



Infrastructure, procurement, and targeted supports will contribute to the NWT's recovery and diversification



Budget 2021

Job Growth and Economic Diversification

The GNWT is a large player in the NWT's economy and Budget 2021 is contributing to economic stability by maintaining expenditures with no spending reductions. The Budget includes \$2.013 billion in expenditures and \$441 million in capital projects.

Tourism and parks

Tourism and hospitality sectors were amongst the hardest hit in 2020 and the GNWT is focused on helping these sectors emerge stronger than ever. Budget 2021 includes \$936,000 to renew the *Tourism 2025* strategy—the GNWT's road map for tourism investments over the next five years. The budget also includes funding for seasonal positions to address increased use of NWT Parks in the South Slave (\$58,000) and a new tourism development officer position in Inuvik (\$76,000).

Diversification

Budget 2021 includes \$250,000 to revitalize the Great Slave Lake commercial fishery and \$510,000 to help increase the amount of food produced locally in NWT communities. These investments will help diversify local economies and help to improve food security across the territory.

The GNWT will also support the NWT's emerging knowledge economy investing \$350,000 to establish regional economic development plans that include economic opportunities that stem from the knowledge and expertise of northern residents and businesses.

Exploration and development

Resource development is a vital part of the NWT economy that provides high paying jobs for our residents and opportunities for northern businesses.

A \$400,000 investment in the Mining Incentive Program will allow prospectors and exploration companies continue mineral exploration work in the NWT. Budget 2021 also includes \$225,000 to restore the confidence and investment of the petroleum industry in the NWT, while promoting local natural gas projects that meet the more immediate energy needs of communities and businesses through the GNWT's Petroleum Resources Strategy.





Healthy and educated people are at the heart of a strong and thriving Northwest Territories.



Budget 2021

Healthy and Educated People

Budget 2021 includes more than \$950 million to provide all NWT residents with equal access to health and social services, and career and education opportunities so we can achieve our vision of a healthy and better educated population.

Strong Families

A \$1.1 million investment in the Healthy Family Program will support expectant parents and families with young children to help them get a great start in life. Budget 2021 also provides \$500,000 in subsidies for licensed child care providers to repair or renovate their facilities—helping to increase the number of daycare spaces and advancing our goal of universal child care availability and affordability.

Career and education

Budget 2021 invests \$1.2 million for the Northern Distance Learning Program and \$508,000 to establish Career and Education Advisors in all NWT regions.

Long-term and continuing care

The GNWT plans to significantly increase long-term care spaces where they are needed most and has added \$406,000 to the budget to address increased costs for long-term care and help residents age in place.


Budget 2021 also includes \$8.4 million for the First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care program to support First Nations and Inuit people with disabilities, chronic or acute illnesses and the elderly, and provides Aurora College with \$1.1 million to train more personal support workers and Licensed Practical Nurses to provide long-term care. The budget for the Paid Family Caregiver Project will be increased by \$290,000 to help elders, seniors, and persons with disabilities live in their homes for as long as possible.

Increased access to programs and services

Health and Social Services spending will increase by \$7.5 million in 2021 to support 24/7 service delivery. Budget 2021 will also provide \$1.8 million in supplementary health benefits for NWT residents and support health care across the NWT by providing \$7.6 million for medical travel and out-of-territory health care.

Budget 2021 includes \$7 million in new funding to increase the number of community social services workers, family preservation workers, foster care and adoption workers, and case aid workers to help vulnerable children and their families across the NWT. A \$280,000 investment in a Peer Support Program will also help care for people with mental health and addictions issues.





*We are stronger when we stand together
and focus on what unites us.*



Budget 2021

Indigenous Reconciliation and Governance

Concluding agreements with the Indigenous governments of the Northwest Territories will advance reconciliation by recognizing and affirming Aboriginal and treaty rights, as well as creating the capacity for Indigenous governments to deliver programs and services and pursue their economic, social and cultural priorities.

Self-government and land claim agreements

Concluding land claim and self-government agreements and fulfilling ongoing obligations to implement existing agreements is a cornerstone of the GNWT's relationships with Indigenous governments. Budget 2021 supports the GNWT's continuing efforts to confirm and implement Indigenous governments' Aboriginal and treaty rights. We do this by working trilaterally with the Government of Canada and each Indigenous government on their individual processes.

Land use

The GNWT is working collaboratively with the Tłıchǫ Government and Government of Canada to examine possible next steps in creating a Wek'èezhìi Area Land Use Plan for public lands. Budget 2021 supports these efforts by providing \$253,000 to staff the Wek'èezhìi Land Use Planning Office.

Budget 2021 also includes \$309,000 to address untenured and unauthorized occupancy on public lands. The GNWT will work with Indigenous governments and organizations to help them identify and keep track of all cabins so that we can ensure that Aboriginal and treaty rights are respected.

Training and education

Budget 2021 will support the implementation of *Living Well Together*: a new Indigenous Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity Training program for GNWT employees. This training will help GNWT employees understand their roles in reconciliation and provide the tools for them to take action.

Budget 2021 also includes \$600,000 to develop an Indigenous Languages Adult Immersion Diploma in partnership with Aurora College, the University of Victoria and Indigenous governments. This program will strengthen Indigenous languages in the NWT and supports the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Call to Action 16 for "post-secondary institutions to create university and college degree and diploma programs in Aboriginal Languages." The GNWT will also create two new positions in 2021 (\$222,000) to help residents seeking school records to take part in the Indian Day Schools Class Action Settlement.



Clean energy and a healthy and productive environment are vital to the future of the Northwest Territories.

Budget 2021

Protecting our Environment and Addressing Climate Change

The Northwest Territories is committed to meeting its obligations in the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*. Budget 2021 includes more than \$120 million in expenditures for environment, natural resources and lands, plus capital investments in energy infrastructure.

2030 Climate Change Strategic Framework

The 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework (CCSF) is the GNWT's plan to transition to a lower carbon economy, improve knowledge of climate change impacts, and build resilience and adapt to a changing climate.

In October 2020, the GNWT announced the creation of 15 new positions to meet present and future commitments under Part 2 of the CCSF Action Plan. Budget 2021 provides \$2.6 million in new funding to permanently establish these positions and advance this critical work.

Regulations

The GNWT is committed to supporting resource development that prioritizes environmental protection and stewardship. Budget 2021 invests \$360,000 to develop regulations for the *Mineral Resources Act* that do not discourage resource development while still providing the environmental protections that Northwest Territories residents expect.

Carbon Tax and Cost of Living Offset

In keeping our commitment to the *Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change*, carbon tax rates will increase to \$40 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions on July 1st, 2021. Although this will add 2.4 cents in additional tax to a litre of gasoline and corresponding increases to other carbon-based fuels, carbon tax rebates will continue and the Cost of Living Offset will increase on July 1st, 2021 to \$208 per adult and \$240 per child to help residents adjust to the higher carbon price. The carbon tax will also continue to fund the ongoing Large Emitters Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reducing Investment Grant program to support projects that contribute to GHG reductions in the NWT.





Community Governments are essential partners in delivering programs and services to meet the needs of the residents of the Northwest Territories.



Budget 2021

Safe and Secure Communities

Community governments deliver services that are vital for the survival of our communities and our economy. Budget 2021 includes strategic investments that will help NWT communities emerge stronger from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Funding

To help reduce the gap between the cost of providing municipal services and the revenues that communities can raise themselves, the GNWT committed to reducing the municipal funding gap by \$5 million by 2023. This budget puts the GNWT on track to meet that commitment, with an additional \$3.3 million for community governments.

The GNWT also recognizes the need for increased financial support for NWT residents and communities as we continue to emerge from the pandemic. Budget 2021 includes a \$4 million increase for the Income Assistance Program to accommodate an increased number of clients.

Housing

Budget 2021 includes \$5 million in funding for the Northwest Territories Housing Corporation to participate in the National Housing Co-investment Fund and will support the construction and revitalization of housing projects across the territory. Budget 2021 will also include \$300,000 in funding for low income homeowners to replace aging fuel tanks, \$365,000 to support family housing units for Aurora College students in Inuvik, and \$109,000 to help emergency shelters deal with increasing costs.

Safety

Budget 2021 will invest in safer and more resilient communities by providing \$303,000 for a new community government safety officer pilot program, \$158,000 to continue to implement the Gun and Gang Strategy and \$257,000 for training and compensation of Territorial Court Judges.

Budget 2021 also includes \$233,000 to create two new sheriff positions and \$422,000 to add three RCMP constables in Yellowknife, as well as \$123,000 to address rising cost of providing services to inmates at the North Slave Correctional Centre.



How the Budget Works

The Budget is the Government's plan for its revenues and spending for a fiscal year by providing an estimate of the amount of revenue that the Government expects and describes how these revenues will be distributed to the various programs and services.

1) Prepare

Departments and agencies develop **BUSINESS PLANS** that outline operating plans for the coming years that will support the GNWT's goals. **BUSINESS PLANS** are reviewed and commented on by Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) before being adopted.

2) Draft

The GNWT prepares two budgets annually:

- the **CAPITAL ESTIMATES** for proposed infrastructure spending; and
- the **MAIN ESTIMATES** for proposed operations and maintenance spending.

3) Review

Both budgets are tabled for review and approval by all MLAs in the Legislative Assembly:

- the **CAPITAL ESTIMATES** are typically tabled during the Fall session to prepare for the winter supply and summer construction seasons; and
- the **MAIN ESTIMATES** are tabled in the Winter session (prior to the start of the new fiscal year)

4) Adjust

If required, budgets can be adjusted within the fiscal year by:

- tabling **SUPPLEMENTARY ESTIMATES** during regular sessions to respond to unforeseen needs; or
- requesting a **SPECIAL WARRANT** to respond to needs on an emergency basis.

The GNWT develops a new **FISCAL STRATEGY** at the beginning of each Legislative Assembly to set expenditure and revenue targets for GNWT departments and agencies for the next four years.

Monitoring

The GNWT uses **VARIANCE REPORTS** to monitor actual expenses and revenues for each department and agency compared to the budgeted amounts.

The annual financial statements of all GNWT departments and agencies are presented in the **PUBLIC ACCOUNTS**.

