



**Government of the Northwest Territories Response to
Motion 13-18(2) Northwest Territories Disability Action Plan**

Motion

NOW THEREFORE I MOVE, seconded by the Honourable Member for Deh Cho, that the Government of the Northwest Territories work with the NWT Disabilities Council and other allies in the disability community to develop a five-year action plan that addresses the needs of the disability community, including measurable outcomes and on-going evaluation.

AND FURTHER, that the Government respond to this motion by the end of June 2016 with a proposed timeline for the development of the described plan.

GNWT Response

The Department of Health and Social Services, in collaboration with other GNWT Departments, is committed to ensuring effective supports and programs are available for persons with disabilities.

Currently, several GNWT Departments have a shared responsibility for the administration of programs for persons with disabilities. These programs, and the funding to support them, are channeled through numerous government departments and agencies, and governance organizations.

We recognize the need for a strategic framework to guide multi-departmental planning and initiatives, that includes a renewed vision, principles, goals and an action plan to be implemented over a specified time period. The disability strategic framework and action plan will be based on the following three pillars:

- Person centered / family centered services
- Accessibility
- Awareness and Education

The first step is to complete a review of Government of the Northwest Territories' programs and services currently available for persons with disabilities. Specifically, our goals will be to:

- Prepare an accessible inventory of supports the GNWT has in place today;
- Ensure we are maximizing existing resources and that they are well marketed and coordinated;
- Identify any significant gaps; and,
- Establish priorities for new initiatives as resources become available.

Given the range of internal and external stakeholders, external organizations and GNWT Departments, there is considerable complexity involved in coordinating a review to access data and information, and engage stakeholders. Consultations will also include interviews with non-government organizations that provide disability services to inform the development of the new disability strategy and action plan.

The *NWT Disability Program Review* will inform options and decisions, based on the best and most current data and information provided by the Social Envelope Departments regarding optimal allocation of scarce resources and future program investments. The Department of Health and Social Services intends to complete this review and produce a 5-year strategy and action plan by the end of the 2016/17 fiscal year.

Going forward, the Department will work with those responsible to implement the strategy, vision, goals and priority areas within the final approved strategy. The Department will monitor and report progress according to an evaluation and reporting plan.