislation within two years to establish an independent parliamentary office of the ombudsman.

#### **4. Building stronger relationships with community governments and stakeholders.**

- ~~• We will support the RCMP and communities in their efforts to strengthen partnerships to prevent and respond to violence by supporting the development of policing action plans in each community in according with each community's priorities.~~
- We will take further action to monitor drinking water quality as well as support

community- based water monitoring programs.

- We will finalize community wildland fire protection plans, and develop and propose amendments to modernize forest protection legislation.
- We will continue to pursue [and assist communities in accessing](#) new federal funding for the enhancement of community government infrastructure, ~~and including~~ [implementing](#) the asset management framework through the Gas Tax Agreement to ensure that all communities [have asset management plans.](#) ~~infrastructure lifespan is extended and new infrastructure is delivered in a manner that takes into account new building technologies that assist in climate change adaptation and energy efficiencies.~~
- We will develop a strategy to close the gap in funding levels to meet municipal core needs.
- We will install remote water monitoring stations in five additional communities and build three additional water treatment plants.
- We will work with stakeholders to develop and propose amendments to modernize the *Civil Emergency Measures Act* and to revitalize the Territorial Emergency Response Plan.
- We will develop and propose amendments to the *Fire Prevention Act*, and work with stakeholders to identify priorities for Community Fire Protection Plans.
- We will assist community governments with technical assistance in identifying energy efficiency improvements for community government buildings and taking action to improve energy efficiency.
- [We will work with community governments to find solutions to land tenure issues which present barriers to community planning.](#)

**5. [Supporting](#) initiatives designed to increase the number of women running for elected office in the NWT.**

- We will support the delivery of workshops that help to get women into politics.
- We will support a communications campaign to increase the participation of women in politics.
- We will improve gender equity in appointments to [all](#) territorial boards and agencies.

## Reporting

Accountability is crucial to effective, responsible and transparent government. Our elected representatives must ensure the government remains committed to its mandate ~~determined at the outset of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly~~. Transparency, in turn, allows the public to be informed about government decisions, generates discussion about the direction of government, and increases the ability of all elected Members to hold the government to account. Accountability and transparency reinforce one another in positive ways for our democracy.

Consensus government in the NWT continues to evolve towards increased accountability and transparency. The Legislative Assembly's *Process Convention on Priority Setting and Reporting* ~~provides for~~ ~~sets out~~ how government priorities are set ~~at the beginning of a new~~ ~~by the~~ Assembly and how government is held to account for acting on the priorities. ~~There are many ways that government is held to account for its actions, including debate of its budgets, oral questions, and meetings of legislative committees.~~ Specifically, ~~this~~ ~~the~~ ~~Process~~ Convention requires the government to report at least once every 12 months on the progress it is making to implement the mandate, and to make this reporting public. At the mid-point of the life of the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly, ~~the Process Convention requires~~ the Legislative Assembly ~~will to~~ prorogue in order to review, debate, and if necessary adjust the priorities of the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly and the corresponding government mandate.

[The Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories, 2016-2019 \(Revised\) is the culmination of this mandate review process.](#) At the end of the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly's term, a joint Special Committee on Transition Matters will review progress and make recommendations to the next Assembly. [There are many other ways that the government is held to account for its actions in addition to the mandate, including debate of its budgets, oral questions, and meetings of legislative committees.](#)

To guide the implementation and coordination of its mandate, the government has ~~revised~~ ~~the Committees-of-Cabinet structure to include four~~ ~~established eight~~ Committees-of-Cabinet. ~~The structure of these committees~~ ~~that~~ reflects the commitments of the government in response to the priorities of the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. They are:

- ◇ Priorities and Planning, ~~chaired by Hon. Robert R. McLeod~~
- ◇ Energy and Climate Change, ~~chaired by Hon. Robert R. McLeod~~
- ◇ Economy and Environment, ~~chaired by Hon. Wally Schumann~~

- ◇ ~~Infrastructure, chaired by Hon. Robert C. McLeod~~
- ◇ ~~Governance, chaired by Hon. Louis Sebert~~
- ◇ ~~Cost of Living, chaired by Hon. Caroline Cochrane~~
- ◇ ~~Education, Training and Youth, chaired by Hon. Alfred Moses~~
- ◇ Social Envelope ~~Community Wellness and Safety, chaired by Hon. Glen Abernethy~~

In addition to formally submitting an annual report to the Standing Committee on Priorities and Planning, the government ~~intends to~~ tracks progress on commitments made in the mandate through a publically available reporting ~~website~~ tool ([www.eia.gov.nt.ca/en/mandates](http://www.eia.gov.nt.ca/en/mandates)). This ~~website~~ tool, which ~~is~~ will be maintained on an ongoing basis, ~~will~~ provides contextual and issue-specific information, and demonstrates the linkages and relationships between the strategic commitments made by government in the mandate, the work of ~~the government under major themes~~ each Committee of Cabinet, and the priorities of the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly. In this way, the public can track and monitor details on the progress of mandate implementation.

The broader goal of this reporting is to improve not just accountability and transparency, but the programs and services government has put in place for a healthy, vibrant and prosperous territory. Ultimately, greater scrutiny of government policies, programs and services will help ensure the government implements its mandate in a manner that is most effective and fiscally responsible.

## Appendix A

### Commitments of the GNWT [\(Revised\)](#)

Reference #	Departmental Lead	Commitment
1.1.1	INF	We will <del>capture opportunities for investment in transportation infrastructure by</del> working to secure funding to advance <a href="#">planning and construction of transportation projects, including three priority corridors</a> : the Mackenzie Valley Highway, <del>make an all-weather road from Highway 3 to Whati Thcho</del> <a href="#">All-season Road</a> , and <del>improve access into the</del> Slave Geological Province <a href="#">Access Corridor</a> .
1.1.2	INF	We will strengthen connections with private sector partners in transportation infrastructure, <del>(such as encouraging CN Rail, trucking, airline, and marine) to continue improving the rail line to Hay River to serve resupply needs and expand the system in accordance with demand.</del>
1.1.3	INF	We will strengthen connections with public sector partners in transportation infrastructure, <del>such as encouraging Fisheries and Oceans Canada</del> <a href="#">including working with the federal government</a> to maintain federal community resupply port facilities and marine services in the NWT, to restore safe marine operating conditions in the Port of Hay River and at key sections of the Mackenzie River Corridor, and to improve charting and navigational aids.
1.1.4	FIN	We will continue to implement the government's Hard-to-Recruit initiative to link regional job vacancies with potential employees and on-the-job training for residents.
1.1.5	ECE	We will get more 18-24 year olds into the labour market by <a href="#">removing barriers to employment</a> , using a better mix of improved educational attainment, skill development, and matching skills with employer needs through improved career development supports.
1.1.6		<i>Removed as duplicate of 2.3.1.</i>
1.1.7	ECE/ITI	<del>In collaboration with the federal government, W</del> we will increase the number of immigrants working in the NWT and increase investment by immigrants, <del>by</del> <a href="#">We will</a> implementing an immigration strategy that prioritizes streamlining application processes, increasing awareness of immigration programs, and consolidating our administrative supports.
1.1.8	ITI	We will support mineral exploration and the mining sector, by implementing the Mineral Development Strategy, capturing opportunities to build transportation infrastructure that enables resources to get to market, closing the skills gap in the mining sector, implementing the Mining Incentive Program, developing and proposing a <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> , and supporting Aboriginal governments to build capacity in dealing with mining-related activities.
1.1.9	ITI	We will develop a long-term strategy to attract <a href="#">investment in oil and gas resources development in the territory</a> <del>that will provide economic and energy benefits to NWT residents and businesses, while recognizing and protecting environmental, social, cultural and economic values.</del>
1.1.10	LANDS/ITI	We will ensure that residents have meaningful opportunities to participate in the assessment of potential benefits and risks associated



		with resource development, including hydraulic fracturing.
1.1.11		We will <u>develop and foster the knowledge economy by:</u>
	FIN	◇ <u>Ceompleteing</u> the Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Link in order to help modernize the economy and enable growth in all economic sectors.
	ITI	◇ <u>Implementing the NWT Geological Survey Strategic Plan, including carrying out Slave Province geoscience studies, ensuring the availability of high quality geoscience knowledge to promote the successful exploration for and discovery of NWT mineral resources, and defining permafrost conditions that may impact future infrastructure development.</u>
	ITI	◇ <u>Implementing the Resources and Energy Development Information (REDI) initiative to increase public awareness and understanding of NWT renewable and non-renewable mineral and energy resources and the means by which they can be developed in a responsible and sustainable manner.</u>
	ITI	◇ <u>In partnership with other organizations, supporting the creation of a central repository that supports knowledge dissemination, research, and best practices for northern farming conditions, and promoting innovative farm practices and northern based greenhouse and related technologies.</u>
	ENR	◇ <u>Build upon the research vision developed in the GNWT Knowledge Agenda: Northern Research for Northern Priorities, and other strategic instruments, to support the generation of knowledge (e.g. traditional and local knowledge and western science) and innovation to enhance decision making and sustainable economic opportunities.</u>
1.1.12	ITI	We will support the growth of Aboriginal business development corporations and the capacity of Aboriginal governments, through the completion and implementation of memoranda of understanding that reflect the economic opportunity objectives found in modern land claims.
1.1.13		We will <u>support small communities by enhancing job-creation programs, building community capacity and supporting new economic opportunities, by: develop and implement a strategy to increase employment in small communities</u>
	ITI	◇ <u>Updating the Support for Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) programs as necessary to better align with the needs of NWT entrepreneurs and businesses, including those in small communities.</u>
	ITI	◇ <u>Implementing the Economic Opportunities Strategy.</u>
	ECE	◇ <u>Enhancing the Small Communities Employment Support Program.</u>
	ECE	◇ <u>Developing and implementing a strategy to increase employment in small communities that guides the delivery of territorial programming and includes a performance measurement plan.</u>
	EIA	◇ <u>Establishing a committee with Cabinet Ministers and Regular Members on rural and remote communities.</u>
1.1.14	FIN	We will reduce taxes on small businesses.
1.2.1		We will expand the agricultural sector by: <u>developing and implementing an Agriculture Strategy.</u>
	ITI	◇ <u>Implementing the Agriculture Strategy.</u>

	<a href="#">ITI</a>	◇ <a href="#">Improving access to agricultural land.</a>
	<a href="#">ITI</a>	◇ <a href="#">Updating agricultural funding programs.</a>
	<a href="#">ITI</a>	◇ <a href="#">Supporting training for commercial farmers.</a>
1.2.2	ITI	We will invest in artist-to-market and product-to-market opportunity chains, with a particular emphasis on making investments that enable the showcasing of art and increase sales at the regional level.
1.2.3	ITI	We will support the film industry to further develop the skills and competencies of NWT film producers, build infrastructure, assist below-the-line crew and support services, and help develop marketing and communications plans for films made in the NWT.
1.2.4	ITI	We will finalize and implement the Commercial Fisheries Revitalization Strategy to increase fish production, encourage and mentor new entrants to the Great Slave Lake fishery, <a href="#">secure and build access to local and new markets for fishers</a> , <del>negotiate an agreement with the Fresh Water Fish Marketing Corporation to access markets outside of NWT, seek federal funding to</del> build a new fish processing plant in Hay River, and work with the Tu Cho Co-operative to promote and market fish caught in Great Slave Lake.
1.2.5	ENR	Through agreements with communities, we will help to establish and/or expand self-sufficient businesses that sell products from renewable resource harvesting.
1.2.6	ITI	We will develop a northern manufacturing strategy in collaboration with industry and the NWT's Manufacturers' Association to expand the manufacturing sector, identify potential areas of growth, promote and market products manufactured in the NWT and aid in the professional and technological advancement of the industry.
1.2.7		<a href="#">We will expand tourism options and provide high quality public tourism facilities by:</a> <del>We will expand tourism options and provide high quality public facilities by:</del>
	ITI	◇ <a href="#">Expanding and modernizing our parks infrastructure and signage,</a> <del>erecting emergency shelters along remote highways, and expand tourism options by building new parks such as Doi'Toh Territorial Park in the Sahtu Region.</del>
	ITI/INF	◇ <a href="#">Improving road side facilities along remote highways.</a>
	ITI	◇ <a href="#">Building new parks such as Doi'Toh Territorial Park in the Sahtu Region.</a>
1.2.8	ITI	We will increase exports by working with the tourism, diamonds, and traditional economy sectors to promote NWT products to international markets.
1.2.9	ITI	We will attract foreign direct investment, and cross-promote minerals, furs, fish, forest products, and tourism to investors and markets.
1.2.10	ENR	We will build partnerships to expand resources available for community-based traditional economy programs, which could be used to support, amongst other things, local operators, culturally-based tourism, and the conservation economy.
1.3.1		Using the Land Use and Sustainability Framework to be clear and transparent, we will:

	LANDS	◇ Create a defined set of collective land use and sustainability objectives.
	LANDS	◇ Develop a method for integrating our land use and sustainability objectives into GNWT decision processes.
	LANDS	◇ Develop an approach to monitor and evaluate the degree to which GNWT decisions are contributing to our collective objectives.
	LANDS	◇ Complete land use plans for all areas, including regions without land and resources agreements, in collaboration with Aboriginal governments.
	LANDS	◇ Implement the agreed upon governance structure for land use planning in the Wek'èezhìi Management Area.
	LANDS	◇ Finalize the Recreational <del>Land</del> Leasing Management Framework, and the plan for the Yellowknife Periphery Area
	ENR	◇ Finalize and implement the Conservation Action Plan in order to finalize existing candidate protected areas.
	ENR	◇ Establish Thaidene Nene Park.
	ENR	◇ Finalize and implement the Water Stewardship Strategy action plan.
	ENR/ LANDS/EIA	◇ Develop an integrated comprehensive approach to the management of contaminated sites including prioritizing, sharing of responsibility in collaboration with other governments, and monitoring, and a sound financial security system to prevent public liabilities.
1.3.2		In order to advance the territorial vision of land and resource management in accordance with the <i>Land Use and Sustainability Framework</i> , we will evolve our legislative, regulatory, and policy systems by:
	ITI	◇ Developing and proposing a <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> .
	ITI	◇ Making amendments to the <i>NWT Mining Regulations</i> .
	LANDS	◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the <i>NWT Lands Act</i> .
	LANDS	◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the <i>Commissioner's Land Act</i> .
	ENR/ITI	◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the <i>Territorial Parks Act</i> .
	ITI	◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the <i>Petroleum Resources Act</i> .
	ITI	◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the <i>Oil and Gas Operations Act</i> .
	ENR	◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the <i>Waters Act</i> .
	ENR	◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> (including the development of air quality regulations).
	ENR	◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the <i>Forest Management Act</i> .
	FIN	◇ We will review and develop amendments to the <i>Northwest Territories Heritage Fund Act</i> in light of devolution to ensure a defined revenue stream and stronger public governance.
1.3.3	ENR	We will develop a strategy to manage the resources and potential economic and environmental benefits derived from household, commercial, and industrial garbage from private sector sources and in our municipalities.

1.3.4	ENR	We will continue to implement the Traditional Knowledge Policy and Framework across the GNWT, while working with Aboriginal governments to develop an action plan to improve the inclusion of traditional knowledge in program development, implementation and decision making.
1.3.5	ENR	We will support the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (CIMP) <a href="#">that supports the regulatory process and builds community capacity related to environmental monitoring</a> . We will <del>and</del> respond to recommendations in the Northwest Territories Environmental Audit for improved environmental management.
1.3.6	ENR	We will negotiate with Yukon, Nunavut, and Saskatchewan towards the completion of transboundary water agreements.
1.4.1	ENR	We will develop a territorial climate change strategy that takes into account northern energy demands and the cost of living, while reflecting international and national commitments to lower greenhouse gas emissions, exploring options for carbon pricing systems, and capturing local alternatives such as biomass, wind, geothermal and solar.
1.4.2	INF	We will work with our partners in the territory and in the federation to implement a Canadian Energy Strategy, by participating in intergovernmental working groups on energy efficiency, energy delivery, technology and innovation, and transitioning our country towards a lower-carbon economy.
1.4.3	INF/ENR	We will reduce diesel use for heating and electricity in off-grid communities under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, as well as set targets for greenhouse gas reduction in the new NWT Energy Strategy and Climate Change Strategic Framework.
1.4.4	MACA	We commit to assisting community governments as they innovate to address climate change, by supporting the development of community government capital plans and asset planning, and ensuring that training recognizes the challenges of climate change.
1.4.5		<i>Removed as duplicate of 3.3.1.</i>
1.4.6	EIA	We will support Net Metering through clear policy direction to the Public Utilities Board (PUB), to provide certainty to allow customers to recover their investments in renewable energy.
2.1.1		We will implement the Right from the Start Framework to invest in early childhood development by:
	ECE	◇ Working with stakeholders and communities to ensure the territory has free play-based care for 4-year olds.
	ECE	◇ Revising the funding support model for licensed early childhood programs.
	ECE	◇ Strengthening licensed early childhood programs through improving resource materials and increased training for early childhood workers.
	HSS	◇ Improving access to and outcomes of early intervention services for children 0-5 by looking at the results of evaluating NWT rehabilitation services and by continuing pilot projects in the Dehcho, Tłı̨chǫ, and Beaufort Delta regions, along with territorial program design.

	HSS	◇ Supporting parents with programs and supports to help ensure their children have a strong foundation.
	HSS/ECE	◇ <a href="#">Working with our partners to identify the need for any additional assessments for 3 and 4-year-olds entering school, beginning in the 2018-2019 school year.</a>
2.2.1		We will implement the <i>Education Renewal and Innovation Framework</i> by:
	ECE	◇ Implementing the renewed K-12 Inclusive Schooling Directive which provides greater direction on roles and responsibilities, increases the number of Program Support Teachers, increases emphasis on training, and increases accountability.
	ECE	◇ Implementing a renewed Aboriginal Language and Culture-based Education Directive in order to strengthen the role of schools in supporting Aboriginal language development and culture in programming.
	ECE	◇ Implementing a comprehensive accountability framework for the JK-12 education system with integrated program and financial reporting processes.
	ECE	◇ Developing options to increase the approaches available to students that lead to graduation, to improve graduation rates, and to provide greater linkages to post-secondary schooling.
	ECE	◇ Expanding the NWT distance learning pilot project to increase access for NWT senior secondary students in all communities.
	ECE	◇ Undertaking a planning study on options for shared service administration across NWT school boards.
2.3.1	ECE	We will take steps to close the skills gap <del>using the Skills4Success strategic framework</del> , by <a href="#">conducting a Foundational Review of working with Aurora College followed by on a renewed strategic plan and any necessary updates to the Aurora College Act as informed by the Foundational Review</a> , <del>refocusing support for post-secondary institutions in NWT</del> , improving outcomes from <del>our</del> Community Learning Centres, strengthening the apprenticeship program, and improving our career development services.
2.3.2	MACA	We will offer online delivery of community government training curriculum to build capacity for careers that focus on community governance.
<a href="#">2.3.3</a>	<a href="#">ECE</a>	<a href="#">We will develop legislation that outlines a quality assurance system on the basis of which post-secondary institutions will be recognized/authorized in the NWT.</a>
2.4.1	ECE	We will strengthen culture and heritage in the NWT by implementing a renewed Aboriginal Language and Culture-based Education Directive in order to strengthen the role of schools in supporting Aboriginal language development and incorporate culture in programming, work with the Government of Canada towards a strengthened multi-year <i>Canada-Northwest Territories Co-operation Agreement for French and Aboriginal Languages</i> , develop an action plan for the Culture and Heritage Strategic Framework, and work with stakeholders to update the 2010 NWT Aboriginal Languages Plan: A Shared Responsibility.

2.4.2	ENR	We will finalize, in conjunction with Aboriginal governments, co-management partners and traditional user groups, a culturally appropriate, made in the north, hunter education program for delivery in all communities of the NWT.
2.4.3		<i>Removed as duplicate of 1.2.10.</i>
2.4.4		<i>Removed as duplicate of 1.3.4.</i>
2.4.5	ECE	We will work collaboratively with the NWT's francophone community to support French language education.
2.5.1		<i>Removed as duplicate of 1.1.5.</i>
2.5.2		<i>Removed as duplicate of 4.5.2.</i>
2.5.3	MACA	We will support opportunities for youth by ensuring effective youth programming such as the Youth Corps, Youth Contributors, Youth Ambassador Programs, Youth Centres, and Youth Tours.
2.5.4	ECE	We will promote and improve student financial assistance to support NWT youth in developing the skills and abilities to meet their potential as well as territorial labour demand.
2.5.5	ITI	We will implement programs that support youth in their communities and in their schools to encourage local food production and consumption.
3.1.1		We will continue to implement northern solutions for northern housing by:
	NWTHC	◇ Working in partnership with other orders of government to address affordable housing requirements in support of their service delivery to NWT residents.
	NWTHC	◇ Developing program approaches such as Housing First to address high demand for single person households, including those that are homeless.
	NWTHC	◇ Reviewing the GNWT's homelessness supports and implementing recommendations that improve policy and program consistency between departments.
	NWTHC	◇ Implementing community-based housing property management services in rural and remote communities to improve service levels.
	NWTHC	◇ Developing options for rationalizing public housing utility pricing structures to promote self-reliance.
	NWTHC	◇ Demolishing vacant housing units that are beyond their useful life in order to support land requirements for new housing investment.
	NWTHC	◇ Developing options to support Aboriginal and local governments in their housing aspirations and initiatives to address homelessness.
	<a href="#">NWTHC</a>	◇ <a href="#">Ensuring that housing programs and services reflect community values and priorities.</a>
	<a href="#">NWTHC</a>	◇ <a href="#">Developing housing programs and services that deliver households from core housing need.</a>
3.1.2	MACA	We will support community-based planning to help make land available for the construction of affordable <a href="#">and market</a> housing and to support community governments in dealing with derelict properties in their community.



<a href="#">3.1.3</a>	<a href="#">NWTHC</a>	<a href="#">We will address the shortage of market housing in tax-based communities through collaboration with stakeholders, including the private sector, other governments, and third party organizations.</a>
3.2.1	ENR	We will develop and implement a multi-year management strategy for barren-ground caribou in the Northwest Territories.
3.2.2	ENR	We will develop a range plan for boreal caribou in the Northwest Territories.
3.2.3	ENR	We will develop species-specific wildlife management strategies for <a href="#">the three</a> wood bison <a href="#">herds and continue to monitor the populations of</a> muskox, and moose.
3.2.4	ENR	We will develop country food programming to promote opportunities for the consumption of foods such as fish, wildlife, berries, and mushrooms.
3.2.5		<i>Removed as duplicate of 1.2.4.</i>
3.2.6		<i>Removed as duplicate of 1.2.1.</i>
3.3.1	INF/ENR	We will expand and improve access to incentives for residents to invest in energy-efficient products, help businesses, condominiums, and cooperatives invest in energy conservation and efficiency, <a href="#">and</a> support residents and communities so that they can make investments into renewable energies, such as solar, <del>and improve the energy efficiency of public housing.</del>
3.3.2	INF	We will create a new three-year energy action plan, building on previous investments made over the past three years and the outcomes of the energy plan review.
3.3.3	MACA	We will assist community governments to improve energy efficiency and conservation, to reduce the impact of climate change by supporting development of community governments' capital, <a href="#">energy</a> and asset plans, to ensure training includes challenges related to climate change, and enable community governments to <del>set up revolving funds for energy efficiency measures</del> <a href="#">use local improvement charges for the purpose of assisting residents and/or businesses in implementing energy efficiency retrofits and/or renewable energy technologies.</a>
<a href="#">3.3.4</a>	<a href="#">NWTHC</a>	<a href="#">We will improve the energy efficiency of public housing.</a>
3.4.1		<i>Removed as duplicate of 1.4.1.</i>
3.4.2	INF	<a href="#">We will implement a new NWT Energy Strategy that will include renewable and alternative energy solutions and actions that the GNWT and our partners will undertake to meet targets for greenhouse gas reductions in heating and power generation as well as a 10-year strategy for investing federal and other funding towards energy projects.</a> <del>We will continue to investigate and implement renewable and alternative energy solutions to replace the use of imported diesel fuel for power generation in the Thermal Zone and reduce the use of diesel fuel for heating in all regions, including looking at the feasibility of wind energy, solar generation, geothermal and biomass energy initiatives.</del>
3.4.3		We will continue to <a href="#">develop and advance initiatives to displace diesel generation in the NWT, including</a> <del>explore the potential for the development of,</del> <a href="#">as well as the development of wind and solar energies to displace diesel generation while diversifying the NWT economy.:</a>

	INF	◇ <a href="#">Hydroelectric power and transmission lines, including the Taltson expansion.</a>
	INF	◇ <a href="#">Wind energy projects, including the Inuvik High Point Wind Project, and assessing the feasibility of wind energy projects in other communities or regions.</a>
	INF	◇ <a href="#">Solar energy projects.</a>
	INF	◇ <a href="#">Biomass energy projects.</a>
	INF	◇ <a href="#">Seeking federal funding under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change.</a>
3.4.4	INF	We will better use our existing hydroelectric resources by exploring options to respond to low water in the North Slave hydroelectric power system, improve hydro system water monitoring and reservoir management, and find ways to make use of surplus Taltson hydroelectric power in the South Slave region and beyond.
3.4.5		<i>Remove as duplicate of 1.4.2.</i>
3.4.6		<i>Removed as duplicate of 1.4.3.</i>
3.5.1	EIA/FIN	In collaboration with our partners in Yukon and Nunavut, we will work with the Government of Canada to increase the federal Northern Resident's Tax Deduction by at least 33 per cent, indexed to inflation.
3.5.2		<i>Removed as duplicate of 1.1.1.</i>
3.5.3		<i>Removed as duplicate of 1.1.2.</i>
3.5.4		<i>Removed as duplicate of 1.1.3.</i>
3.5.5	MACA	We will <a href="#">leverage support community governments to access</a> available <a href="#">federal</a> funding through the <a href="#">New-Building-Investing in</a> Canada Plan to invest in community public infrastructure.
3.5.6	EIA	In collaboration with our partners in Yukon and Nunavut, we will work with the Government of Canada to increase federal investment in Nutrition North by at least \$40 million over four years and seek improvements to the transparency, accountability and effectiveness of the overall federal program.
3.5.7	FIN	We will participate in all Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) proceedings that effect the north to ensure competitive and affordable broadband and telecommunication services for NWT residents.
3.6.1		<i>Removed as duplicate of 2.1.1.</i>
3.6.2		We will improve the accessibility, affordability and inclusivity of <a href="#">child care in the NWT to allow all children aged zero to five to experience an enriching, quality early learning environment, by:</a>
	ECE	◇ <a href="#">Supporting the creation of new child care spaces and programs in all communities.</a>
	ECE	◇ <a href="#">Ensuring the sustainability of existing early childhood development programs.</a>
3.6.3		<i>Combined with 3.6.2.</i>
4.1.1		To enhance access to culturally appropriate programs and services, we will develop a comprehensive mental health and addictions framework that:
	HSS	◇ Prioritizes improvements to outpatient mental health services, with a



		particular focus on youth mental health services in schools and the broader community.
	HSS	◇ Addresses gaps in integrated community-based services.
	HSS	◇ Evaluates our land-based addictions healing programs.
	HSS	◇ Models a mobile addictions treatment team.
	HSS	◇ Enhances treatment options at local and regional levels, including aftercare.
	HSS	◇ Compiles baseline data so that government can be better held to account for the performance of mental health and addictions services.
4.1.2	DOJ	Taking into account mental health and addictions, we will look at innovative ways to prevent and reduce crime such as integrated case management, wellness courts, domestic violence treatment options courts, and culturally appropriate correctional programs.
4.1.3		<a href="#"><u>We will enhance support to communities in crisis by providing appropriate responses to suicide, which include:</u></a>
	HSS	◇ <a href="#"><u>Establishing a support team of headquarters and regional staff, to form a crisis response network that can respond and provide support to communities.</u></a>
	HSS	◇ <a href="#"><u>Providing specialized trauma informed training and critical incidence stress debriefing (CISD) training to the crisis response network.</u></a>
	HSS	◇ <a href="#"><u>Building surge capacity so there is coverage for team members participating on the network.</u></a>
	HSS	◇ <a href="#"><u>Utilizing the expertise of the crisis response network team members to promote enhanced suicide intervention activities.</u></a>
	HSS	◇ <a href="#"><u>Developing a program monitoring framework.</u></a>
4.2.1		We will support elders to live in their own and homes for as long as possible and ensure adequate supports are available for those who can no longer do so, by:
	HSS	◇ Completing a review of existing programs in order to project, over a 20-year period, policy and financial needs.
	HSS	◇ Developing updated capital projections for long-term care and dementia beds.
	HSS	◇ Developing financing options for long-term care facilities.
	HSS	◇ Proposing a regulatory framework for long-term care.
	HSS	◇ Developing and implementing an action plan for enhanced home and community care services.
	HSS	◇ Developing and implementing an action plan for expanded palliative care services.
	NWTHC	◇ Building more Seniors' Supported Independent Living units.
	NWTHC	◇ Marketing preventative maintenance, renovation and mobility upgrades.
4.3.1		We will continue implementing the Building Stronger Families action plan to transform child and family services by:
	HSS	◇ Auditing to ensure compliance with the <i>Child and Family Services Act</i> .
	HSS	◇ Implementing a standardized approach to assessing children's immediate safety needs and future risk of harm.

	HSS	◇ Developing caseload and workload measures for child protection in order to monitor and track the resources that are required to ensure compliance with the <i>Child and Family Services Act</i> .
	HSS	◇ Reviewing the standards and delivery methods of the Healthy Family Program to determine whether there are more effective ways to reach families-at-risk.
4.3.2	DOJ	We will explore options for expanding beyond Yellowknife the Mediation and Parenting after Separation and Divorce Program.
4.3.3		We will continue to support at-risk children and families through preventative and collaborative approaches, including:
	HSS	◇ Introducing a risk assessment tool to enable child protection workers to support families more effectively.
	HSS	◇ Ensuring services for children in care focus not just on safety, but also on stability and child development.
	HSS	◇ Improving the coordination, delivery and effectiveness of family services through an integrated care model.
	HSS	◇ Improving system supports for Aboriginal children and families, including improving the cultural competence of service providers.
4.3.4		We will continue implementing “Right from the Start” to improve early childhood development, by:
		◇ <i>Removed as a duplicate of 2.1.1.</i>
		◇ <i>Removed as a duplicate of 2.1.1.</i>
		◇ <i>Removed as a duplicate of 2.1.1.</i>
	HSS	◇ Improving oral health and developmental outcomes for children aged 0-5.
	HSS	◇ Developing options to enhance access to birthing services and pre- and post-natal care, including development of a territorial midwifery model.
		◇ <i>Removed as a duplicate of 4.3.1.</i>
		◇ <i>Removed as a duplicate of 4.3.1.</i>
	HSS	◇ Supporting community wellness initiatives with early childhood development funding and subject matter expertise.
4.3.5		We will reduce the burden of chronic disease by promoting healthy lifestyles and improving screening and management, with specific focus on:
	HSS	◇ Promoting healthy eating in NWT communities through a variety of programs including Healthy Family Collective Kitchens and Drop the Pop.
	HSS	◇ Hosting Healthy Living Fairs in communities.
	HSS	◇ Increasing awareness and availability of smoking cessation aids.
	HSS	◇ Standardizing access to cancer screening across the NWT.
	HSS	◇ Developing improved supports for patients and families battling cancer.
	HSS	◇ Giving health care providers tools and training to support patients and families in the management of chronic disease such as diabetes.
	HSS	◇ Developing and proposing updated tobacco control legislation.

	ITI	◇ Expanding the production and availability of local foods such as fish, country food, and garden produce.
4.3.6	HSS	We will continue integration of the health and social services system, <a href="#">including taking steps to bring the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority into the public service</a> , to improve care for our people, by clarifying timelines, appointing people to Regional Wellness Councils and the NWT Health and Social Services Leadership Council, finalizing roles and responsibilities, and ensuring seamless service delivery for all residents during the transition.
4.3.7	HSS	We will continue to work collaboratively to <del>reduce</del> <b>eliminate</b> poverty in the NWT by funding community-based partners, convening meetings of stakeholders, finalizing indicators that allow performance to be assessed, and developing additional options for action.
4.3.8	HSS	We will ensure effective supports and programs are in place for persons with disabilities by preparing an accessible inventory of the GNWT supports systems that already exist, and then by responding to previous evaluations of government supports.
4.3.9	MACA	We will develop and implement a Northwest Territories physical activity strategy for all residents to improve health and fitness.
4.3.10	ENR	We will finalize a strategic plan to enhance existing programming and build new partnership initiatives to support healthy and sustainable traditional lifestyles.
4.3.11	MACA	We will promote volunteerism by ensuring effective programming such as the Volunteer Development Fund, Outstanding Volunteer Awards, NGO Stabilization Fund, and the Community Volunteer Recognition Program.
4.3.12	HSS	We will reduce poverty in the NWT by implementing the GNWT commitments in the territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan, continuing to work with our partners to advance the plan and supporting communities' priorities for wellness.
<a href="#">4.3.13</a>	<a href="#">DOJ</a>	<a href="#">In collaboration with residents, Aboriginal governments, community governments and other stakeholders, we will develop and implement the policy, program and legislative regimes necessary to support the legalization of cannabis in the Northwest Territories.</a>
<a href="#">4.3.14</a>	<a href="#">HSS</a>	<a href="#">We will work with all relevant stakeholders, including non-government organizations from the disabilities sector, to complete the NWT disability review and develop a strategic framework and five-year action plan to ensure effective supports and programs are in place for persons with disabilities.</a>
4.4.1		We will strengthen initiatives and partnerships to prevent and reduce family violence by:
	DOJ	◇ Examining the feasibility of expanding the Domestic Violence Treatment Options Court beyond Yellowknife and Hay River.
	DOJ	◇ Providing training, public information and outreach on the protections provided under the <i>Protection Against Family Violence Act</i> .
	HSS	◇ Supporting five family violence shelters across the NWT, including support for the overall capacity of the people who work in these shelters.

	HSS	◇ Providing funding to develop family violence protocols and response teams in regions with no shelters.
	HSS	◇ Supporting programming for children who have witnessed violence.
	HSS	◇ Continuing to implement ‘What Will it Take?’, the social marketing campaign on family violence.
	DOJ	◇ Continuing the support for a healing program for men who use violence in intimate relationships such as the Wek’eahkaa A New Day Healing Program.
4.4.2	DOJ	We will support the RCMP and communities in their efforts to strengthen partnerships to prevent and respond to violence by supporting the development of policing action plans in each community in accordance with each community’s priorities.
4.4.3	DOJ	We will seek to improve access to justice in the NWT, by expanding community legal outreach programs, making family law duty counsel services available to assist self-represented family members on first appearance in family court, and expanding public education on programs and services so that people know what help is out there and how to access it.
4.4.4	DOJ	We will improve our social response to crime reduction by examining and analyzing social indicators, conducting research on what works to reduce crime, and identifying any gaps in territorial programming.
4.4.5	EIA	We will implement the calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission that fall within the jurisdiction of the territorial government, especially related to violence against indigenous women and girls.
4.4.6	EIA	We will support and participate in a National Round Table and National Inquiry into Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women in collaboration with families, Aboriginal governments, the federal government, and other organizations.
<a href="#">4.4.7</a>	<a href="#">MACA</a>	<a href="#">We will implement a territorial 9-1-1 program, including establishing new territorial legislation to help manage and govern the system.</a>
4.5.1		<i>Removed as duplicate of 4.4.2 and 5.4.1.</i>
4.5.2	MACA	<a href="#">We will fund after-school programs that build physical literacy and resiliency among youth through the efficient delivery of the Children and Youth Resiliency Program.</a> <del>We will implement the Youth Resiliency program in schools and during after school programs to improve student outcomes and lower overall dropout rates.</del>
4.5.3		<i>Removed as duplicate of 2.5.3.</i>
4.5.4	<a href="#">ECE</a>	<a href="#">We will build youth resiliency in schools by supporting school staff in using self-regulation instructional practices.</a>
5.1.1	EIA	Consistent with the policy of Respect, Recognition & Responsibility, we will invite any regional or community Aboriginal governments that are not yet a party to one, to strengthen their intergovernmental relations with the GNWT through the negotiation of an intergovernmental memorandum-of-understanding.
5.1.2	ENR	We will consult with Aboriginal governments to complete the next phase of regulation-making under the <i>Wildlife Act</i> .

5.1.3	MACA	We will work in partnership with Aboriginal governments to explore the design and launch of a training program for First Nations governments with municipal-like responsibilities in order to help improve the governance and management capacity of those governments.
5.1.4	EIA	We will work to resolve outstanding land, resource and self-government agreements with the Akaitcho, Dehcho, Northwest Territory Metis Nation, Acho Dene Koe and the Government of Canada during the term of our government, and advocate that particular focus in our negotiations be placed on land quantum.
5.1.5	HSS	We will provide funding to Aboriginal community governments and work with communities to develop wellness plans that meet local needs and priorities.
5.1.6		<i>Removed as duplicate of 4.4.5.</i>
5.1.7	EIA	We will continue to support the Intergovernmental Council towards implementation of the vision of cooperative and collaborative management of lands and resources, as set out in the Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement.
5.2.1	EIA	We will seek to establish a joint committee between Cabinet Ministers and Regular Members to share information and discuss approaches on the advancement of land, resource, and self-government agreements as well as initiatives to enhance relationships with Aboriginal governments.
5.2.2		<i>Removed as duplicate of 1.3.6.</i>
5.2.3	EIA	We will work with Aboriginal governments to jointly develop their human resource capacity, for example by finalizing and evaluating the existing pilot project with the Gwich'in Tribal Council.
5.2.4	EIA/ITI	We will pursue an agreement with the federal government on the management of offshore resources.
5.2.5	LANDS	We will work to improve the NWT integrated resource management regime to ensure the regime reflects NWT interests and priorities.
5.3.1		We will improve access to information and the protection of privacy by:
	DOJ	◇ Developing and proposing amendments to the <i>Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (ATIPPA Act)</i> .
	DOJ	◇ Creating a GNWT privacy framework and management programs, so that the privacy protections in the <i>ATIPPA Act</i> are administered consistently and fairly.
	DOJ	◇ Ensuring online training is available on access to information and protection of privacy requirements for GNWT employees as well as employees of territorial public bodies.
	FIN	◇ Continuing to safeguard and improve the security and integrity of the information entrusted to government on behalf of residents, businesses and visitors.
5.3.2	FIN	We will implement the government's new <i>Financial Administration Act</i> in order to improve government-wide planning and accountability, and overall fiscal responsibility.
5.3.3		We will improve collaboration for easier access to government programs and services online, including by:
	FIN	◇ Aligning territorial approaches with pan-Canadian efforts to establish and use digital identities for online government.

	FIN	◇ Creating a single integrated online portal for residents and businesses to securely transact with government.
	INF	◇ Increasing online accessibility to driver and motor vehicle services as well as commercial permitting services.
	FIN	◇ Participating in national surveys to assess both resident and business satisfaction with government service delivery.
5.3.4	EIA	We will maximize citizens' ability to access government by using consistent approaches to social media, visual identity, and overall communications.
5.3.5	EIA	We will establish an Open Government Policy to enhance civic participation, increase the availability and accessibility of information about government activities, and explore new technologies for openness and accountability.
5.3.6	EIA	We will improve public visibility and accessibility of Cabinet by organizing Cabinet meetings in each region of the NWT, holding selected Committee-of-Cabinet meetings in public, and meeting with standing committees in public more frequently.
5.3.7	EIA	We will improve opportunities for meaningful public input into government decision-making by improving access to government public engagement initiatives and reporting on how public views have shaped government decisions.
5.3.8	EIA	We will enhance collaboration between Cabinet and Regular Members by <a href="#">ensuring early, regular and open consultation by Cabinet with Regular Members and Committees of the Legislative Assembly</a> , exploring more options to formally work together, and strengthening processes for consistently sharing and tracking information provided to standing committees.
5.3.9	EIA	We will develop and implement an effective communications plan to make residents aware of the mechanisms available to appeal government decisions.
5.3.10	EIA	We will do a better job of making our residents, particularly those in smaller communities, aware of available government programs and services, and how to access them, through Single Window Service Centres and our Government Service Officers.
5.3.11	DOJ	We will develop legislation within two years to establish an independent parliamentary office of the ombudsman.
5.4.1		<i>Removed as duplicate of 4.5.1 and 4.4.2.</i>
5.4.2	MACA	We will take further action to monitor drinking water quality as well as support community-based water monitoring programs.
5.4.3	ENR	We will finalize community wildland fire protection plans, and develop and propose amendments to modernize forest protection legislation.
5.4.4	MACA	We will continue to pursue <a href="#">and assist communities in accessing</a> new federal funding for the enhancement of community government infrastructure, <a href="#">and including implementing</a> the asset management framework through the Gas Tax Agreement to ensure that all <del>communities have asset management plans. infrastructure lifespan is extended and new infrastructure is delivered in a manner that takes into account new building technologies that assist in climate change</del>

		<del>adaptation and energy efficiencies.</del>
5.4.5	MACA	We will develop a strategy to close the gap in funding levels to meet municipal core needs.
5.4.6	MACA	We will install remote water monitoring stations in five additional communities and build three additional water treatment plants.
5.4.7	MACA	We will work with stakeholders to develop and propose amendments to modernize the <i>Civil Emergency Measures Act</i> and to revitalize the Territorial Emergency Response Plan.
5.4.8	MACA	We will develop and propose amendments to the <i>Fire Prevention Act</i> , and work with stakeholders to identify priorities for Community Fire Protection Plans.
5.4.9	MACA	We will assist community governments with technical assistance in identifying energy efficiency improvements for community government buildings and taking action to improve energy efficiency.
<a href="#">5.4.10</a>	<a href="#">LANDS/ MACA</a>	<a href="#">We will work with community governments to find solutions to land tenure issues which present barriers to community planning.</a>
5.5.1	EIA/MACA	We will support the delivery of workshops that help to get women into politics.
5.5.2	EIA	We will support a communications campaign to increase the participation of women in politics.
5.5.3	EIA	We will improve gender equity in appointments to <a href="#">all</a> territorial boards and agencies.



## Appendix B

### Legislative Initiatives Identified in the Mandate of the Executive Council

The following legislative initiatives have been identified in the mandate for introduction and passage in the 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly to support the government in achieving its objectives under the mandate. This list is not reflective of the entire legislative agenda for the 18<sup>th</sup> Assembly. Moreover, legislation is only one tool of government used to accomplish its mandate.

- *Mineral Resources Act*
- *NWT Lands Act*
- *Commissioner's Land Act*
- *Territorial Parks Act*
- *Petroleum Resources Act*
- *Oil and Gas Act*
- *Waters Act*
- *Environmental Protection Act*
- *Forest Management Act*
- *Tobacco Control legislation*
- *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy (ATIPP) Act*
- *Civil Emergency Measures Act*
- *Fire Prevention Act*
- [\*Ombudsman Act\*](#)