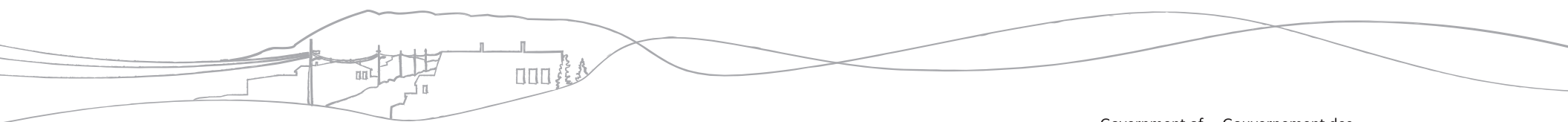




2026-2027 BUSINESS PLAN UPDATE MISE À JOUR DU PLAN D'AFFAIRES 2026

Le présent document contient la traduction française de l'introduction.



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K'áhshó got'íne xadā k'é hederí ʔedjhtl'é yerinwē nı dé dúle.
Dene Kádá

ʔerihth'ís Dēne Sų́iné yatı t'a huts'elkēr xa beyáyatı theʔą ʔat'e, nuwe ts'ēn yóthı.
Dēne Sų́iné

Edı gondı dehgáh got'je zhatié k'éé edatf'éh enahddhę nıde naxets'é edahfı.
Dene Zhatié

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijáhch'uu zhit yinothtan jı', diits'át ginohkhii.
Dinjii Zhu' Ginjik

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqluta.
Inuvialuktun

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Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.
Inuinnaqtun

kīspin ki nitawihtīn ē nīhīyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.
nēhiyawēwin

Tłıchq yatı k'èè. Dı wegodı newq dè, gots'o gonede.
Tłıchq

Indigenous Languages
request_indigenous_languages@gov.nt.ca

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Introduction

Business planning is a cornerstone of the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) budgeting cycle. It aligns with the guidelines established in the Planning and Accountability Framework under the *Financial Administration Act (FAA)*. The Primary purpose of the business plan is to provide Members of the Legislative Assembly and the public with a clear understanding of departmental objectives and how resources are allocated to achieve them.

The **2024-25 to 2027-28 Business Plans** outlines how GNWT departments intend to meet their commitments over this four-year period. These plans emphasize program evaluation, focusing on measuring progress and success against the costs of delivering programs and services. Annual updates to the business plans serve to report on progress and assess the effectiveness of achieving these goals.

The **2026-27 Annual Business Plan Update** is dedicated to tracking the progress of the 20th Legislative Assembly's priorities. These updates detail departmental actions taken to fulfill commitments and highlights adjustments in approach. Specifically, the updates include information on:

- Legislative initiatives;
- Progress on mandate commitments;
- Significant changes to departmental budgets;
- New human resource initiatives;
- Evaluation projects; and
- Communication and consultation efforts that may affect the completion of objectives.

Each department update is organized into several key sections:

Departmental Highlights: This section provides an overview of the department's core business activities, shared initiatives, and any updates since the original four-year plan was developed. It also outlines plans for the upcoming year.

Supporting the 20th Legislative Assembly: This section details activities initiated since the release of the four-year plan, with a focus on progress made to date. It also addresses any issues from the department's mandate letter that are not covered elsewhere.

Risk and Mitigation Activities: This section identifies challenges that may significantly impact the department's ability to meet its commitments and outlines strategies to address these risks.

Human Resource Initiatives: Key projects, successes, and strategies related to the department's workforce are highlighted here.

Legislative Initiatives: This section describes the department's planned legislative and policy projects during the term of the 20th Legislative Assembly.

Evaluation Plan: This new section describes the department's planned evaluation projects, including program design, during the remaining term of the 20th Legislative Assembly.

Through its four-year business planning process, the GNWT adopts a long-term perspective on expenditures and enhances risk management. The annual updates strengthen program evaluation mechanisms, holding departments accountable for their performance. This ensures that public funds are used efficiently and effectively, with a clear focus on achieving measurable results.

By consistently reporting progress in the annual business plan updates, the GNWT emphasizes transparency and accountability, grounding its decision-making process in evidence. Furthermore, the progress tracked through these updates helps embed improvements into the organizational culture and governance structure, rather than treating them as one-off actions.

Introduction

La planification des activités forme l'un des piliers du cycle budgétaire du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO). Elle s'effectue conformément aux lignes directrices du cadre de planification et de responsabilisation, lequel est prévu dans la *Loi sur la gestion des finances publiques*. Un plan d'activités a pour principal objet d'informer clairement les députés de l'Assemblée législative et le public des objectifs de chaque ministère et de montrer comment les ressources seront utilisées pour atteindre ces objectifs.

Les **plans d'activités de 2024-2025 à 2027-2028** établissent la façon dont les ministères du GTNO entendent honorer leurs engagements au cours de cette période de quatre ans. Ces plans insistent sur l'évaluation des programmes et des services en mesurant en priorité les progrès réalisés et les réussites obtenues par rapport au coût de prestation desdits programmes et services. Des mises à jour annuelles sont effectuées pour faire le point sur l'avancée du travail et pour en évaluer l'efficacité au regard des objectifs.

Les **mises à jour au plan d'activités annuel pour l'exercice 2026-2027** visent à suivre la concrétisation des priorités de la 20^e Assemblée législative. Ces mises à jour décrivent les mesures prises à l'échelle de chaque ministère pour honorer les engagements, en plus de mettre en lumière les ajustements qu'il convient d'apporter à la démarche suivie. Les sujets suivants sont notamment abordés :

- Les initiatives législatives;
- Les progrès réalisés concernant les engagements inscrits dans le mandat;
- Les modifications importantes au budget du ministère concerné;
- Les nouvelles initiatives en matière de ressources humaines;
- Les projets d'évaluation;
- Les efforts de communication et de consultation susceptibles d'influer sur l'atteinte des objectifs.

Chaque mise à jour ministérielle comporte plusieurs sections clés :

Faits saillants relatifs au ministère : Il s'agit d'un aperçu des activités principales du ministère, des initiatives communes et de toute mise à jour effectuée depuis l'élaboration du plan d'activités quadriennal initial. Y sont également décrites les activités planifiées pour l'exercice suivant.

Appui du mandat de la 20^e Assemblée législative : Cette section détaille les activités démarrées depuis la publication du plan d'activités quadriennal, en mettant l'accent sur les progrès effectués à ce jour. Elle traite également de toutes les questions issues de la lettre de mandat du ministère qui ne sont pas abordées ailleurs.

Risques et atténuation : Dans cette section figurent les défis susceptibles de limiter lourdement la capacité du ministère à honorer ses engagements, mais également les stratégies visant à remédier à ces risques.

Initiatives en matière de ressources humaines : Cette section souligne les principaux projets, réussites et stratégies à l'œuvre en ce qui concerne la main-d'œuvre du ministère.

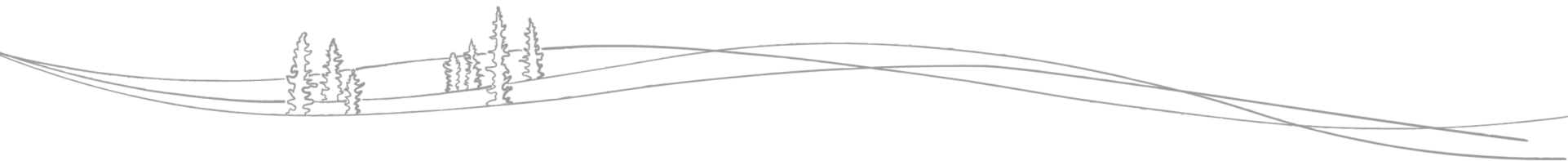
Initiatives législatives : Il est question ici des projets que prévoit le ministère en matière de lois, de règlements et de politiques au cours du mandat de la 20^e Assemblée législative.

Plan d'évaluation : Y sont décrits les projets d'évaluation prévus par le ministère, notamment la conception des programmes, pour le reste du mandat de la 20^e Assemblée législative.

Pour planifier ses activités sur quatre ans, le GTNO examine ses dépenses à long terme et s'efforce d'améliorer la gestion du risque. Les mises à jour annuelles permettent de renforcer les mécanismes d'évaluation des programmes et obligent les ministères à rendre des comptes quant à leurs prestations. Ces mesures garantissent ainsi une utilisation efficace des fonds publics et mettent clairement l'accent sur l'obtention de résultats mesurables.

En faisant systématiquement état des progrès réalisés dans son plan d'activités annuel, le GTNO favorise la transparence et la responsabilisation, et se base sur des données probantes pour étayer son processus de prise de décisions. Les progrès ainsi soulignés aident par ailleurs à ancrer des améliorations dans la culture organisationnelle et dans la structure de gouvernance du ministère, plutôt que de les traiter comme des mesures isolées.

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2026-27 BUSINESS PLAN
ANNUAL UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION,
CULTURE AND EMPLOYMENT

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Departmental Highlights

Funding for Healthy School Food Programs in the NWT

In 2025, the Department made strides towards improving student food security by signing a three-year bilateral agreement with the Government of Canada. This will provide approximately \$7.4 million in federal funding to Northwest Territories (NWT) schools as part of the National School Food Program. All 49 schools have access to these funds, which can be put towards purchasing and upgrading kitchen equipment, hiring dedicated school food program staff, increasing the availability of traditional foods, and improving the nutritional value of meals and snacks offered. This funding is available in addition to the \$650,000 Healthy Food for Learning Funding that the Department distributes to schools annually.

Showcasing NWT Artists and History at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre

In 2024-25, the Art Selection Committee, made up of NWT artists, craftspeople, and art enthusiasts, selected its first two exhibits to be displayed at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre Mezzanine Gallery. This included “YK Centred,” a photography series by Yellowknife-based photographer Bob Wilson, and “Ehts'o nàts'eelıı (We Sew Beads),” a display of beadwork by Tłı̨chǫ Dene bead artist Matthew Vukson. The Department also partnered with Fran Hurcomb, the Hay River Heritage Centre, and ITI to develop “Fish for Sale,” an exhibit about the history and future of commercial fishing on Great Slave Lake, which includes a 3-year display at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre and a travelling exhibit that will visit communities in 2026.

Supporting Early Learning and Child Care

The Department has continued to support access to high-quality and affordable early learning and childcare in the NWT through the development of a wage grid for licensed centre-based staff, increases in dedicated wage funding and flexible funding to support the early learning and childcare sector, and new guidelines to support the planning and development of new licensed centre-based childcare spaces across the territory. The first edition of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Early Learning Framework was released in June 2025, as a resource to support educators in early learning and childcare programs.

Supporting Access to Adult Education

To support access to quality programs following the closure of Aurora College’s Community Learning Centres, the Department released a critical path highlighting immediate and medium-term actions to ensure residents across the territory can continue to access adult learning and training opportunities. The Department is committed to partnering with the NWT Literacy Council to deliver employment readiness training in communities, supporting alternative high school program options through NWT education bodies, and evaluating the Adult Literacy and Basic Education program to better meet learners’ needs. In the past year, the Department also began offering the new Canadian Adult Education Credential high-school equivalency for adult learners.

Improvements to Income Security Programs

The Department continually monitors income security programs to ensure they are meeting the needs of NWT residents and has made changes in response to these needs. Seniors and persons with disabilities now have the option to apply either to the Income Assistance program or to the Income Assistance for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities program, affirming individuals' rights to determine which program aligns best with their unique needs and circumstances. Eligibility criteria for these two programs also expanded to include individuals applying for Permanent Residency on Humanitarian or Compassionate Grounds. Additionally, in 2025-26, the Department permanently increased the subsidy rates for the Senior Home Heating Subsidy and expanded eligibility for the 2025-26 subsidy year by increasing the income thresholds. The Department also increased the Student Financial Assistance loan limit to provide greater assistance for students accessing loans to complete their post-secondary studies.

Indigenous Languages Services Standards for GNWT

The new Indigenous Languages Services Standards launched in 2025 in a phased approach and provides direction to government institutions to deliver services in Indigenous languages and ensure compliance with the *Official Languages Act*. The Department is collaborating with other GNWT departments and agencies to deliver training on the Standards for GNWT employees. The Standards, along with the Indigenous Languages Communications Guidelines (2023), replace the 1997 Official Languages Guidelines Manual to provide improved direction and coordination of Indigenous languages communications and services.

Supporting the 20th Legislative Assembly

The Department's programs, services, and initiatives continue to support the 20th Legislative Assembly's Priorities in several ways, as demonstrated throughout this document. Improving access, quality, inclusion, and affordability of early learning and childcare is a key focus for the Department and will support several of the 20th Legislative Assembly's Mandate priorities. These include the priorities of fostering entrepreneurship, developing and increasing the northern workforce, providing health promotion and preventative care at all ages, and supporting community wellness.

Results from elementary and secondary school performance measures indicate improvements are needed throughout the JK-12 school system. The Department has implemented a renewed approach to school-based mental health and wellness programming to support the foundations of the Legislative Assembly's Priorities through a healthy and capable student population. Standing Committee's Report on the 2024-25 Main Estimates highlighted the need to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes for JK-12 students. Through the implementation of the adapted British Columbia (BC) curriculum, the GNWT has begun phasing in BC's Foundational Skills Assessments (FSAs) in Grades 4 and 7, and Graduation Assessments in Grades 10 and 12. The Grade 4 FSA and Grade 10 Literacy and Numeracy graduation assessments were implemented in 2024-25. The Grade 12 Graduation Assessment will be implemented in 2026-27 as that is the year for the Grade 12 curriculum implementation. These new assessments will provide information to education partners including the GNWT, education bodies, students, and families on areas of achievement and future focus in literacy and numeracy.

The Department will conclude and continue key frameworks over the life of the 20th Legislative Assembly. Skills 4 Success (S4S), the NWT's overarching labour market strategy which aims to support NWT residents to gain the skills, knowledge, and attitudes for employment success will conclude in December 2025. The Department will explore next steps toward the potential development of a successor strategy or action plan for workforce development. The Department will continue implementing the NWT Post-Secondary Education Strategic Framework 2019-2029, which aims to help NWT residents obtain a post-secondary education from institutions that are student-centred, accessible, high quality, relevant, and accountable. Together with the *Post-Secondary Education (PSE) Act*, the combination of these initiatives will support the 20th Legislative Assembly's priorities to help residents gain skills and education in trades and to develop and increase the northern workforce.

Providing a social safety net for those residents who are not able to work or have limited access to the labour force is paramount in combating poverty and providing security. The Department contributes to this social safety network through the delivery of Income Security Programs designed to assist NWT residents with supporting themselves and their families while pursuing personal, educational, and career goals. The Department launched the Income Assistance for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities program in the 2024-25 fiscal year and will be monitoring it over the course of the 20th Legislative Assembly. In 2025-26, the Department permanently increased the subsidy rates for the Senior Home Heating Subsidy and expanded eligibility for the 2025-26 subsidy year by increasing the income thresholds. Additionally, the Department increased

the student loan limit under the Student Financial Assistance program from \$60,000 to \$90,000 to better support students achieve their post-secondary goals.

Language and culture underpin all of the Department's work. The Indigenous Languages Secretariat (ILS) and the Francophone Affairs Secretariat (FAS) are in place to administer the *NWT Official Languages Act* and invest in the health and sustainability of the 11 NWT official languages. To grow and enhance the northern workforce in Indigenous languages education, the Department is recruiting Indigenous Language Instructors through the Indigenous Language Instructor Employment Plan (ILIEP). In 2024-25, 6 trainees participated in the program, and 4 out of the 6 accepted Indigenous language instructor positions within their home communities. In 2025-26, there are 6 trainees participating in the program.

The Department also works to protect NWT heritage resources by keeping an archive of government documents and items of historical significance; regulating the excavation of archaeological sites and removal of artifacts; and assisting communities to officially reclaim traditional place names.

Mandate Commitments

Collaborative Governance

The GNWT's relationship with Indigenous governments is integral to the future prosperity of the NWT and the following commitments will guide the implementation of the Mandate across all Priorities.

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Collaborate with Indigenous governments and residents to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.	Participate on the United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples GNWT working group and engage on the future Action Plan.	Level of participation in working group & Action Plan development.	Ongoing participation in the working group meetings & identification of departmental action items into ECE business.	ECE continues to attend working group meetings & engage in the development of the Action Plan, including providing feedback on proposed Action Plan Measures.
	Following the Intergovernmental Council on Land and Natural Resource Management (IGCs) Legislative Development Protocol, ECE will engage Indigenous governments through the creation of a technical working group to develop the <i>Heritage Resources Act</i> .	Level of participation in technical working group.	Ongoing participation in working group.	A technical Working Group was formed in spring 2025 & first met in June 2025 under the IGCs legislative Development Protocol.
			The creation of the new <i>Heritage Resources Act</i> .	Collaborative work is now underway to determine what should be included in a legislative proposal.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Implement the NWT Indigenous Languages Action Plan to support Indigenous Languages in line with Articles 13, 14, and 15.	Progress made on the Indigenous Languages Action Plan, including successful implementation of planned activities, initiatives, & support for Indigenous Languages.	<p>Completion of ECE targets as outlined in the Indigenous Languages Action Plan.</p> <p>Align ECE-led initiatives with the GNWT's long-term strategic approach to Indigenous Language revitalization.</p>	<p>The Indigenous Languages (IL) Action Plan (2018-2025) concluded this year. ECE also completed an evaluation of the IL Action Plan to assess completion of the targets.</p> <p>ECE is actively supporting the GNWT's Long-term strategic approach to Indigenous Languages by ensuring Indigenous language revitalization is a standing agenda item in all its bilateral engagements with IGs.</p>
	Engage with Indigenous governments, through the NWT Council of Leaders Secretariat (NWTCOLS), and education partners, on additional customizations and modernizations to the <i>Education Act</i> to reflect the unique circumstances of the NWT.	Level of participation in the NWTCOLS working group & establishment of the approach for legislative development in coordination with IGs.	Engage with IGs, through the NWTCOLS & education partners, on additional customizations & modernizations to the <i>Education Act</i> to reflect the unique circumstances of the NWT.	<p>By Fall 2024, NWTCOL leaders, or designates, were invited to participate in a technical working group for the <i>Education Act</i> Modernization.</p> <p>By Winter 2025, ECE established a technical working group under NWTCOL & is in the process of developing a Terms of Reference.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Continue implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry Calls to Justice.	Participate in the GNWT Interdepartmental working group on the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) and 2SLGBTQIA+ People Calls to Justice and implement ECE actions.	Progress made on measures contained in the GNWT's Changing the Relationship: The GNWT Action Plan in Response to the Call for Justice on MMIWG & 2SLGBTQIA+ People (Action Plan).	Completion of ECE measures as outlined in the Action Plan, reported through the GNWT's Changing the Relationship: Annual Report.	<p>To implement the TRC Calls to Action 13 & 14; & the MMIWG Calls to Justice Actions 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, & 2.4, ECE has completed Action 1 outlined in the Action Plan, reported through the GNWT's Changing the Relationship: Annual Report</p> <p>To achieve Changing Relationship (EIA) Action 2, ECE is implementing Actions 2.1, 2.2, 2.3 2.4 & 2.5 of Indigenous Languages Action Plan (all Actions currently underway or complete).</p>

To best support the delivery of programs and services to our residents and the dedicated public servants who deliver those programs, the following commitments will guide the implementation of the mandate across all Priorities:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Make programs and services more accessible and integrated through enhanced collaboration across government.	Together with EIA, work to advance Integrated Service Delivery, specifically through the Income Assistance program and connections to the GNWT's homelessness strategy.	Implement the new Income Assistance Program for Seniors & Persons with Disabilities (IASPD) & share implementation updates with the Integrated Service Delivery working groups as they are established & launched.	Implementation of the new Income Assistance Program for Seniors & Persons with Disabilities within 2024-25, & ongoing participation in Integrated Services Delivery meetings.	The Income Assistance for Seniors & Persons with Disabilities program was launched July 1, 2024. The ADM, Labour & Income Security is participating in Governance & Service Integration meetings.

Housing

To improve the suitability, accessibility, and affordability of housing options in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Increase housing availability for all residents by working with partners to address gaps in the northern housing continuum including more transitional and supportive living options.	In collaboration with GNWT partners and third parties, promote housing solutions for NWT educators and post-secondary education students.	Establish approaches to support critical housing shortages for educators in advance of the school year so that education programs are not disrupted.	Support approaches that respond to critical housing shortages for educators in advance of the school year so that education programs are not disrupted.	<p>ECE supported HNWT by providing JK-12 educator housing need in November 2024, & Aurora College (AC) housing need in Jan 2025. In March 2025, ECE met with NWTTA to address housing concerns impacting educator retention, leading to engagement with HNWT & a revision of the pet ban in HNWT owned & operated market rentals.</p> <p>ECE continues to support AC's efforts to identify partners for student housing development, which includes having facilitated the issuing of an Expression of Interest for this purpose.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Collaborate across departments and with partners to support vulnerable residents, prevent and reduce homelessness, and encourage self-sufficiency.	Launch new Income Assistance Programs for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities and continue the Income Assistance program with enhancements, including an integrated services approach.	Implement the new Income Assistance Program for Seniors & Persons with Disabilities & share implementation updates with the Integrated Service Delivery working groups as they are established & launched.	New & revised Income Assistance Programs to launch July 1, 2024.	The new & revised Income Assistance Programs launched July 1, 2024. ECE continues to work with the Integrated Service Delivery working groups.
Encourage private investment in housing by reducing administrative and regulatory barriers to housing development, and by implementing clear processes to increase the amount of land available for housing development in communities.	Conduct a review of existing ECE land reserves.	Completion of ECE's land reserves review & potential surpluses identified.	Land reserves review completed & potential surplus identified by end of 2025-26 fiscal year.	Planning & internal coordination have been initiated to support the review of existing department land reserves. The initiative remains on track for completion by the end of the 2025–26 fiscal year.

Economy

To strengthen the economic foundation of the NWT, the GNWT will support the development of the private sector and community capacity, encourage a diversity of economic activity across sectors, and reduce the cost of doing business in the NWT. We will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Grow and enhance the northern workforce by investing in skill development and by attracting skilled workers to the NWT.	Support the development of the post-secondary education landscape in the NWT through the implementation of the <i>PSE Act</i> .	Post-secondary institutions are accredited under the <i>PSE Act</i> & are reporting annually as per the PSE Accountability Framework.	All post-secondary institutions operating in the NWT are accredited under the <i>PSE Act</i> by the end of the 20th Legislative Assembly.	Post-secondary institutions are seeking recognition under the <i>PSE Act</i> . 1 institution & 11 programs have been authorized as of September 2025, with additional institutions exploring accreditation options.
	Continue to implement the 2021-2025 Skills 4 Success Action Plan.	# of students attending PSE programs in the NWT.	Maintain or increase the # of students attending PSE programs in the NWT, from 569 in 2021-22.	437 students attended PSE programs in 2023-24. 2024-25 data from the first year of PSE Accountability Framework implementation will be available in Winter 2025-26.
		# of SFA students attending programming related to NWT occupations in demand.	Maintain or increase the # of SFA students attending PSE programs related to occupations in demand from 1,288 in 2021-22.	In support of NWT occupations in demand, 1,393 SFA students attended PSE programs in 2024-25.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Offer professional development opportunities for early childhood educators.	# of early childhood educators who participate annually.	Increase the # of early childhood educators who participate in professional development opportunities from 109 in 2022-23.	176 early childhood educators participated in professional learning offered by ECE in 2024-25. (an increase of 42 since the previous update).
	Continue to provide Early Learning and Childcare Scholarships.	# of students accessing the scholarships.	Maintain or increase the # of students accessing the scholarships annually, from 39 successful applicants who were awarded scholarships in 2022-23.	In 2024-25, 41 Early Learning & Child Care Scholarships were awarded.
	Implement an early childhood educator certification process.	% of early childhood educators who are certified.	All early childhood educators are certified by the end of the 2024-25 fiscal year.	As of September 2025, all educators currently working in a licensed centre-based facility are certified.
	Increase the percentage of early childhood educators working in licensed early learning and childcare programs who have relevant post-secondary education.	% of educators working in licensed early learning & childcare programs who have relevant post-secondary education.	Increase from baseline established in 2024-25.	2024-25 baseline: As of September 2025, 16% of educators have post-secondary education in early childhood. Increase to be monitored throughout 2025-26.
	Increase the number of NWT residents accessing Student Financial Assistance (SFA).	Uptake in SFA grant & loan programs.	Increase in the # of students accessing SFA by 10% over the length of the 20th Legislative Assembly from 1,262 in 2023-24.	As of September 2025, 1,393 students accessed SFA in the 2024-25 academic year, an increase of 10% from 2023-24.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Increase the availability of licensed childcare spaces in the NWT to support NWT caregivers to participate in the workforce if they choose to do so.	# of net new childcare spaces.	75 net new childcare spaces annually, for a total of 300 net new spaces by 2025-26.	As of September 30, 2025, there were 355 net new spaces.
	Increase the number of employed Income Assistance (IA) clients.	Uptake in the # & % of employed IA clients & the use of earned income exemptions.	Increase in the # of employed IA clients by 10% over the length of the 20th Legislative Assembly from 934 in 2023-24.	As of May 2025, the # of employed IA clients stands at 803, a decrease of 131 clients compared to 2023-24. Part of the decrease could be attributed to clients moving to the IASPD program.
	Support pathways to employment for NWT youth through the Career and Education Advisor (CEA) Program and Schools North Apprenticeship Program (SNAP).	# of 1-to-1 career exploration opportunities & # of work experience connections established for students & youth.	Increase (until 2025-26 & then maintain) the # of students & youth who access CEAs from 830 students & youth, & 2,250 encounters, in the 2022-23 school year.	For the 2024-25 school year, 680 students & youth accessed CEA services, & 2,920 encounters occurred. CEA data is tracked from August 14 to August 14 in conjunction with the school year calendar.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of high school students participating in the SNAP program as SNAP students.	Maintain or increase the # of high school SNAP Student participants annually from 36 in the 2023-24 school year.	For the 2024-25 school year, 57 high school students participated in SNAP, an increase of 21 participants from 2023-24.
		# of SNAP students who go on to become certified journeypersons.	Maintain or increase the # of SNAP students who become apprentices & then become Journeypersons.	ECE will establish a baseline in 2026-27.
	Provide SNAP programming in every region.	# of regions with SNAP participants.	Increase & maintain SNAP student participation in all regions of the NWT, from 4 in 2023-24.	For the 2024-25 school year, while SNAP participation has increased in the North Slave & South Slave, SNAP remains available in all 5 NWT regions.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Promote the delivery of laddering programs that lead to further education, by working in partnership with PSE providers to provide those programs.	# of laddering programs & # of students in laddering programs.	Increase from 35 laddering programs & 313 students in 2021-22, delivered through PSE providers.	<p>In 2023-24, 122 students accessed laddering programs. 2024-25 data from the first year of PSE Accountability Framework implementation will be available in Winter 2025-26.</p> <p>With the closure of Community Learning Centres, the way in which many laddering programs are accessed has shifted. This has placed increased emphasis on student numbers & how they are accessing programs.</p> <p>Adult Literacy & Basic Education is also being assessed to ensure it supports learners in advancing to further education or employment.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Support recruitment and retention of Indigenous Language Instructors.	Availability of Indigenous Language Instructors in JK-12 schools.	Increase the # of schools offering Indigenous language classes from 41 (84%) in 2023-24 school year to 47 in the 2027-28 school year. 2 schools are French Minority Language only & as such, do not offer Indigenous languages instruction.	In the 2024-25 school year, 41 of the target 47 schools offered Indigenous language programming as a second language. 6 schools did not have Indigenous Language Instructors.
	Provide communication, funding, and other supports to increase the number of apprentices and certified journeypersons.	# of new apprentices & qualified journeypersons.	10% increase in # of apprentices & qualified journeypersons from December 2022 levels at the conclusion of the 2-year extension (28 new apprentices & 32 newly certified journeypersons).	From December 2022 to September 2025, there have been 150 new apprentice registrations & 89 newly certified journeypersons.
	Work with ITI and other GNWT partners to advance plans to transition the diamond-mine workforce.	% of diamond mine workforce affected by future mine closures who want to stay in NWT when closures occur, & who have opportunities available to them.	All members (100%) of the diamond mine workforce affected by future closures who want to remain in the NWT have employment opportunities available to them when closures occur.	Information on ECE's career & employment supports & services has been provided to the mines & other GNWT partners, such as the Indigenous Development Corporations, for sharing with all impacted workers.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Provide pathways to employment and education to NWT residents through Labour Market Programs.	Level of program uptake by NWT residents.	Maintain or increase uptake in programs supported by the Labour Market Programs, including Labour Market Transfer Agreements & Small Community Employment Support (SCES) from the following results in 2022-23: 188 clients (Skills Development & Self-Employment); 71 employers (WS); 9 projects (Job Creation partnership, Community Training partnership, & Strategic Workforce Initiative).	In 2024-25, uptake in programs supported by the Labour Market programs, including Labour market Transfer Agreements & Small Community Employment Support (SCES) were as follows: 154 clients (Skills Development & Self-Employment); 96 employers (WS); & 9 projects (Job Creation partnership, Community Training partnership, & Strategic Workforce Initiative).
		# of jobs created in communities through SCES funding.	459 jobs created in communities through SCES funding.	In 2024-25, 416 jobs were created through SCES funding.
	Improve accessibility of the Northwest Territories Nominee program (NTNP) streams.	Fewer points of entry for NTNP streams within the GNWT.	1 department delivers immigration programming & services on behalf of the GNWT.	As of April 2025, the Business Stream of the NTNP has been consolidated into ECE from ITI. The entire program is now delivered by ECE.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Continue to promote immigration in the NWT through Northwest Territories Nominee program (NTNP).	# of approved nominees to the NWT.	200% increase in calendar year 2024 in # of approved nominees from 139 in calendar year 2023 to a cap of 300 annually in subsequent years.	<p>In 2024, the NTNP met the full nomination allocation & had 305 approved nominees.</p> <p>In 2025, the nomination allocation was reduced by the federal government from 300 to 197.</p> <p>From January to September 2025, the NTNP has approved 139 nominees. The NTNP will use the full 197 allocation before the end of the calendar year.</p>
		# of business nominees in progress.	Increase the # of business nominees in progress from 1 in 2024-25.	There are currently 2 active business stream applications in progress.
		# of nominees approved.	Increase the # of business nominees completed from 0 in 2024-25.	To be updated in 2026.
		# of jobs created.	Increase jobs created from 2 in 2024-25.	In 2025, there are 6 jobs projected to be created though the business stream.
		\$ invested in NWT.	Increase NWT investment from \$307,000 in 2024-25.	The 2 active business stream applicants will have invested \$307,000 in the NWT.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Participate in the Giant Mine Remediation Project (GMRP) as a co-proponent with the federal government to ensure regulatory requirements are met.	Targets for GMRP socioeconomic key performance indicators are being met or exceeded, revised, & improved based on lessons learned.	GMRP employment targets: Indigenous employment 25-35%; Northern employment 36%; & Female employment 15-30%.	In 2024-25, the GMRP achieved: Indigenous Employment 11%; Northern Employment 26%; & Female Employment 17%.
Increase investment certainty and create opportunities for the private sector by streamlining administrative processes, and ensuring regulatory systems and decision-making are consistent, efficient, and predictable.	Continue working with GNWT departments and the mining sector to ensure that socio-economic agreements for mining projects include clear requirements for northern and NWT hiring and training.	# of northern & NWT residents hired & trained by mining projects in the NWT.	Annual increases in the # of northern & NWT residents hired & trained by mining projects in the NWT.	In 2024, 1,034 person years were worked by NWT residents across all NWT mines, down from 1,119 in 2023.

Access to health care

To strengthen preventative measures, public awareness and improve access to trauma-informed, culturally appropriate health care, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Focus on health promotion and preventative care, and disease prevention across all age groups.	Implement school-based mental health and wellness programs and services that support mental health promotion and preventative intervention services to JK-12 students.	# of JK-12 students that accessed school-based mental health & wellness program that emphasize mental health promotion & preventative intervention services to JK-12 students.	Establish a baseline # of JK-12 students supported by school-based mental health & wellness programs in the 2024-25 school year.	On average, 420 students per month accessed 1-1 &/or group school-based mental health & wellness services in the 2024-25 school year.
		# & type of SBMHW interventions for JK-12 students.	Establish a baseline # of each type of SBMHW interventions (i.e., Tier 1, 2, 3) in the 2025-26 school year for JK-12 students.	Baseline data will be available at the end of the 2025-26 school year.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Train and support Indigenous and local residents to pursue careers in the health professions, while also recruiting and retaining qualified health and social services professionals to the NWT.	Ensure NWT residents wanting to pursue health-related post-secondary and graduate studies are aware of the recent enhancements to the Student Financial Assistance (SFA) program.	# of students receiving SFA funding for health-related post-secondary & graduate studies.	An annual increase in the # of students approved for SFA funding for health-related programs from 97 in 2023-24.	In the 2024-25 academic year, 106 students received SFA funding for health-related post-secondary & graduate studies (an increase of 9).
	Continue to promote the NTNP as a tool to attract internationally trained health and social service professionals to the NWT.	# of health & social service positions supported by NTNP.	Increase in the # of health & social service positions supported by NTNP, from 1 in 2023.	In 2025, 4 positions were supported.

Address the effects of trauma

To prevent, interrupt and address the effects of trauma, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that policies and programs are designed and renewed with a trauma-informed, anti-racist and cultural safety lens that is informed by residents.	Implement the new Income Assistance for Seniors and Persons with Disabilities program and enhanced Income Assistance (IA) program with trauma-informed policies and procedures.	Renew the Income Assistance for Seniors & Persons with Disabilities program & enhanced Income Assistance (IA) program with trauma-informed policies & procedures.	Implementation of the new Assistance for Seniors & Persons with Disabilities program & enhanced Income Assistance (IA) program with trauma-informed policies & procedures.	The Income Assistance programs were launched on July 1, 2024, with trauma-informed policies & procedures. ECE continues to provide training to staff on updated policies & procedures.

Emergency Management

To enhance the safety of residents and communities, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that emergency management and preparedness initiatives strengthen our capacity to respond to more frequent and severe climate-driven disasters and other emergencies.	Continue to support education bodies in fulfilling the requirements of the Safe Schools Regulations, which include the requirement to develop emergency response plans and lockdown procedures and encourage education bodies to actively engage in community emergency plans, through regular review of Safe School Plans.	# of Safe School Plans reviewed & accepted annually.	3 education body Safe School Plans are reviewed annually on a rotating schedule agreed to by ECE & education bodies.	During the 2024-25 school year, ECE completed 3 Safe School Plan reviews as scheduled. These included Commission Scolaire Francophone, Territoires Du Nord-Ouest, Dehcho Divisional Education Council, & the Sahtu Divisional Education Council.
	Develop and implement updated ECE business continuity plans that reflect ECE's responsibilities under the NWT Emergency Plan and ensure delivery of critical ECE services in emergencies.	Fulfillment of ECE responsibilities identified in the NWT Emergency Plan.	All department responsibilities identified in the NWT Emergency Plan are fulfilled in emergencies.	As of May 2025, ECE updated its Business Continuity Plan.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Enhance our understanding of climate change-related threats and impacts and support innovative climate change mitigation and adaptation responses.	Implement actions to mitigate damage to heritage resources and archaeological artifacts as part of ECE commitments in the GNWT Climate Change Action Plan.	ECE commitments in GNWT Climate Change Action Plan.	Completion of department targets as outlined in the new GNWT Climate Change Action Plan.	ECE continues to implement the actions (“targets”) identified in the GNWT Climate Change Action plan. ECE carried out a series of archaeological site visits in the Beaufort Delta region with staff of the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation during summer 2025. 6 substantial Inuvialuit ancestral village sites were assessed for climate change related impacts. Plans are now being made, in collaboration with the IRC, to mitigate further losses from the last remaining bowhead whaling village on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula in the 2026 summer field season.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Strengthen regulatory frameworks for emergency management, create territorial building standards, and improve community hazard mapping and monitoring.	Continue ECE participation in regulatory frameworks and emergency management plans to ensure that irreplaceable archaeological heritage is not destroyed.	Heritage resources are included in emergency planning.	Emergency & other mapping plans include mention of how to protect heritage resources.	The Culture & Heritage division has initiated interdepartmental discussions to support the implementation of this work & expects to have draft steps identified for the Summer of 2026.

Risks and Mitigation Activities

Reductions in Federal Jordan's Principle funding could have direct and substantial effects on the Department's ability to fulfill the GNWT's mandate commitments for this reporting cycle. Jordan's Principle funding has been critical for hiring support assistants who support Indigenous students with diverse learning needs. Many schools are losing multiple full-time assistants due to denied funding applications. These assistants help implement individualized learning plans, support classroom management and student engagement, and provide culturally relevant support and advocacy to students.

Without support assistants, students may struggle to keep pace academically and socially, especially those with special learning needs, or trauma-related challenges. To mitigate these risks during the 2025-26 school year, the Department launched the temporary Support Assistants Initiative, allocating up to \$14 million aiming to bridge the gap and maintain essential school services. Also, in 2025-26 the Department will finalize its Inclusive Schooling Review which will inform future actions to strengthen the inclusive schooling supports and address systemic barriers.

GNWT Fiscal Strategy for the 20th Legislative Assembly

The Department continues to support the 20th Legislative Assembly's priorities through its fiscal strategy. This includes prioritizing program and service efficiency and effectiveness.

To date, this has taken place through transition of many in-person training and conference sessions to virtual deliveries; reducing budgets in any area that has consistently underspent over the past three years; and discontinuing positions that were vacant or could be absorbed by existing staff and resources due to other reductions.

The Department will also continue to review its programs for effectiveness and efficiency. Over the past year, the Department undertook evaluations of Northern Distance Learning and Inclusive Schooling, both of which are on track to be completed in fiscal year 2025-26. In fiscal year 2026-27, the Department will complete a summative evaluation of the Education Renewal and Innovation Framework.

In addition, the Department is working interdepartmentally towards streamlining programs and services. Over the past year, the Department worked to relocate immigration services, previously provided by both the Department and ITI, into the Department alone, and combine supports for arts programming, also previously located in both the Department and ITI, into ITI alone. The Department now allocates MACA After School Program Funding through the School Funding Framework. Within NWT schools, the funding will be distributed across the following three components: Healthy Choices Initiative – Base, Healthy Choices Initiative – Healthy Snacks, and the Youth Contribution Program.

Human Resource Initiatives

No changes are required.

Legislative Initiatives

The Department has refocused its legislative priorities and policy development as part of an exercise undertaken midway through the 20th Legislative Assembly. Work planned to be completed in the latter half of this Assembly is shown below:

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
1	<i>Employment Standards Act.</i>	<p>ECE is reviewing the <i>Employment Standards Act</i> & Regulations to bring the legislation in line with other Canadian jurisdictions' minimum standards of work, to ensure protection for employees, & flexibility for employers in the new post-pandemic realities of work & our unique northern labour market.</p> <p>Public & stakeholder engagement was completed in the spring of 2023 & a What We Heard Report was made public in March 2024. ECE has identified several prospective areas of the legislation for amendment.</p> <p>Prior to this review, the <i>Act</i> & Regulations had not been subject to a comprehensive review in more than a decade.</p>	Completed 2025-26 Q2.	2025-26 Q4.	<p>In progress.</p> <p>A Legislative Proposal was approved, & work is underway to develop a bill for introduction in the Feb-Mar 2026 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.</p>

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
2	<i>Heritage Resources Act.</i>	A new <i>Heritage Resources Act</i> is needed to replace the current legislative regime with a single statutory framework. The new heritage legislation will consolidate & expand on the existing <i>Historical Resources Act</i> & <i>Archaeological Sites Act</i> & regulations & include critical enhancements to legislation for the protection & management of archaeological sites & artifacts; new provisions to ensure the protection of burials & human skeletal remains found on the land (i.e., outside of designated community cemeteries); & the creation of legislation to regulate paleontological research & to protect paleontological sites & fossils. The NWT is 1 of the only jurisdictions in Canada that lacks paleontological legislation. The creation of a Historic Places Program enables the Minister to designate & protect places of historic & cultural significance to the people of the NWT, including historic buildings, cultural landscapes, sacred sites, & other sites of significance.	2026-27 Q2.	TBD - 21st Assembly.	In progress. A Technical Working Group was formed in spring 2025 under the IGC-S. Legislative Development Protocol & work is now underway toward developing a Legislative Proposal.

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
3	<i>Education Act.</i>	ECE made amendments to the <i>Education Act</i> in the 19th Assembly & has committed, in the 20th Assembly & beyond, to further engagement with Indigenous governments & education partners on additional customizations & modernizations to the <i>Act</i> to reflect the unique circumstances of the NWT. A working group has been established through the NWT Council of Leaders Secretariat to establish the approach for legislative development in coordination with Indigenous governments. Longer-term discussions with Indigenous governments & education bodies will focus on the future of the education system structure & governance.	2027-28 Q3.	TBD - 21st Assembly.	In progress. Working group began meeting again in 2024-25 Q4.

#	Regulatory initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) Regulations.	ECE amended the ELCC Standards Regulations & ELCC Funding Regulations to support the introduction of a certification process for early childhood educators. This process is designed to incentivize the professionalism of the sector, recognize Indigenous knowledge, & include all individuals employed by a centre- based program. It also establishes a wage grid that sets a minimum wage an individual employed by a centre-based program is to be paid; & creates a new funding mechanism for ELCC facilities. The new regulations were available for public review in August & September 2024 & came into force in November 2024.	Completed November 2024.
2	Academic Year and School Attendance Regulations.	Amendments to the Academic Year & School Attendance Regulations are proposed to revise the daily maximum hours of instruction for Grades 1 to 6 to be consistent with Grades 7 to 12, update language to reflect terminology changes made to the <i>Education Act</i> & include a mechanism for making changes to previously approved school year calendars as needed if & when schools drop below the legislated minimum number of instructional hours. The new regulations are anticipated to be finalized by Spring 2026 & brought into force ahead of the 2026-27 school year.	In progress. ECE is currently in the process of gathering feedback from education bodies. Feedback will inform whether the draft regulations will require further revision or if they are ready to proceed to public review.
3	Student Records Regulations.	Amendments to the Academic Year & School Attendance Regulations are proposed to substitute references to Alberta provincial assessments with more general language, update the information Superintendents are required to provide to the Minister, permit information sharing in accordance with the <i>Education Act</i> , & allow the sending of student records by other secure methods. The new regulations are anticipated to be finalized by Spring 2026 & brought into force ahead of the 2026–27 school year.	In progress. ECE engaged education bodies & the public on the draft amendments & will share a What We Heard Report prior to finalizing the regulations.

#	Policy initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	Indigenous Languages Service Standards.	Under the <i>Official Languages Act</i> , NWT residents have the right to access public services in official Indigenous languages. The first edition of the Indigenous Languages Services Standards has been developed to guide frontline service providers across government departments & institutions to better understand & meet these broad Indigenous language service delivery requirements. The 20th Legislative Assembly is committed to achieving their priorities through reconciliation, good governance, & collaboration. Through collaboration with Indigenous governments, language communities & the public, the GNWT is committed to improving service delivery in official Indigenous languages.	Approved by Cabinet on February 13, 2025. Implementation currently in progress.
2	Review of Culture and Heritage Policies.	ECE will update cabinet-approved policies to ensure they reflect modern practices & mandates. Policy updates will be brought to Cabinet for approval. These include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 71.02 NWT Arts Council (last update 2017), • 71.05 Heritage Services (last update 1997), • 71.07 Collections Disposal (last update 1997), and • 71.09 Geographical & Community Names (last update 1997). 	In progress. ECE plans to engage on amendments to 71.09 Geographical & Community Names Policy in Fall 2025.

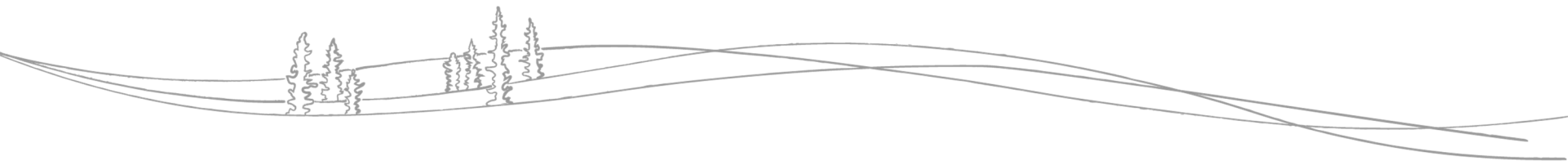
Evaluation Plan

The Department is committed to work on several Evaluations, some of which are being undertaken during the 20th Legislative Assembly, as follows:

#	Program / Policy Title	Purpose of Evaluation	Trigger	Timeframe	Current Status
1	Education Renewal and Innovation (ERI) Framework.	To assess the impact of the 10-year ERI Framework on the NWT education system, the ERI Framework sought to support northern learners to receive a quality education, to live fulfilled lives as capable people, & contribute to strong, & healthy communities. This evaluation will therefore provide a snapshot of how the education system is contributing to the Priorities of the 20th Assembly & will inform future strategic planning & monitoring approaches for the education system.	Departmental commitment in response to the 2020 Report of the Auditor General of Canada on Early Childhood to Grade 12 Education in the NWT; GNWT Planning & Accountability Framework.	August 2025 to September 2026.	In progress.
2	2030 Early Learning and Child Care Strategy.	To assess progress towards Strategy commitments, gather feedback, & identify areas for improvement. These commitments include supporting the creation & sustainability of licensed programs & fostering a qualified early childhood workforce. This evaluation will contribute to ECE's monitoring of actions to support the mandate commitment to grow & enhance the northern workforce.	Accountability to the Canada-NWT Early Learning & Child Care Bilateral Agreement & Action Plan.	2026-27 fiscal year.	Not started.

#	Program / Policy Title	Purpose of Evaluation	Trigger	Timeframe	Current Status
3	Early Learning Framework.	To gather feedback from implementation of the 1st edition of the Framework & inform the development & release of a 2nd edition of the Framework. This evaluation will contribute to the Priorities of the 20th Assembly by assessing ECE's resources to support the creation of safe, healthy, & culturally responsive early learning environments, in turn improving the effectiveness of such resources offered by ECE.	Departmental priority - process improvement.	2027-28 fiscal year.	Not started.
4	Post-Secondary Education System Enhancements.	To assess implementation of post-secondary system enhancements, including the quality assurance process to recognize institutions & programs in the NWT. This evaluation will contribute to the mandate commitment to grow & enhance the northern workforce by supporting the development of the post-secondary education landscape in the NWT.	GNWT Post-Secondary Education Accountability Framework.	2027-28 fiscal year.	Not started.

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2026-27 BUSINESS PLAN
ANNUAL UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT
AND CLIMATE CHANGE

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Departmental Highlights

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (the Department) is responsible for ensuring the land, water, wildlife, forests, and environment in the Northwest Territories (NWT) are well-managed and sustainably used and is the territorial lead for climate action. This includes promoting, planning, and supporting the wise and sustainable use of land and natural resources while protecting, restoring, and stewarding the environment in a balanced manner for the social and economic benefit of all NWT residents.

Co-Management

Reconciliation remains a central focus for the Department. The Department is committed to prioritizing the well-being and prosperity of all residents through good governance and collaboration with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, communities, and the public. The Department works closely with Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations, other governments, land and water boards, land use planning boards, and renewable resources boards to ensure programming reflects the values of NWT residents, communities and regions. As part of our commitment to collaborative governance, the Department is working to identify opportunities for regulatory efficiency by improving coordination across land and water management systems.

Our Land for the Future and Bilateral Nature Agreement

The NWT: Our Land for the Future (OLF) initiative, previously called Project Finance for Permanence (PFP), is one of the largest Indigenous-led conservation projects in the world. This initiative brings together 23 Indigenous governments, the Government of Canada (Canada), the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), and private donors to fund long-term conservation, stewardship, and economic growth in the NWT. With a total of \$375 million—\$300 million from Canada and \$75 million from private donors—the OLF initiative will help protect lands and waters, increase climate resilience, promote cultural revival, and create local job opportunities. The Bilateral Nature Agreement (BNA) between Canada and the GNWT provides additional funding for conservation efforts by supporting Canada's goal to protect 30% of land and water by 2030.

Conservation and Recovery of Barren-ground and Boreal Caribou

Caribou are central to the way of life of Indigenous peoples in the NWT and have sustained individuals, communities, and cultures for many generations. Recent declines in many barren-ground caribou herds are a cause of significant concern for long-term species conservation and the social, cultural, and food security needs of northerners, particularly Indigenous peoples. The Department is committed to continuing to work collaboratively with co-management partners to ensure that boreal caribou and barren-ground caribou populations are healthy and can support sustainable harvest. To address illegal harvesting, the Department is working with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations to reinforce shared messaging on safe, legal, and respectful harvesting. For the 2025 winter road season, this included a joint news release from

leaders and public messaging encouraging those with information on illegal harvesting to contact their local ECC regional office. Additionally, the Department is supporting an Indigenous-led monitoring and guardian program along the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road. Targeted research and monitoring using scientific and Indigenous knowledge continue to inform population management decisions and recovery efforts. These monitoring results will be used alongside other data to guide collaborative management actions with co-management partners.

To meet critical habitat protection requirements under the *Federal Species at Risk Act*, 65% of the NWT's boreal caribou range must remain undisturbed by fire and human activity. Currently, 67.8% of the range remains undisturbed. Five regional boreal caribou range plans are also being developed to guide habitat management across the Southern NWT, Wek'èezhìi, Sahtú, Gwich'in, and Inuvialuit regions.

Climate Change and Environmental Stewardship

As the GNWT continues to address the growing impacts of climate change and environmental pressures, the Department is advancing a coordinated approach to stewardship that integrates science, Indigenous knowledge, and community priorities. A central component of this work is the development of an integrated Climate Change and Energy Strategy in partnership with the Department of Infrastructure (INF). This whole-of-government approach will enhance the effectiveness of climate change mitigation, planning, and adaptation efforts over the next 25 years, while supporting the GNWT's commitment to achieving net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050. The Department will continue to deliver targeted actions under the Climate Change Strategic Framework, including expanded support for community adaptation planning and renewable energy integration.

Waste diversion efforts continue through a range of initiatives, including the Waste Reduction and Recycling Initiative, which supports projects aimed at minimizing waste and promoting sustainable practices, aligned with the Waste Resource Management Strategy. The Water Stewardship Strategy will guide transboundary water governance, including collaborative monitoring of the Mackenzie River Basin. Additionally, the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program will focus on Indigenous-led research and cumulative effects assessments, ensuring that environmental decision-making is informed by both scientific evidence and traditional knowledge systems.

Supporting the 20th Legislative Assembly

Collaborative Governance

The Department continues to prioritize reconciliation and collaborative governance with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations. The Department is working collaboratively with Indigenous partners through the Intergovernmental Council Secretariat (IGCS) Legislative Development Protocol to advance land conservation, finalize Protected Area management plans, develop policies for Indigenous-owned cabins on public land, and amend land and natural resources legislation.

Indigenous steering committees continue to meet regularly across multiple programs, with the NWT Climate Change Council meeting once, the Environmental Audit Steering Committee meeting once, and the Water Stewardship Strategy Indigenous Steering Committee meeting once to date in 2025-26.

Housing

The Department continues to make dedicated progress towards processing all land tenure applications for housing by the end of the 20th Legislative Assembly (e.g. issued, denied, in consultation, & engagement). Since the start of this Assembly, a total of 144 parcels have been transferred in fee simple and another 89 are being prepared for execution (i.e. completed consultation and engagement). Since April 1, 2025, 18 parcels have been transferred in fee simple for housing. Currently, 359 applications for housing are in process, which represents an increased pressure from last reporting cycle (a total of 204 applications). The Department is prioritizing all land applications for housing and is focusing its efforts to make continued progress towards this key mandate commitment.

Economy

Significant progress has been made to strengthen the economic foundation of the NWT and support community capacity across diverse economic sectors. The completion of the NWT OLF initiative provides \$375 million over the next 10 years to support Indigenous-led conservation, stewardship, and related economic diversification opportunities, including increased employment in small communities.

The Department participated in 76 Type A water licence plan reviews and coordinated departmental participation in 137 total regulatory processes, including environmental assessments, demonstrating the Department's commitment to supporting sustainable resource development through efficient and predictable regulatory processes. The Department continues to work collaboratively with the Single Window Pathfinders to enhance regulatory efficiency and coordination. A recent example is the addition of a Road Development Impacts Directed Funding Call included in the CIMP 2026-27 Project Funding Guide. This is a new funding opportunity to support research projects that aim to better understand and address the

environmental impacts of road development on wildlife and ecosystems. Our goal is to generate approaches through science, Traditional Knowledge, or a combination of both, to inform environmental assessment and regulatory decisions.

Additionally, through the support of the traditional economy, fur sales have increased in the 2025 season, encouraging a diverse range of economic activities in addition to promoting entrepreneurship across the NWT.

Healthcare

The Department continues its critical partnership with Health and Social Services (HSS) to support early detection of infections and diseases through community wastewater monitoring. To date, 242 wastewater samples have been analyzed by Taiga Environmental Laboratory. Additionally, 583 drinking water samples have been analyzed to support safe drinking water requirements in communities.

Enhanced surveillance efforts include the operation of 44 purple air sensors across the NWT, with 26 communities having functional sensors providing real-time air quality data, to inform public health decisions and climate change impact monitoring.

Addressing the Effects of Trauma

The Department continues to support sustainable livelihoods activities, partnerships, and programming to improve access to country foods and support residents to be on the land. Many Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations received funding through land-based programs, such as the Community Harvesters Assistance Program (CHAP). These programs support economic reconciliation, encourage community wellness, self-determination, and resilience through connection to traditional practices and country foods.

Emergency Management

In response to growing climate-related challenges, the Department has intensified its focus on wildfire management, including ways to enhance wildfire prevention, mitigation, and responses. An After-Action Review of the 2023 wildfire season was completed, and the Department has ensured that all 25 recommendations and 17 areas for improvement are being actioned, in progress, or integrated into ongoing work.

The Department is also establishing a Wildfire Resiliency Strategy and has increased engagement with communities on wildfire prevention through expanded FireSmart initiatives activities and a focus on the Wildland-Urban Interface (WUI). Fire management efforts continue with community wildfire protection plan reviews conducted from December 2024 through March 2025, with ongoing updates planned throughout the year to enhance community preparedness and resilience. The Department will continue to enhance its understanding of climate-change related threats and impacts and how best to support the NWT.

Mandate Commitments

Collaborative Governance

The GNWT's relationship with Indigenous governments is integral to the future prosperity of the NWT and the following commitments will guide the implementation of the Mandate across all Priorities.

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Collaborate with Indigenous governments and residents to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.	Support the co-development and implementation of the UNDRIP Action Plan that is being led by the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs.	ECC will participate in action plan development & implementation.	Continue to work with the Intergovernmental UNDRIP Action Planning Committee on the development of the action plan with a focus on Environment & Climate Change objectives.	ECC continues to work with the intergovernmental UNDRIP Action Planning Committee on the development of the Action Plan. EIA is leading this initiative for the GNWT.
Strengthen government-to-government relationships with Indigenous governments and work in partnership to jointly engage the federal government to advance issues of shared interest.	Participate in the Intergovernmental Council Secretariat (IGCS); NWT Council of Leaders (NWTCOL); & F/P/T forums.	# of land & natural resources policy /legislative initiatives brought to the IGCS.	Partner & engage with all levels of government to jointly advance shared interest.	4 legislative initiatives have been brought to the IGCS <i>Public Land Act</i> regulations, Thaidene Nene Protected Area Regulations, NWT Lands Regulations (pricing of recreational-type leases) & the Waters Regulations (phased approach).

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of Departmental briefings provided to NWTCOL.	Partner & engage with all levels of government to jointly advance shared interest.	2 departmental briefings brought to the NWT Council of Leaders: OLF Initiative & 2025 Wildfire Preparations.
Work with negotiation partners to advance, settle, and implement land claim, self-government and other Indigenous rights agreements.	Continue to work collaboratively with planning partners to advance land use planning in regions without plans and to complete the review of amendment applications for Regional Plans that are in place.	# of proposals received & approved for IGs & Indigenous organizations to support land use planning & pre-planning work.	Annual funding allocation fully expended to support identified priorities.	3 proposals were received by the deadline (August 2025) & have been approved for an amount of \$180,000 or 68% of the total allocation. The 2025-26 Call period will be extended to allow for additional proposals.
		% of annual funding allocation provided.		
		% of amendment applications received from planning boards being in review.	GNWT has initiated review of all of amendment applications received.	The GNWT has reviewed all (100%) of amendment applications received.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Collaborate with partners to implement the GNWT Healthy Land Healthy People (HLHP) conversation work plan to conduct conversation planning for land use certainty.	Implement HLHP with IGs, Indigenous organizations, & other partners.	Progress with actions in HLHP.	HLHP is aligned with the OLF initiative (signed July 2025). In September 2025, private donor grant agreements were signed for over \$70 million into the OLF Trust. ECC also signed a Contribution Agreement for \$5.4 million with the federal government to secure separate, related funding to support Indigenous-led conservation & stewardship.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# / % of approved territorial protected area (TPA) management plans.	All TPAs have an approved management plan.	<p>There are currently 2 established TPAs, neither (0%) have an approved management plan at this time.</p> <p>The Thaidene Nënë Xá Dá Yáfti Operational Management Board completed the TDN management plan. It is now going through the approval process.</p> <p>The management plan for Ts'udé Niljné Tuyeta is currently being drafted.</p>
	Continue to work collaboratively with IGs and Indigenous organizations to develop an approach to traditional use cabins on public land.	Progress made on a new approach to traditional use cabins on public lands.	A new approach has been developed to support the management of traditional use cabins on public land.	ECC has been actively engaging with IGs & Indigenous organizations on the development of a new approach & is collaboratively preparing a proposal for a path forward for consideration. The last workshop on this work occurred in May 2025.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Honour the GNWT's commitments to openness, transparency, and accountability by engaging with our Indigenous partners, on decisions that affect their lives.	Continue meetings and information sharing activities with Indigenous Steering Committees involving our Indigenous partners throughout the year.	# of watershed strategy meetings.	ECC meets & shares information with Indigenous partners.	The Water Stewardship Strategy Indigenous Steering Committee has met 5 times between October 2024 & September 2025. An annual Water Strategy Workshop is conducted each fall.
		# of NWT Climate Change Council Meetings.	ECC meets & shares information with Indigenous partners.	The NWT Climate Change Council met 4 times. The last meeting was held in November 2025.
		# of NWT Climate Change Youth Council Meetings.	ECC meets & shares information with Indigenous partners.	The new cohort of the NWT Climate Change Youth Council met in September 2025 & is expected to meet 2 more times before December 30, 2025.

To best support the delivery of programs and services to our residents and the dedicated public servants who deliver those programs, the following commitments will guide the implementation of the mandate across all Priorities:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Make programs and services more accessible and integrated through enhanced collaboration across government.	Development of common or integrated programming for the sharing of information across departments to reduce administrative burden and benefit public clients.	Types of cross departmental initiatives.	ECC involvement in cross departmental initiatives that reduce administrative burdens & benefit public clients.	ECC participates in several cross-departmental working groups that meet this target, focussed on: government renewal; strengthening non-profit & charitable sector; land operations tenure system; governance & service integration; climate change; lands & natural resources; & innovation & knowledge.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Engage the public service to identify opportunities to improve efficiency, and coordinate processes to support long term fiscal sustainability.	The Department continues to commit to ongoing improvement.	Senior Management Committee meetings with improved themed agenda items.	At least 1 improvement agenda item per quarter.	Between October 1, 2024, & September 31, 2025, ECC SMC meetings included the improvement themed agenda items 7 times, including: Procurement; Cyber Security; Indigenous Employment Policy; Employment Engagement Survey; Macro Economic Policy; Compliance & Officer Services & Knowledge Agenda.
Honour the GNWT's commitments to openness, transparency, and accountability by engaging with our partners, the public, and the public service on decisions that affect their lives.	Participate fully in the integrated resource management regime in the NWT for land and natural resources.	# of formal co-management partnerships where information & advice were shared for forest-management, protected areas, & wildlife management.	Meaningful participation by department experts in co-management process to support sound decision making.	ECC participated in 9 formal co-management partnerships related to forest management, protected areas, & wildlife management.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
	Incorporate public feedback on departmental programs and policies.	# of public engagements.	Meaningful public engagement, as needed.	2 public engagements were held via online engagement platforms during this reporting period: the 2025-29 draft Climate Change Action Plan & community engagements ahead of the 2025 wildfire season.

Housing

To improve the suitability, accessibility, and affordability of housing options in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Increase housing availability for all residents by working with partners to address gaps in the northern housing continuum including more transitional and supportive living options.	Continue to deliver a clear and transparent process for land/land tenure for housing projects to support requests that will address housing related land tenure issues.	# of land applications processed for residential purposes from community governments, IGs, Housing NWT, & the private sector.	All land requests for housing have been processed (e.g., issued, denied, or are in consultation & engagement processes).	359 land applications for residential sales & leases are currently in process. 192 applications are in the application review stage, 78 applications are in consultation, 89 applications are being prepared for execution, & 18 parcels for residential purposes have been transferred in fee simple title since April 1, 2025.

Economy

To strengthen the economic foundation of the NWT, the GNWT will support the development of the private sector and community capacity, encourage a diversity of economic activity across sectors, and reduce the cost of doing business in the NWT. We will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Grow and enhance the northern workforce by investing in skill development and by attracting skilled workers to the NWT.	Promote the creation of new conservation-related local employment opportunities in collaboration with Indigenous governments.	Implementation of the Our Land for the Future (OLF) Agreement.	% of OLF Director & Partner Table meetings GNWT attended.	To date, the GNWT has attended 100% of the Directors & Partners meetings. The next meeting is scheduled in February 2026.
			Signing of the OLF Agreement.	In July 2025, the Minister of ECC & OLF Chair signed the federal grant agreement to transfer \$300 million into the OLF trust.
	Support development and implementation of Indigenous-led guardian programs.	# of supported Indigenous-led monitoring or guardian programs.	Maintain or increase the # of participating indigenous-led conservation programs.	ECC supports 5 Indigenous-led guardian programs for Indigenous-led (biodiversity/water) monitoring & are in preliminary stages of engagement with 4 additional programs.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Increase community capacity, and train and hire residents as part of ECC programs.	# of residents hired as wildfire management personnel by region.	Increase community capacity for monitoring programs.	224 residents hired in the 2025 wildfire season: Beaufort Delta - 13 Sahtu - 8 Dehcho - 81 North Slave - 37 South Slave - 83 Headquarters - 2
		# of residents hired by Community Based Monitoring (CBM) monitors by region.	Provide jobs to support the local economy.	A total of 32 monitors were hired to participate in the CBM program; ISR / Gwich'in – 12 North Slave – 6 South Slave – 9 Dehcho - 5
		# of residents hired in the forest industry by region.	Provide jobs to support local economy.	Beaufort Delta - 5 Dehcho - 5 North Slave - 26 Sahtu - 2 South Slave - 23
		# of jobs created through recycling depots & processing centres.	Provide jobs to support the local economy.	13 full time (6 outside Yellowknife) & 37 part time (34 outside Yellowknife) positions.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Increase investment certainty and create opportunities for the private sector by streamlining administrative processes, and ensuring regulatory systems and decision-making are consistent, efficient, and predictable.	Promote sustainable development of resources via efficient and timely regulatory review and environmental assessment (EA) processes and decision making.	# of Type A water licence reviews participated in.	ECC participates in all EA & regulatory processes & initiatives relevant to ECC's mandate, including providing advice &/or security estimates to Land & Water (L&W) Boards as part of the regulatory application & review processes.	Participated in 76 Type A water license-related reviews.
		Type A Water licenses approved within legislated timelines.	All water licenses are approved within legislative timelines.	All water licences were approved within legislative timelines.
		Environmental liabilities are estimated & provided as part of regulatory reviews.	All recommendations are addressed.	Provided 2 security estimates for review (Westcoast & pointed Mountain).
		EA decisions completed within legislated timelines.	All EA decisions completed within legislative timelines.	No EA decisions have been made to date in 2025-26 (None have been before the GNWT).
		EAs & regulatory processes that ECC participated in.	ECC participates fully, as requested, in EAs & regulatory processes.	EIA coordinated departmental participation in 245 regulatory reviews since October 1, 2024.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Complete and implement Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plans (WMMPs) and caribou range plans, to support responsible development.		# of EA & regulatory processes improvement initiatives participated in.	ECC participates fully, as requested, in EAs & process improvement initiatives.	ECC is participating in 3 EA initiatives: a multi-party workshop on EA implementation with MVEIRB; a public online course on NWT regulatory & EA systems through the NWT Board Forum; & Mackenzie Valley Operational Dialogue to assess & determine opportunities for regulatory improvements in the NWT.
		# of renewable resources board recommendations considered or implemented for wildfire & forestry.	ECC considers all renewable resource board recommendations.	1 renewable resource board recommendation was considered & accepted by the GNWT & Tłıchǫ Government.
		# of WMMPs reviewed & approved.	Review & make decisions on all WMMPs.	7 WMMPs currently active or pending approval.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# & % of boreal caribou range plans completed or in progress.	Southern NWT, Gwich'in, Inuvialuit, Sahtu, & Wek'èezhì range plans are completed.	5 (100%) of the boreal caribou range plans have been initiated & are in progress. ECC aims to have the final range plans for the Southern NWT & Wek'èezhì regions completed by Spring 2026.
		# of EAs & regulatory processes where wildlife input & advice are provided.	Input or advice given on EA & regulator processes with wildlife – related issues.	7 active EAs & regulatory processes had wildlife input and advice.
		# of wildlife harvest monitoring & reporting programs implemented by co-management partners.	Guidelines for mobile caribou conservation measures, offsetting, & compensatory mechanisms for caribou are finalized.	Mobile Caribou Conservation Measures guidelines are nearing completion, with a joint ECC-Chambers of Mines presentation planned for the NWT Geoscience Forum. Offsetting & Compensatory Mechanism Guidelines for barren-ground Caribou are in development.
		Results of co-management led harvest reporting programs are shared with ECC.	Results of at least 2 co-management led harvest reporting programs are shared with ECC.	Harvest data from the Tłıchq Government & NSMA has been shared with ECC through the Advisory Committee for Cooperation in Wildlife.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Implement the Interim Resources Management Assistance (IRMA) Program.	Funding amount provided to IGs & Indigenous Organizations.	Maximum allocation of IRMA funding to support IGs & Indigenous Organizations.	\$330K provided to IGs & Indigenous organizations.
		% of available IRMA funding that has been allocated.	Maximum allocation of IRMA funding to support IGs & Indigenous Organizations.	23% of IRMA annual budget has been allocated. ECC completed a second round of funding in December 2025.
	Support projects looking into cumulative impacts of development on water, caribou, and fish under NWT CIMP.	# of projects funded by NWT CIMP.	CIMP funded projects contribute to resource management decisions or address community concerns.	25 NWT CIMP funded projects have been identified as hiring local monitors, including providing training opportunities & honorariums.
		# of projects that can contribute to a resource management decision &/or address a community concern.	CIMP funded projects contribute to resource management decisions or address community concerns.	In 2025-26, CIMP is funding 29 projects. Of these projects, 7 have a traditional knowledge focus, & 1 combines science & traditional knowledge.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Facilitate the NWT Environmental Audit (in 2025) to assess the quality of the environment and the effectiveness of environmental management in the Mackenzie Valley	The 2025 NWT Environment Audit is completed & the # & % of 2025 Audit recommendations are actioned, as appropriate.	2025 Audit is complete with all recommendations actioned, as appropriate.	The Audit was released in October 2025. It issued a total of 43 recommendations, 36 of which were directed to the GNWT. All of these recommendations (100%) have been actioned as appropriate.
	Continue to collect water quality monitoring data as baseline information for decision-making.	# of water quality samples obtained by ECC with samples from sites across all regions in the NWT.	Water quality is sampled from across the NWT.	3,912 samples were collected between December 2024 & September 2025, including QA/QC samples & post-wildfire samples. There were samples from 77 monitoring sites from all regions in the NWT.
	Continue to collect air quality data as baseline information for decision-making.	% of valid air quality data collected.	Real-time continuous air quality data collected at all five monitoring stations.	Overall data capture rate for the air monitoring network including the 5 monitoring stations is approximately 74%.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Encourage a diverse range of economic activities by promoting entrepreneurship, fostering research and innovation, building strong partnerships and leveraging opportunities in all regions.	Support forest industry development through commercial forestry activities and personal harvesting for home heating.	# of contracts &/or contribution agreements established to support forest industry development.	Maintain or increase the # of contracts &/or contribution agreements.	No new contracts or contribution agreements have been established in 2025-26. ECC will be exploring opportunities for reforestation & related projects under the federal 2 Billion Trees program. ECC continues to provide advice to communities & private harvest interests.
	Support a sustainable outfitting industry, the traditional economy, and the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur (GMVF) Program.	# of outfitting licences issued.	Outfitter licences issued without delay.	There are currently 15 outfitters licences that have been issued for the 2025-26 season. In 2024-25, there were 28 outfitters licences issued. 2025-26 Outfitter Licences by region: Beaufort Delta (7), Sahtu (2) & North Slave (6).
		# of furs sold & contribution \$ provided to trappers.	Support to the GMVF is maintained or increased.	For the 2025 trapping season, NWT trappers sold a total of 7,421 pelts & generated approximately \$582,000.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Facilitate collaboration both within the GNWT and Partnerships with other organizations, such as universities.	# of research partnership agreements with post-secondary institutions to address GNWT research priorities & knowledge gaps.	Updated NWT knowledge agenda is publicly released.	The Knowledge Agenda was released in October 2025. The GNWT has 1 partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University & is working on 2 additional university partnerships.
	Monitor ungulate species critical to country food security (barren-ground caribou, moose, wood bison, and muskox).	# of surveys completed by region, species, or herd.	Population & composition surveys for each barren-ground caribou herd conducted a minimum of once every 3 years.	ECC completed 4 population surveys & 3 composition surveys in 2025 for barren-ground caribou.
		# of surveys coordinated in partnership with wildlife co-management partners.	To continue to foster meaningful relationships with wildlife co-management partners.	39 wildlife surveys were conducted since April 1, 2025.
		# of collars deployed on barren-ground caribou & boreal caribou.	Deploy collars on barren-ground & boreal caribou annually to maintain numbers. 70 collars on the Bathurst herd, 70 collars on the Bluenose East herd, 60 collars on Bluenose-West caribou, 30 collars on Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula caribou, 30 collars on Cape Bathurst herds & 50 collars on the Beverly herd.	Currently there are 29 collars on the Bathurst herd & 66 collars on the Bluenose East herd. 36 collars are on Bluenose-West caribou, 20 collars on Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula caribou, 17 collars on Cape Bathurst herds & 57 collars on the Beverly herd.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
			Maintain boreal caribou collars to support environmental assessment, Wildlife Management & Monitoring Plans, & population monitoring.	There are currently 160 boreal caribou collars deployed.
Support communities to realize economic opportunities by enhancing their ability to access and manage lands within their boundaries.	Support communities through individual parcel transfers and bulk land transfer processes to access public land for community expansion and economic potential.	# of fee simple title applications in progress.	Initiate all fee simple title applications.	158 fee simple title applications from communities are in progress.
		# of bulk land transfers requested, in progress, or completed.	Work with interested communities to consider land transfer options.	ECC will continue to work with any communities that are interested in bulk land transfers.

Access to health care

To strengthen preventative measures, public awareness and improve access to trauma-informed, culturally appropriate health care, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Focus on health promotion and preventative care, and disease prevention across all age groups.	Reduce the impact of wildlife human interactions and diseases in wildlife that affect the health of residents and domestic animals (e.g., anthrax, rabies, brucellosis, tuberculosis, parasites, and food-borne pathogens).	# of wildlife health monitoring programs, investigations, & outbreak responses.	Programs & investigations are conducted as required.	<p>96 wildlife health cases processed in partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative, including wildlife consumption concern investigations & general surveillance for wildlife diseases.</p> <p>Enhanced surveillance efforts continue for targeted pathogens.</p>

Address the effects of trauma

To prevent, interrupt and address the effects of trauma, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Encourage community wellness and self-determination by supporting the development and delivery of community-based wellness programs to address mental wellness, prevention, early intervention, and holistic health.	Support and provide sustainable livelihoods activities, partnerships, and programming to help access to country foods and for residents to be on the land.	\$ amount into Community Harvesters Assistance Program (CHAP).	IGs & Indigenous organizations are able to apply for CHAP.	Applications were open as of April 1, 2025. \$1,681,000 is allocated to CHAP applications.
		# & total value of projects supported by the NWT on the Land Collaborative (OTCL).	Maintain or increase the # of communities, organizations, or individuals supported.	For the 2025 granting cycle, OTCL funded approximately 54 land-based projects (\$1,154,000) across the NWT. ECC has provided \$150,000 towards the pot of funds & funded an additional 17 projects on referral totaling approximately \$372,000.
		# & \$ for Take a Family on the Land (TAFOTL) Programs.	Maintain or increase the # of communities, organizations, or supported individuals.	A total of 16 TAFOTL Programs hosted by either the NWT Indigenous government, Indigenous organizations, or non-profits were approved for this coming year for up to \$10,000 each.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		\$ for Take a Kid Trapping (TAKT) Programs.	Maintain or increase the # of communities, organizations, or individuals supported.	A total of \$225,000 is allocated for this program from ECC & MACA.
		Where hunter education is offered & # of hunter education certificate completions.	Maintain or increase the # of communities, organizations, or individuals supported.	Hunter education is available online for anyone who is interested & delivered through curriculum at all eleven NWT High Schools. 57 individuals have received hunter education completion certificates this reporting period.
		# of residents accessing trapper training programs per year.	Maintain or increase the # of communities, organizations, or individuals supported.	Call for the Trapper Mentorship Program ended in October 2025 & will support up to 10 mentorship pairs this harvest season. There were 8 trapper training workshops & 107 participants between October 1, 2024 – September 31, 2025.
	Continue to include health and wellness as a research priority within the Knowledge Agenda.	# of health-related research items.	Maintain or increase the # of health-related research items within the Knowledge Agenda.	In the Knowledge Agenda, there are 6 health & wellness research items.

Emergency Management

To enhance the safety of residents and communities, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that emergency management and preparedness initiatives strengthen our capacity to respond to more frequent and severe climate-driven disasters and other emergencies.	Implement the recommendations from the independent external After-Action Review of the 2023 wildfire season.	% of After-Action Review recommendations addressed.	All recommendations are addressed.	All recommendations (100%) are actioned, in progress, or integrated into ongoing work.
	Support communities through advice on updating Community Wildfire Protection Plans (CWWP) for all 29 communities.	# of CWPPs ready to action should the need arise.	All community wildfire plans are ready to action, should the need arise.	Engaging communities & updating community wildfire protection plans are an on-going annual activity. 28 CWPPs were updated in 2019 & all remain ready to action should the need arise. 1 CWPP was fully updated in 2025.
		# of CWPPs currently being updated.	All CWPPs updated.	7 CWPPs are actively being updated.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Support FireSmart activities to ensure residents know how to prevent and mitigate wildfire effects.	# & type of FireSmart activities.	Residents have the tools & knowledge to protect their homes & communities.	5 local fire departments received advanced home assessment training. Additionally, 7 fire departments received Structure & Site Preparation training. 112 FireSmart advanced home assessments were completed, spanning all regions of the NWT. 14 communities had a variety of FireSmart activities including emergency planning, cross-training, FireSmart meetings, FireSmart program delivery, school visits, & trade shows.
	Coordinate and provide wildfire emergency response activities.	# of fires reported, hectares burned, communities evacuated, & structures & homes lost.	People, communities, & values at risk are protected from wildfires.	The 2025 wildfire season concluded with 201 fires & roughly 1.385 million hectares burned. 2 communities were evacuated, 7 structures were lost. No homes were lost.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Utilize NWT resources (People and Businesses) for the wildfire response and management.	# of aircraft contracts administered.	Maintain or increase # of aircraft contracts administered to support wildfire management needs across the NWT.	ECC utilized as many northern air carriers & Fireline personnel as were needed/available. 344 aircraft contracts administered.
		# of Indigenous company contract fire crews.	Fully utilize services of Indigenous company contract fire crews.	12 Indigenous company contract fire crews.
		# of extra fire fighters hired.	Fulfill the demand for extra fire fighters to support local firefighting demands.	224 extra fire fighters hired.
		# of officer training & in-service events for spills, floods, fires, wildlife-human encounters, anthrax, etc.	All regulatory/regional departmental staff are equipped to manage emergency responses.	2 officers were sent to WHART (Wildlife Human Attack Response Training) for wildlife-human encounters.
		# of firefighters who took each type of training.	All regulatory/regional departmental staff are equipped to manage emergency responses.	Basic Fire Behaviour & Firefighter Training (191), Danger Tree Assessment (79), First Aid (51), Chainsaw Level III (44), Emergency Fire Fighter (42), Bear Safety (31), Fire Management (14), & Supervisor Safety (3).

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		Enhanced officer field training.	Field training manual and task book developed.	ECC is currently working on an officer field training manual & task book. We anticipate this work to be completed by December 2026.
Enhance our understanding of climate change-related threats and impacts and support innovative climate change mitigation and adaptation responses.	Engage with the NWT Climate Change Council to provide a forum for information sharing and collaboration to understand, inform, and advance climate change action.	# of council advice/direction addressed &/or actioned.	All recommendations are addressed &/or actioned.	ECC incorporated all advice & feedback from the Climate Change Council on the Risks & Opportunities Assessment, the Independent Evaluation of the Climate Change Strategic Framework, the 2019-23 Climate Change Action Plan, & a request from the NWT Youth Climate Change Committee.
	Continue implementation of the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework and associated action plans.	Complete the review of the 2019-23 Climate Change Action Plan.	All recommendations are addressed &/or actioned.	All recommendations were addressed &/or actioned.
		Complete the 2025-29 Climate Change Action Plan & start implementation.	New action plan is completed & actions are initiated.	Based on feedback on the draft 2025-30 Climate Change Action Plan & other recent public engagement, a new joint GNWT Climate Change & Energy Strategy is being developed.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Strengthen regulatory frameworks for emergency management, create territorial building standards, and improve community hazard mapping and monitoring.	Work with other divisions and departments to develop and compile community hazard information, such as flood maps and geo surficial data, for all NWT communities to inform emergency management and planning, and land administration processes.	# of communities with updated hazard information.	All communities have updated hazard information.	To date, the flood map work has resulted in finalized flood inundation & hazard maps for 4 communities (Hay River & Kátł'odeeche First Nation, Fort Simpson & Aklavik) & draft flood inundation & hazard maps for 2 (Nahanni Butte & Fort Good Hope) communities.

Public Safety

No specific actions under this commitment.

Risks and Mitigation Activities

The following section highlights potential barriers and challenges to the Department fulfilling the GNWT's mandate commitments. While some challenges may be beyond the Department's control, this section will focus on five key issues.

Collaboration and Good Governance

Improving relationships and enhancing coordination and communications with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations related to lands and natural resources is a priority. Collaboration with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations is essential for lands and natural resource initiatives to be successful.

Land Administration

In order to transfer land to communities, community plans, by laws, and surveys are required, which can be an obstacle. Additional uncertainties exist in unsettled regions regarding land selection related to Aboriginal rights negotiations and the potential for extended consultation timelines which delay decision-making. Further challenges include competing land administration priorities (i.e. fire/flood impacted clients versus general applications) and capacity challenges.

Climate Change

As a jurisdiction where climate change is occurring at an accelerated rate, the GNWT continues to prioritize and fund monitoring, adaptation, and mitigation activities. However, given the territory's cold, remote location, and major knowledge and infrastructure gaps, there are a significant number of key actions that will require additional external funding to address. The GNWT continues to work internally and with Indigenous and community government partners to prioritize necessary activities and to secure funding to address these actions from the federal government and other sources.

Wildfire Prevention

Changes to the frequency, duration, and intensity of wildfires associated with climate change have implications for how wildfire management agencies respond and ensure surge capacity is available when needed. Proactive measures are crucial to adapt to the evolving wildfire environment and reassure the public that we are taking steps necessary to keep residents safe. Protecting communities and individual properties safe from wildfire is a shared responsibility, and the Department is working to promote increased uptake of FireSmart activities and a range of other wildfire prevention and mitigation measures by communities and individuals.

Land Use Planning

Regional land use planning needs to consider and balance a range of varied interests, goals, and legislated requirements. Land use planning is a shared responsibility among the GNWT, Indigenous governments, and the Government of Canada. Collaboration and partnerships are essential to effective planning. Working towards achieving an appropriate balance of interests can also be challenging as the planning work can occur concurrently with the negotiation of land claims and the advancement of other land-related initiatives.

GNWT Fiscal Strategy for the 20th Legislative Assembly

The Department is committed to supporting the GNWT's fiscal strategy for the 20th Assembly through strategic cost management and revenue optimization. The Department implemented reduction measures in 2024-25 and 2025-26 and continues to identify additional cost savings opportunities while seeking to increase revenue, where it can, while exploring revenue enhancement through funding agreements and appropriate fee increases.

The Department has successfully adapted its operations to expenditure reductions while maintaining adequate program delivery levels across its mandate areas. The Department leverages existing resources to address operational pressures, with the exception of fire suppression, which typically require supplementary appropriations due to their unpredictable and emergency nature.

The Department has established over 40 cost-shared federal funding agreements that supplement internal GNWT funding for critical departmental work related to wildlife conservation, climate change action, water stewardship, natural disaster risk management, and protected areas development and management. The flexible nature of most agreements allows the Department to carry over unspent funding between fiscal years, reducing reliance on forced growth, new initiatives, or other supplementary funding request. These strategic partnerships enhance the Department's capacity to deliver on mandate commitments while supporting fiscal responsibility and maximizing the value of territorial investments in environmental and climate change programming.

Ongoing support from Canada and other partners is essential to the continued delivery of programming in key areas, including conservation and wildfire suppression.

Human Resource Initiatives

The Department has updated its Human Resources Implementation Plan and departmental Indigenous Employment Plan to guide departmental human resources activities and initiatives. The Department recognizes the importance of maintaining a healthy staff complement and supporting employee well-being through targeted retention, morale, and capacity-building initiatives identified in the Employee Engagement and Satisfaction Survey.

In 2026-27, the Department will continue efforts to remove barriers and bias within the department, increase cultural awareness, and promote workplace diversity. The Department is committed to ensuring that employees are aware of GNWT programs and initiatives that promote diversity and inclusion, as well as mandatory training requirements.

Key human resources priorities include:

- Increasing internal awareness and communications about available resources and training through channels such as the internal staff newsletter.
- Ensuring managers complete training related to diversity, inclusion, unconscious bias, and allyship.
- Strengthening senior management capacity and training as identified through employee engagement feedback.

These initiatives support the Department's commitment to creating an inclusive, supportive workplace that reflects the diversity of the Northwest Territories while building the capacity needed to deliver on the Department's mandate effectively.

Legislative Initiatives

The Department has refocused its legislative priorities and policy development as part of an exercise undertaken midway through the 20th Legislative Assembly. Work planned to be completed in the latter half of this Assembly is shown below:

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
1	<i>Waters Act.</i>	The provisions of the <i>Waters Act</i> (2016) and its associated regulations have remained substantially the same since its enactment in 1992. Potential amendments include changes to modernize the <i>Act</i> , fill gaps, eliminate overlap with other legislation, provide regulatory efficiencies and certainty, and create consistency with other NWT legislation and agreements entered by the GNWT.	To be determined.	To be determined.	ECC is pursuing a phased approach to modernize the <i>Waters Act</i> and its regulations. Phase 1 is dealing with targeted amendments to the Waters Regulations which will be completed prior to initiating work on the <i>Waters Act</i> .

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
2	<i>Environmental Protections Act.</i>	Amendments to the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> (2017) will bring it in line with best practices, gain equivalency under the <i>Canadian Environmental Protection Act</i> , eliminate perceived or existing overlap with other legislation, and provide regulatory clarity and consistency.	To be determined.	To be determined.	Changes to the <i>Act</i> need to be considered alongside amendments to the <i>Waters Act</i> and Waters Regulations to allow for consistency and common principles to be applied to the management and protection of natural resources in the NWT. Legislative amendments are anticipated to be scoped once the <i>Waters Act</i> and Waters Regulations phased amendment approach proceeds.

#	Regulatory initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	Northwest Territories Land Regulations.	Amendments to the Northwest Territories Lands Regulations (under the <i>Northwest Territories Lands Act</i>) to reduce the current lease rent minimum of \$150.00 per year to \$1 (or other nominal amount) specifically for Indigenous lessees with a recreational type of lease in an area where the Indigenous lessee also has an asserted or established Aboriginal or Treaty right to harvest.	ECC is working with the IGCS technical working group to finalize draft regulations. It is anticipated that this will be completed within this reporting period.
2	<i>Public Land Act</i> Regulations.	Regulations are required to bring the <i>Public Land Act</i> into force, passed by the 18th Legislative Assembly. Three new sets of regulations are being developed dealing with public land grants and dispositions, quarry dispositions, and land use permitting in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The IGC is participating under the IGC Legislative Development Protocol.	ECC is working with the IGC technical working group to finalize draft regulations. It is anticipated that this will be completed in the life of the 20th Legislative Assembly.
3	Thaidene Nënë Territorial Protected Area Regulations.	The GNWT has committed to develop more fulsome regulations under the <i>Protected Areas Act</i> for Thaidene Nënë Territorial Protected Area consistent with Establishment Agreements between the GNWT and Łutselk'e Dene First Nation, Deninu K'ue First Nation, and Northwest Territory Métis Nation. The IGC is participating under the IGC Legislative Development Protocol.	ECC is working with the IGCS technical working group to finalize draft regulations. It is anticipated that this will be completed within this reporting period.
4	<i>Water Act Regulations</i> .	Amendment to regulations under the <i>Waters Act</i> to provide regulatory clarity. The IGC is participating under the IGC Legislative Development Protocol.	ECC is pursuing a phased approach to the <i>Waters Act</i> and its regulations, starting with targeted amendment to the Waters Regulations. ECC is working with the IGCS technical working group to review draft regulations.

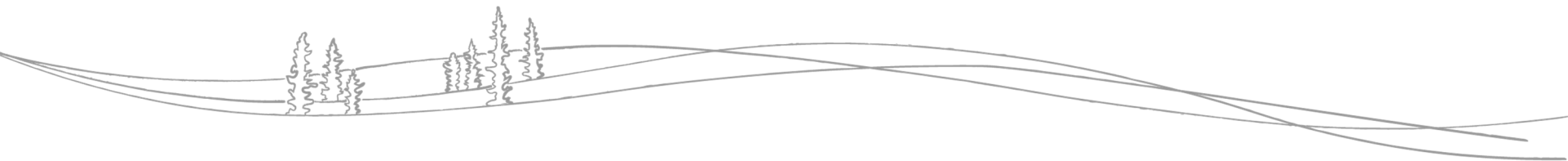
#	Policy initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	Caribou Range Planning.	Regulations may be required under the <i>Species at Risk (NWT) Act</i> to ensure the enforceability of Boreal caribou range plans. Policy analysis needs to be completed.	ECC is in the process of developing 5 range plans for Boreal caribou. Once developed, ECC will determine next steps, including necessary regulations, if required.
2	Outfitter Regime.	ECC is working with co-management partners to review the outfitter regime in the NWT and determine if changes to the Wildlife Business Regulations under the <i>Wildlife Act</i> are necessary. Possible changes include a review of requirements for the issuing of outfitting licences, clarification around the number of licences available for each management zone, and consistency with land claims. If regulatory changes are necessary ECC will invite the <i>Wildlife Act</i> Working Group to participate in the development of the regulations.	ECC is developing policy intensions on how to best improve the NWT outfitter regime.

Evaluation Plan

The Department is committed to work on several Evaluations, some of which are being undertaken during the 20th Legislative Assembly, as follows:

#	Program / Policy Title	Purpose of Evaluation	Trigger	Timeframe	Current Status
1	2 Billion Trees – Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.	Develop monitoring tools to measure program effectiveness.	Internal direction.	7-year monitoring cycle.	Spring of 2026.
2	Evaluation of Barren-Ground Caribou 2019-2024 Monitoring and Management Actions.	To demonstrate program effectiveness and efficiency.	Internal direction.	5-year monitoring cycle.	Spring of 2026.
3	Joint Wolf Management Program; Enhanced North Slave Wolf Harvest Incentive Program.	To determine effectiveness of enhanced wolf management actions from 2019-24.	To substantiate further finding requests.	5-year review.	Work is underway, with completion anticipated in 2026.
4	Recovery Strategy for Barren-Ground Caribou in the NWT 2020.	To determine progress made towards meeting its objectives.	<i>NWT Species at Risk Act.</i>	5-year review.	Anticipated completion 2026.
5	Community Harvester's Assistance Program (CHAP).	To determine effectiveness of changes made, identify gaps in the process, demonstrate a meaningful impact, and provide recommendations for improvement.	Feedback from program users concerns about CHAP's delivery.	5-year reporting cycle.	Anticipated completion 2028.

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2026-27 BUSINESS PLAN
ANNUAL UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF EXECUTIVE
AND INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS

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Departmental Highlights

Federal Engagement with Indigenous Governments

The NWT Council of Leaders continues to deliver a unified message to the federal government on shared priorities. The Northwest Territories (NWT) Council of Leaders travelled to Ottawa in October 2025, for a second year, to participate in meetings with several federal Ministers.

Evacuation After Action Review

The Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs (the Department) was responsible for the coordination of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) provision of information to support the contractor responsible for undertaking the Evacuation After Action Review. This included provision of support to the Oversight Committee.

NWT Policy Position on Arctic Sovereignty and Security

The Department has worked with Indigenous governments (IGs), key academics, the NWT Association of Communities, and the Legislative Assembly to develop a policy position on Arctic Sovereignty and Security that will be tabled and made available to the public in 2026.

Reconciliation Actions

The Department's Gender Equity Division, under the direction of the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, is responsible for monitoring and supporting the implementation of key reconciliation frameworks such as the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action, the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Calls for Justice, the National Action Plan to End Gender Based Violence, and the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

Non-Governmental Organization Stabilization

The Department is responsible for leading GNWT-wide efforts to improve relationships with Non-Government Organizations (NGOs) to ensure sustainability of a multi partner system of support for residents.

Indigenous Engagement Approach

The Department will update the Respect, Recognition and Responsibility (RRR) framework and specifically the GNWT's Indigenous Engagement Approach. RRR was finalized in 2012 and will benefit from a refreshed approach to ensure alignment with current processes and conventions. This will be a collaborative effort among departments and IGs.

OneGov Project

During the life of the 20th Assembly, the Department will develop, build, and launch a new and improved GNWT web presence. This project will consolidate 10 core departmental websites, the GNWT Flagship website, and 8 smaller specialty/marketing sites into a unified platform.

The primary goal of the OneGov project is to enhance user experience by creating a more streamlined and accessible web presence that simplifies access to government services and information. The website will serve as a central hub, reducing redundancy and improving the ease of content management. The project aims to improve the public's ability to access services and find and use government information and resources efficiently.

Communications Functional Review

The Department is reviewing the GNWT's communications function to assess the policy, processes, and management of the function to ensure alignment with contemporary public sector best practices and professional excellence. The review project will consider several key areas, including policy congruency, operational efficiency, strategic management, and resource alignment, to determine how well the communications function meets the organization's needs and ensures that it can respond nimbly to everyday communications needs and emergent situations.

Intergovernmental Council Review

The Intergovernmental Council Secretariat will be coordinating with Intergovernmental Council Indigenous Governments to advance the 7-year review of the 2014 NWT Intergovernmental Agreement on Lands and Resources Management.

Healthcare System Sustainability

The Department is responsible for undertaking a review of the health and social services system in a manner that will ensure fiscal sustainability and operational efficiency of service delivery in the NWT while assuring high levels of service are maintained. This work will be undertaken in close collaboration with Health and Social Services (HSS) and the Health and Social Services Authorities (HSSAs).

Supporting the 20th Legislative Assembly

Healthcare System Sustainability

To support the mandate commitment to steward fiscal health and sustainability of the GNWT through ongoing efforts to increase revenues, reduce expenditures, and ensure every public dollar spent serves the needs of residents and communities, the Premier announced the establishment of a new Healthcare System Sustainability (HCSS) Unit within the Department on July 15, 2024. This unit will analyze what healthcare and social services should be 'core' to the NWT and begin determining how they can be delivered in a fiscally sustainable and operationally efficient manner, while preserving the quality of healthcare and social services for NWT residents.

However, given health and social services system sustainability is within the mandate of the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS), the details of the Unit's work are coordinated closely with DHSS and the HSSAs. Therefore, this detail is also included in the Business Plan 2026-27 Annual Update for DHSS.

Homelessness Strategy

The Department has implemented Standing Committee's request to realign all measures within the Department's business plan to match the measures laid out in the Homelessness Strategy and provide further information as part of update the 2025-26 Business Plan accordingly.

Housing NWT (HNWT) now serves as the coordinating agency for the GNWT homelessness strategy, and the Department continues to lead 6 of the 9 strategic actions identified in the Strategy. These include establishing a whole-of-government approach; addressing policies that create barriers to housing and strengthening policy efforts to address and prevent homelessness; improving data collection; establishing functional zero goals for all communities; and supporting community partnerships. The Department is also in the process of transitioning leadership for 2 additional actions, ensuring shelter services have appropriate resources and increasing supportive and transitional housing, to HNWT.

Of the remaining 2 strategic goals, HNWT is responsible for increasing the stock of affordable housing, while the DHSS leads efforts to improve access to mental wellness and addictions recovery services.

Service Integration

The Department is implementing 5 Integrated Service Teams across the NWT. These teams will initially focus on addressing homelessness, with the potential to expand to other programs and services over time. Monitoring and evaluation of the initiative will be undertaken to ensure that the GNWT is making informed decisions as the initiative evolves. In support of greater service integration, the Department will also reorganize its internal structure to bring One Window service centres and Government Service Officers under the same organizational umbrella, creating opportunities for enhanced coordination and accessibility.

Strengthening the Non-Profit and Charitable Sector

The Department will address the recommendations of the Strengthening the Non-Profit and Charitable Sector External Advisory Committee Final Report during the life of this government.

In January 2025, the Department began a new initiative to address the recommendations through interdepartmental collaboration and meaningful engagement with NGOs and non-profit organizations. The Department is leading efforts to improve GNWT processes and planning to increase effective collaboration with the sector to support fiscal stability and sustainability, and program and service delivery effectiveness. This includes strengthening policy efforts, supporting consistent application of established and new directives, and co-leading the development of an Emergency Social Support Framework with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA).

Mandate Commitments

Collaborative Governance

The GNWT's relationship with Indigenous governments is integral to the future prosperity of the NWT and the following commitments will guide the implementation of the Mandate across all Priorities.

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Collaborate with Indigenous governments and residents to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).	Work across government and collaborate with Indigenous governments to co-develop the Action Plan that is required by UNDRIPIA.	Departments will provide items, regulations, policies, & legislation that will be considered for inclusion in the Action Plan.	Table final Action Plan by deadline of March 2026.	Departments have provided action items & are now considering action items proposed by IGs.
		Develop second UNDRIP Action Plan Committee Annual Report.	Table final UNDRIP Action Plan Committee Annual Report by end of fiscal 2025-26.	EIA is working with the Action Plan Committee on compiling the list of action items to be included in the plan. Development of final UNDRIP Action Plan Committee Annual report in progress.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Strengthen government-to-government relationships with Indigenous governments and work in partnership to jointly engage the federal government to advance issues of shared interest.	EIA will coordinate with Indigenous governments to identify or confirm shared priorities for engagement with the federal government.	Identification of multilateral & bilateral shared interests.	Conduct joint federal engagement Meeting with IGs in accordance with Intergovernmental MOUs within the NWT Council of Leaders for Fall 2024.	The NWT Council of Leaders conducted joint federal engagement with federal Ministers in Ottawa October 2025.
	EIA will coordinate and track commitments from bilateral meetings facilitating government-to-government relations.	Commitments tracked from bilateral meetings.	Meetings with IGs in accordance with Intergovernmental MOUs.	5 of 11 bilateral meetings occurred in Spring of 2025 with the remainder to be completed in Fall 2025.
Work with negotiation partners to advance, settle, and implement land claim, self-government and other Indigenous rights agreements.	EIA, working with departments, will review the GNWT Principles and Interests (for negotiations) to explore possible updates.	Develop a workplan & timeline for the review of GNWT Principles & Interests.	Work plan & timeline completed by end of fiscal 2025-26.	EIA is preparing for coordination of internal review of GNWT Principles & Interests by end of fiscal 2025-26.
Explore options to support Economic Reconciliation through more flexible and streamlined funding arrangements with Indigenous governments.	EIA will support departments to work with interested Indigenous governments to streamline funding arrangements such as contribution agreements. Identify number of grants and contributions by department and Indigenous governments and organizations.	# of funding agreements.	Support departments to put in place streamlined funding arrangements, as appropriate, by March 31, 2026.	A HSS focused working group has formed & discussed an approach to streamlined funding arrangements with the Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government. The funding agreement is expected to be finalized in 2025-26.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Continue implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry Calls to Justice.	EIA will continue to implement the “Changing the Relationship: The GNWT’s Action Plan to Respond to the Calls to Justice on Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+”.	Creation of the MMIWG Advisory Committee.	Installation of Advisory Committee.	IGs are still determining representatives on this Advisory Committee, but it was decided to proceed with the first meeting.
		Annual reports.	Complete report annually on implementation of the MMIWG Action Plan.	The Advisory Committee held their first meeting in July 2025. A second follow up meeting was held in September 2025. All annual reports to date are complete. The 2024-25 Annual Report was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in Fall 2025 & posted on the GNWT website. All actions identified in the current Action Plan have been initiated or completed by the GNWT.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	In response to Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #82, complete a residential school monument in the capital city.	Monument construction completed.	Monument construction completed by end of 2026-27.	<p>The We Always Remember (WAR) Circle, a Residential School Survivor organization, is guiding this project with the GNWT providing project management.</p> <p>A site for the monument was chosen in Somba K'e park. City of Yellowknife has agreed to the site & a user agreement is being developed.</p> <p>A Request for Qualifications seeking artist design concepts closed in October 2025.</p>

To best support the delivery of programs and services to our residents and the dedicated public servants who deliver those programs, the following commitments will guide the implementation of the mandate across all Priorities:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Make programs and services more accessible and integrated through enhanced collaboration across government.	Increased collaboration between front-line staff, including co-location where possible.	Establishment of an ADM oversight committee to guide cross-departmental collaboration & integration efforts.	ADM oversight committee established & operational by end of fiscal year 2025-26.	EIA established the Governance & Service & Integration (GSI) ADM Committee in 2025, providing senior oversight & direction on collaboration & integration initiatives.
		Establishment of Coordinators to support Service Integration Teams.	Hire regional coordinators by end of fiscal 2025-26.	Coordinator positions established & hiring process underway.
	Development of information and data sharing agreements across GNWT departments and agencies.	Development of common consent process for service integration.	Training & implementation of common consent form for front-line staff in Service Integration Team communities by end of fiscal 2025-26.	Draft common consent form & accompanying MOU developed. Training plan & communication tools for new common consent form under development.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Implement approaches to design programs and services in ways that promote and the support self reliance and resiliency of residents.	Lead GNWT efforts to support NGOs to secure sustainable, multi-year funding by providing support and guidance in funding submissions to the federal government, private industry, and charitable organizations.	Dedicated GNWT staff to lead efforts to support NGOs.	Senior Advisor staffed & trained December 2024.	Position staffed & trained February 2025.
	Improve data collection and sharing across the GNWT to support evidence-based programing.	Establish information sharing agreements between departments & agencies to better share data.	2 information sharing agreements are completed by end of fiscal 2025-26.	2 NGOs have completed information sharing agreements.
		Customizable databases for program operations & reporting are available for partners.	5 service integration sites are using databases for program operations by March 2027.	2 NGOs are using databases for program operations.
	Liaise between NGOs and Indigenous governments to support partnerships in funding submissions where common interests are identified.	# of partnerships facilitated between NGOs & IGs.	Increase awareness of program delivery & funding resources among NGOs & IGs to enhance opportunities for collaboration.	Yellowknife Partnership forum held May 2025. Service Integration Workshops with GNWT, IGs, municipalities, & NGOs held in Inuvik & Hay River Spring 2025. Engaged with CIRNAC to seek potential funding for Indigenous partners.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Steward the fiscal health and sustainability of the GNWT through ongoing efforts to increase revenues, reduce expenditures, and ensure every public dollar spent serves the needs of residents and communities.	EIA will regularly review its expenditures to identify savings in travel, contract services, purchased services, compensation and benefits, and fees.	Reduced expenditures.	Develop a continuous improvement cycle.	GED monitoring federal budgets & initiatives to help facilitate mandate work & priorities.
	Define and communicate core programs and services for health and social services to inform prioritized service delivery within limited resources.	Define core programs & services for delivery within the health & social services system.	Establishment of the Healthcare System Sustainability (HCSS) Unit (EIA Led).	Completed. The HCSS Unit was established in July 2024 & substantially staffed as of March 2025. A project charter & monitoring & evaluation plan were developed to guide the scope of the Unit's work.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
			Clarified roles & responsibilities with HSS & HSSAs as it relates to defining core programs & services within HSS's mandate letter. (EIA/HSS Co-Led)	<p>In progress.</p> <p>The HCSS Unit takes a coordinated effort to improve operational efficiency & sustainability of the HSS system. A dedicated Project Team, comprising of representatives from the HCSS Unit, DHSS, & HSSAs has been established to guide this work. Next step is to finalize a consolidated workplan that outlines key activities & timelines.</p>
			Establish a core HSS inventory (EIA Led).	<p>In progress.</p> <p>Preliminary Analysis completed spring 2025 which includes an inventory of programs & services currently offered in the NWT. Next step is to conduct analysis that will lead to a core HSS inventory.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Empower the public service by ensuring they are provided the flexibility to deliver programs and implement policies in ways that best serve residents.	EIA will establish a strategy and governance model for the delivery of integrated services across government.	Employees are more aware of the impacts of their policy decisions on other areas of government.	Develop a continuous improvement cycle related to a sustainable HSS system (EIA Led).	Not yet started. Scheduled for completion in August 2026.
			Strategy & Governance model established Feb 2025.	Governance model & service integration roadmap established & implemented for GSI ADM Committee.
			ADM Committee created to oversee integration efforts June 2024.	ADM Committee established.
	Provide training to service providers on person-centred service delivery, service integration, and privacy and information sharing.	# of trainings provided.	3 in-person training sessions per community (Hay River, Inuvik, Fort Simpson, Behchokò, & Yellowknife) for a total of 15 sessions.	A total of 9 service integration & barrier reduction training sessions were held during Spring/Fall 2025. These included: Hay River (2), Inuvik (2), Fort Simpson (1), Behchokò (1), & Yellowknife (3).
		# of service providers attending training.	Staff from all social envelope departments & agencies with frontline staff located in any of the 5 designated sites.	115 service providers have attended training sessions conducted in the spring/fall 2025. All social envelope departments have had representation in all sessions.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Honour the GNWT's commitments to openness, transparency, and accountability by engaging with our partners, the public, and the public service on decisions that affect their lives.	Work across government to ensure that all departments are including awareness and consideration of technology into the policy and program planning at the earliest opportunity.	IT systems & policy considerations are included in the development of project plans/charters & considered as a factor in resourcing & financing projects.	Department project plans/project charters include considerations of IT systems & resources by end of 2025-26.	Project plans & charters have been updated to include IT systems & resources considerations.
	Continue implementation of Open Government Policy.	Departments adherence to Open Data Directive, Proactive Disclosure Directive, & Public Engagement Guidelines.	Provide ongoing support to departments in release of data, information, & regarding engagement with the public.	Resources have been made available to GNWT staff & training is offered, as required.

Housing

To improve the suitability, accessibility, and affordability of housing options in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Increase housing availability for all residents by working with partners to address gaps in the northern housing continuum including more transitional and supportive living options.	Work with partners to ensure accurate data is available to support actions to address homelessness.	On-going data collection in place to assess regional specific needs & gaps; & use data to address gaps & create efficiencies with current services.	4 integrated teams focused on homelessness using databases & community level data for program operations March 2027.	<p>Draft data sharing agreement, common consent form, & supporting MOU under review.</p> <p>Platform for data collection for service integration teams under development for January 2026 launch.</p> <p>2 Coordinated Access Workshops with Canadian Alliance to End Homelessness held in Spring 2025.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Establish a continuous mechanism to allow for ongoing and accurate decision making related to services and supports for homelessness.	Housing & shelter needs & program gaps in capacity identified for each community.	Integrated teams working through a coordinated systems approach.	<p>In-person sessions to identify needs & gaps held in Yellowknife, Inuvik, & Hay River in Spring 2025. Sessions held in Behchokò in Fall 2025.</p> <p>Service Integration Teams in co-design phase, launch date set for January 2026.</p>
	Establish inter-agency tables to coordinate information sharing and service delivery related to homelessness.	# of community partners included in service integration development & trainings.	Functional Zero goals for all communities with integration teams focused on homelessness.	<p>Regional Partnership Forum held in Yellowknife May 2025. Engagements in Inuvik & Hay River held in Spring 2025. Plan for engagement in Fort Simpson & Behchokò in Fall 2025.</p> <p>Regional Partnership Committee & working groups established in Yellowknife.</p> <p>Discussing service integration & potential service integration partnership in Behchokò with Tłıchq Government.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Collaborate across departments and with partners to support vulnerable residents, prevent and reduce homelessness, and encourage self-sufficiency.	Implement the Homelessness Strategy A Way Home: A Comprehensive Strategy to Address Homelessness in the Northwest Territories.	Establish 4 integrated teams focused on homelessness across the territory.	4 integrated teams focused on homelessness created by March 2027. Partnership Committees developed & meeting regularly March 2027.	Yellowknife Partnership Forum held May 2025 & planned for November 2025. Coordinated Access workshops held spring 2025. Service integration teams in co-design phase, with launch date of January 2026.
		Develop Partnership Committees in integrated teams' locations.	Partnership committees developed in 2025.	Yellowknife Partnership Forum held May 2025, next forum planned for November 2025. Initial partnership forums held in Inuvik & Hay River Spring of 2025. Planned for Fort Simpson & Behchokò in Fall 2025.
		Develop Functional Zero goals for all communities.	Functional Zero goals for all communities with integrated teams March 2027.	Initial functional Zero workshops held in Yellowknife, Inuvik, & Hay River in Spring of 2025, planned for Fort Simpson & Behchokò Fall of 2025.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Work with Indigenous, federal, and community governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to secure sustainable funding for housing now and into the future.	EIA will support other departments and agencies to attract federal funding opportunities in support of homelessness and the northern housing continuum.	Identification of funding opportunities.	Creation of repository of funding opportunities available.	Collaboration with HNWT, ECE, & HSS has been consistent.
	Support NWT Housing in the coordination of the NWT Housing forum.	Service integration discussions included in Housing Forum.	Enhanced relationship with federal government departments through federal engagement approach. GSI Unit Participation at Housing Forum.	Secured federal funding through Housing Infrastructure & Communities Canada for 2024-25 & 2025-26. Presentation on service integration at 2025 NWT Housing Forum.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Encourage private investment in housing by reducing administrative and regulatory barriers to housing development, and by implementing clear processes to increase the amount of land available for housing development in communities.	Complete land claim and self-government negotiations.	Status of land claim & self-government negotiations.	Completed land claim & self-government agreements.	Tłegòhtł Got'jné Final Self-Government Agreement has been finalized & is pending ratification. Negotiations with IGs for land claim & self-government agreements are ongoing.
	Work across GNWT departments to identify the regionally specific issues preventing land availability for housing.	Completion of interdepartmental assessment identifying regionally specific issues affecting land availability for housing.	EIA, MACA, & HNWT agree on the key issues affecting land availability & jointly engage municipal authorities to validate & prioritize these issues by end of 2025-26.	Engagement with City of Yellowknife, Yellowknife developers, & NRCAN has been completed. Service integration & functional zero discussion in Inuvik in December 2024. Similar engagement in Fort Simpson during Winter 2025 & Hay River in Spring 2025. Engagement with Tłıchq Government to discuss service integration & potential development of a service integration partnership in Behchokò.

Economy

To strengthen the economic foundation of the NWT, the GNWT will support the development of the private sector and community capacity, encourage a diversity of economic activity across sectors, and reduce the cost of doing business in the NWT. We will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Increase investment certainty and create opportunities for the private sector by streamlining administrative processes, and ensuring regulatory systems and decision-making are consistent, efficient, and predictable.	Implement the provisions of Land Claim and Self-Government agreements, providing certainty to land ownership and the regulatory process.	Increased # of settled Land Claim & Self-Government Agreements.	Resolution of Aboriginal rights agreements in the NWT.	Negotiations with IGs for land claim & self-government agreements are ongoing.
	EIA will work with departments and IGs to explore ways to make projects more efficient and viable.	EIA will hold regular meetings with departments & IGC governments on lands & resource related legislation through technical working groups.	32 TWG meetings annually; 1 leadership meeting annually; 11 IGCS (or IGCS WG) meetings annually.	32 IGCS TWG meetings were held. 8 IGCS plenary meetings were held per month plus 3 IGCS working group meetings. 1 IGC leadership meeting was held November 6, 2025.
		# of IGCs & Territorial Working Group (TWG) meetings.	32 TWG meetings annually.	6 legislative initiatives are currently underway at IGCs TWGs, with 1-2 more still to be initiated.
				32 legislative initiatives TWG meetings held.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		EIA will be coordinating with IGC IGs to advance the 7-year review of the 2014 NWT Intergovernmental Agreement on Lands & Resources Management.	Recommendations that will improve the operations of the IGC.	An internal IGCS committee & Terms of Reference for the review has been established. The internal IGCS committee meets regularly to advance the review.
Leverage federal funding to close the infrastructure gap through investments in green power generation and transmission, transportation and communications networks.	EIA will bring federal and Indigenous government partners together to advance collaboration related to major infrastructure projects.	# of meetings between IGs, the GNWT, & the federal government.	A federal system that works with NWT Council of Leaders on an ongoing basis.	<p>The NWT Council of Leaders participated in: 2024 - plenary meetings with 10 federal Ministers. 2025 - plenary meetings with 11 federal Ministers or Parliamentary Secretaries.</p> <p>Additionally, there was a trilateral health meeting with COL in Yellowknife, 4 sets of meetings specifically on health-related issues & in each year there were side meetings booked or supported by the GNWT at the officials or leadership level.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Encourage a diverse range of economic activities by promoting entrepreneurship, fostering research and innovation, building strong partnerships and leveraging opportunities in all regions.	Work with other GNWT departments and other governments to ensure the Economic Measures provisions of finalized Land Claim Agreements are implemented.	# of meetings to discuss Economic Measures.	Implementation of the Economic Measures chapters of settled Agreements.	<p>Held several meetings with Modern Treaty Holder Governments to review the Implementation of their Economic Measures Chapters, including: the IFA-Interdepartmental Coordinating Committee, April 2025 & August 2025; 3 Gwich'in Implementation Committee Meetings, November 2024, April 2025 & September 2025; & 2 Tlicho Implementation Committee Meetings, May 2025 & September 2025.</p> <p>Discussions on economic measures/reviews have not occurred at the last several Sahtu Implementation Committee meetings.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Support communities to realize economic opportunities by enhancing their ability to access and manage lands within their boundaries.	Work across GNWT departments to identify regionally specific issues preventing land availability.	Identification of issues. Land availability within community boundaries.	Increased land availability within community boundaries across the NWT.	<p>Discussions continue between negotiations, MACA, & ECC about how to approach different facets of this.</p> <p>The issue is dependent on the status of land claim negotiations & available programs & support that allow local governments the ability to acquire blocks of Public Lands to administer.</p>

Access to health care

To strengthen preventative measures, public awareness and improve access to trauma-informed, culturally appropriate health care, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Improve medical travel and out-of-territory care, with a focus on clinical coordination and cultural safety.	Support Health and Social Services and Council of Leaders in working with the federal government to renew the approach to non-insured health benefits.	Amount of medical travel & other non-insured health benefits that are reimbursed.	Full costs of medical travel & other non-insured health benefits are reimbursed.	The NWTCOL has been working with HSS on advocating to Canada on the renewed approach to NIHB. This was also discussed during NWTCOL meetings with various federal Ministers in Ottawa in October 2025.
	Work with Indigenous governments to advocate for the federal government to expand non-insured health benefits coverage to include Métis.	Métis receive non-insured health benefits from the Government of Canada.	Métis receive non-insured health benefits from the Government of Canada.	The NWTCOL has been working with HSS on advocating to Canada on the renewed approach to NIHB. This was also discussed during NWTCOL meetings with various federal Ministers in Ottawa in October 2025.

Address the effects of trauma

To prevent, interrupt and address the effects of trauma, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that policies and programs are designed and renewed with a trauma-informed, anti-racist and cultural safety lens that is informed by residents.	EIA will support the ongoing review of GNWT legislation through <i>UNDRIPIA</i> working group.	UNDRIPIA action plan. annual reports.	Implementation of UNDRIPIA.	Departments have proposed a list of legislation to be reviewed as part of the UNDRIPIA action plan. IGOs, through the Action Planning Committee (APC), have also begun to propose their priorities. The APC meets twice monthly & the GNWT is currently working with IGOs to determine which actions will be included as part of the action plan. The 2nd annual report released in 2025.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Support Indigenous governments and other partners to develop and deliver culturally appropriate, northern and regional trauma treatment, mental wellness and addictions programming by removing administrative barriers and streamlining supports.	Identify barriers to service access.	Development of common consent forms & information sharing agreements.	Integrated teams using common consent forms & information sharing agreements March 2026.	Common consent form, information sharing agreement, & MOU for use under development. Drafts reviewed during training by frontline staff in regions for feedback.
	Identify resources required to improve outreach and supports.	An approach to improve efficiencies & a plan for integrated teams.	Address administrative barriers to the delivery of culturally appropriate mental wellness programming.	Service integration teams established & operational by January 2026. NGO Stabilization Fund & Anti-Poverty Fund transferred to EIA. EIA administered both funds for 2025-26. Engagement with NGOs & both Indigenous & Community Governments on both funds occurred in summer 2025. A What We Heard Report with results released in early Fall 2025.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Implement standardized tools to ensure continuity of care.	A suite of common tools for use by integrated teams.	Integrated teams using standardized tools & processes March 2026.	Structure, processes, & tools for service integration teams in co-design phase. Finalization of tools, processes, & launch of teams in January 2026.
Enable residents to focus on healing by making programs and services easier to access through an integrated and person-centered service delivery approach and by working in collaboration with Indigenous governments, community governments and other partners.	Implement Integrated Services with a focus on Homelessness. Work with partners to co-develop approaches to achieve integrated and person-centered services.	Establish 4 integrated teams focused on homelessness across the territory.	4 integrated teams focused on homelessness created by March 2027.	Structure, processes, & tools for service integration teams in co-design phase. Finalization of tools, processes, & launch of teams in January 2026.
		Regional engagement with partners.	Partnership Committees developed & meeting regularly March 2027.	Yellowknife forum held May 2025, next planned for November 2025. Initial partnership forums held in Inuvik & Hay River Spring 2025, planned for Fort Simpson & Behchokò Fall 2025.
		Develop Functional Zero goals for all communities.	Functional Zero goals developed for all communities with integrated teams by March 2027.	Initial Functional Zero conversations held in Yellowknife, Inuvik & Hay River in Spring 2025. Discussions planned for Fort Simpson & Behchokò in Fall 2025.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		Development of a coordinated systems approach.	Coordinated systems approach developed by September 2025.	Discussion occurring with Federal Government on opportunities to consolidate to 1 data collection system.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Encourage community wellness and self-determination by supporting the development and delivery of community-based wellness programs to address mental wellness, prevention, early intervention, and holistic health.	The Gender Equity Division (GED) within EIA, under the direction of the Minister Responsible for the Status of Women, to facilitate the provision of federal Women and Gender Equality Canada funding to GNWT departments to support actions aligned with the National Action Plan to end Gender-Based Violence (NAP GBV).	Funds distributed to departments to support actions aligned with the NAP GBV.	Departments have funds to deliver programs that support actions aligned with the NAP GBV.	All GNWT departments have fully implemented NAP GBV 2023-24 implementation plans. The NAP GBV total annual budget is \$4,118,000 with 90% of the funding flowing directly to communities & 10% for GNWT administrative costs. Supporting over 12,000 NWT residents, to date. The GED within EIA is leading the implementation of the strategic framework to address family violence “Reclaiming the Capable Person: We Are All Capable Persons When We Have Community”. Updates to Family Violence Interdepartmental Working group (FVIWG) TOR & new Action Plan by June 2026 & the first annual report completed by the end of fiscal 2026-27.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Financially contributing to Indigenous Governments and Non-Profit Organizations in gender-based violence prevention and awareness activities.	Funds distributed to IGs & non-profit organizations to support actions to address gender-based violence prevention & awareness activities.	Indigenous-led gender-based violence prevention & awareness projects funded.	IGs & Non-Profit Organizations have been funded to end Gender Based Violence by delivering prevention & awareness programs, within the NWT.

Emergency Management

To enhance the safety of residents and communities, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that emergency management and preparedness initiatives strengthen our capacity to respond to more frequent and severe climate-driven disasters and other emergencies.	Coordination of the Wildfire Evacuation After Action Review 2023 Fire Season.	The Review Report of the Wildfire Evacuation After Action Review 2023 Fire Season.	Recommendations that improve the GNWTs preparedness & response to climate driven disasters & other emergencies.	The final report was made public in May 2025. The GNWT prepared formal responses during summer 2025. This process included reviewing each recommendation, assessing potential changes, & developing a coordinated, whole-of-government action plan.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Confirm an intergovernmental communication approach to emergencies with Indigenous governments.	Establishment of communications approach.	Communications Protocol with IGs by Spring 2024.	<p>EIA developed an intergovernmental communication protocol on emergency response with IGs through the NWTCOL during the spring of 2024-25. The protocol was implemented during the 2024 wildfire season.</p> <p>A bilateral government to government communications protocol was also developed & put into place with the Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government.</p>
Invest in robust and redundant community, energy, telecommunications and transportation infrastructure.	Advocate for a new approach to federal investment in major infrastructure projects in the Northwest Territories.	Federal commitments or clarification in writing with funding responses that match needs.	A defined policy approach from the federal government.	Intergovernmental work including letters & a meeting with NWT Council of Leaders in Ottawa has taken place as well as work to share messaging on the importance of this approach within the federal public service, in addition to with leadership.

Public Safety

To promote the safety of residents and communities in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Focus on crime prevention through collaborative efforts at early intervention, integrated and person-centered service delivery, and community driven solutions.	Identify barriers to service access that address root causes of crime.	Data collection related to root causes of crime collected at integrated team locations & services to support reintegration & crime prevention at integrated team locations.	Begin collecting data in early 2026, as integration service teams are operational.	Data collection platform for service integration teams under development.
		Services teams identify barriers to reintegration & crime prevention efforts at integrated team locations.	Service integration teams begin to address identified barriers by end of fiscal 2025-26.	In progress.
Enhance public education and awareness of drugs and alcohol and their connection to crime in the NWT.	Provide One Window Service Centres with resources and support to enhance public education and awareness.	Resources provided for public distribution.	Increased access to educational materials.	In progress.

Risks and Mitigation Activities

Unsettled Land and Resource Claims

Unsettled land and resource claims in the NWT present ongoing complexities that can influence economic development and regional planning. The Department mitigates these risks by actively participating in land claim and self-government negotiation tables and strengthening intergovernmental relationships with IGs; federal, provincial, and territorial partners; and NWT communities. Through this work, the Department helps advance progress toward settled agreements, reduced uncertainty, and a supportive environment that is conducive to long-term economic stability and growth.

Corporate Communications

The evolving expectations of residents and stakeholders for timely, clear, and accessible government information present challenges for maintaining consistent and effective corporate communications. As information needs grow and shift across digital platforms, there is a risk that outdated tools or approaches may limit the public's ability to easily access and understand government programs, services, and initiatives.

The Department mitigates this risk by modernizing the GNWT's corporate communications approach, including enhancing the Government's web presence through the One Gov project, improving digital platforms and tools, and strengthening coordination of communications across departments. Corporate communications also provide oversight and advisory services on emerging risks around communication tools or platforms and works to ensure ongoing alignment with good practices to maintain reliability of access. Efforts are also made to ensure communication channels - in-person, in-venue, radio, and print - are maintained so that we are not a digital-only communication function even if digital-first is the general approach.

These efforts support more transparent, accessible, and responsive information-sharing with the public and ensure that GNWT communications keep pace with modern standards, while maintaining practices that service information to residents regardless of technology participation or uptake.

Health System Sustainability

Increasing cost pressures and rising demand for programs and services require efforts to manage expenditure growth and maximize the return on HSS system investments. These pressures are resulting in an affordability challenge for both the HSS system and the GNWT overall. There is a heavy reliance on third-party funding to support system sustainability initiatives and capacity is challenged.

Cost pressures within the system are also intended to be mitigated, in part, by the work being undertaken by the Healthcare System Sustainability (HCSS) Unit established within the Department. In its mandate to define core health and social services for the NWT, including insured services,

the Unit is undertaking a review of the HSS system that will explore options to improve sustainability and efficiency across the system while protecting access to essential care. How the outcome of this work will mitigate cost pressures will depend on the decisions made about the core health and social services that will be provided within the NWT.

GNWT Fiscal Strategy for the 20th Legislative Assembly

No changes are required to this section.

Human Resource Initiatives

No changes are required to this section.

Legislative Initiatives

The Department has refocused its legislative priorities and policy development as part of an exercise undertaken midway through the 20th Legislative Assembly. Work planned to be completed in the latter half of this Assembly is shown below:

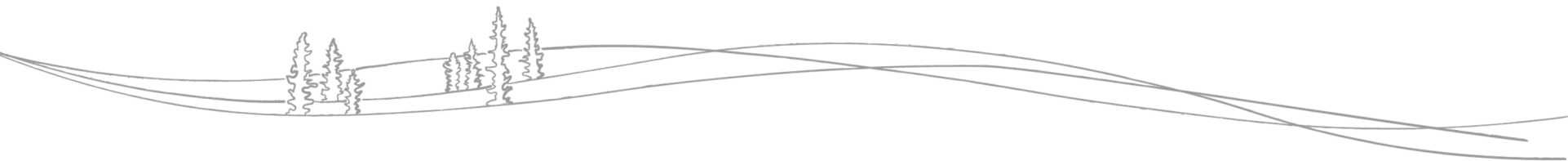
#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
1	<i>Tłegòhlj Got'jné Final Self-Government Agreement Act.</i>	The proposed <i>Act</i> is required to give legal effect to the FSGA in the NWT.	Target November 2025.	February - March 2026.	LP submitted for Standing Committee Review.
2	<i>Athabasca Denesuline (AD) and Ghotelnene K'odtineh Denesųłine Benene (GKD) Agreements Act.</i>	Legislation is required to give legal effect to consequential amendments required in relation to these Agreements in the NWT.	TBD.	TBD.	In Progress.

#	Policy initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	Integrated Service Delivery.	Needs assessment & analysis, stakeholder engagement & partnership building, policy & legal framework development, information sharing & technology integration, service design & standardization, training & capacity building, monitoring & evaluation, communication & outreach, risk management & contingency planning, sustainability, & scalability.	In Progress.
2	Review of negotiating principles & interests.	Discussion of negotiating principles & interests by Cabinet to confirm whether any updates or changes are required.	In Progress.
3	Federal engagement approach.	Finalization of federal engagement approach across departments & with Indigenous governments, using mandate.	Approach was developed & implementation is ongoing.
4	Indigenous Engagement. Strategy.	Update of GNWT approach to engaging & working with Indigenous governments & people.	In Progress.
5	UNDRIPIA Action Plan.	Commitment of UNDRIPIA work with IGs.	In Progress.
6	Shelter Policy.	Develop a policy framework that provides structure & standards regarding contribution agreements & expectation in service delivery when the GNWT or its contracted providers of shelter services.	In Progress.
7	GNWT Service Partner Policy – NGO.	Develop an overarching policy framework for GNWT service delivery through NGOs to establish consistent standards & requirements for funding & oversight aligned with community needs.	In Progress.
8	Transitional Housing Policy.	Develop a policy framework that provides directive & standard in contribution agreements & expectation in service delivery when GNWT or its contracted providers interact with those transitioning into permanent housing.	In Progress.

Evaluation Plan

The Department is committed to work on several Evaluations, some of which are being undertaken during the 20th Legislative Assembly, as follows:

#	Program / Policy Title	Purpose of Evaluation	Trigger	Timeframe	Current Status
1	Healthcare System Sustainability (EIA Lead).	Assess the approach & effectiveness of the Healthcare System Sustainability Unit in meeting its mandate to define core health & social services, including insured services, that should be delivered for the NWT.	Completion of the Healthcare System Sustainability Unit's monitoring & evaluation plan.	Target completion September 2027.	First annual Performance Monitoring Plan report for the Unit's activities as of June 2025.



2026-27 BUSINESS PLAN
ANNUAL UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE

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Departmental Highlights

Fiscal Sustainability Strategy

The Department led implementation of the GNWT's fiscal sustainability strategy, Restoring Balance: A Fiscal Sustainability Plan for the 20th Legislative Assembly. Introduced at the outset of the 20th Assembly, the plan was designed to guide efforts toward long-term fiscal sustainability by promoting a balanced approach to increasing revenues and managing expenditures without compromising essential programs and services. In light of evolving fiscal pressures, investment priorities, and limited opportunities for expenditure reductions, the fiscal targets established under Restoring Balance are no longer achievable as originally envisioned. As a result, the 2026–27 budget reflects a revised fiscal strategy that removes the debt reduction targets. Throughout 2026–27, the Department will continue to collaborate with departments to support the achievement of mandate commitments while advancing operational efficiencies and reducing red tape and duplication.

Internet Subsidy for the North

On January 16, 2025, the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) announced a ground-breaking decision to introduce a universal subsidy for internet services in the North. This decision marks a pivotal moment in our journey towards digital equity, ensuring that every household in the Northwest Territories (NWT) can access affordable internet services. This subsidy will ultimately help bridge the gap between the high cost of internet in the NWT and the more affordable rates enjoyed by our southern counterparts.

Civic Addressing

The NWT Centre for Geomatics continues to collaborate with the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) to support community addressing efforts and create addressing using geospatial information, to support land-use planning and emergency management and response across the NWT. While progress has been slow given the amount of community engagement required, Tulita has completed their address validation and the RCMP have signaled interest in helping conduct validation in Fort Good Hope. This work is highly dependent on community availability and readiness.

Psychological Health and Safety

The Human Resource Branch is in the process of formalizing a plan to implement the National Standard for Psychological Health and Safety to help prevent psychological harm and promote employees' psychological health and well-being. This work is anticipated to be completed end of fiscal 2026-27.

Implementation of the Indigenous Employment Policy

As of April 1, 2025, the Department has implemented a new approach to prioritizing the hiring and career advancement of Indigenous persons. An Indigenous Employment Policy (IEP) replaces the Affirmative Action Policy, with the new IEP ensuring that Indigenous applicants have equitable opportunities for employment and career advancement within the public service. The IEP establishes preferred hiring status for Indigenous peoples,

with primary consideration given to those who are recognized members or descendants of First Nations, Métis, or Inuit peoples Indigenous to the present boundaries of the Northwest Territories. Additional consideration is given to Indigenous peoples who are recognized members and descendent of a First Nations, Métis, or Inuit peoples Indigenous to areas of Canada outside of the present boundaries of the Northwest Territories.

Supporting the 20th Legislative Assembly

Indigenous Procurement Policy

The development of an Indigenous Procurement Policy follows the work over the last several years which included a draft definition of an NWT Indigenous Business and draft policy mechanisms that have been shared with Indigenous governments. Supporting this work is the completion of the GNWT procurement review which included the establishment of government procurement principles.

Public engagement was conducted in Spring 2025 and a What We Heard report was released in September 2025. The GNWT is reviewing feedback from this engagement, as well as engagements with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, to determine how it can best support Indigenous participation in government procurement.

Revenue Neutral Carbon Pricing Regime

Effective April 1, 2025, the NWT carbon tax was eliminated on all carbon-based fuel consumption except by the diamond mines. Remaining net revenues retained from carbon pricing are used (notionally) to support and offset costs related to projects that reduce the NWT's greenhouse gas (GHG) footprint or energy costs to residents.

Reducing Technology Service Centre (TSC) chargebacks

The Department is committed to developing a strategy to reduce the cost of technology services delivered through the TSC. This work was completed, and several cost-saving measures were identified and implemented, including reduced duplicate technologies for managing mobile devices; renegotiated long-distance costs including for faxing in healthcare; replaced several boardroom videoconference solutions using existing cost-effective solutions; and supported departments in identifying mobile devices with limited usage. The Department is also looking at replacement of desktop telephones with existing solutions like Teams Phone and more cost-effective internet offerings to support our satellite-reliant communities. However, despite these efforts, significant cost reductions were not achievable due to substantial price increases imposed by external technology vendors and service providers.

These increases were beyond the Department's control and affected the overall cost structure of technology services across government. Nonetheless, the Department's actions helped mitigate further cost increases that would have otherwise been realized. In addition, several duplicate technologies were successfully retired, improving operational efficiency, reducing risk, and lowering future maintenance costs.

While a quantitative savings target could not be set, the strategy has strengthened the Department's understanding of cost drivers and positioned it to better manage technology investments going forward.

Mandate Commitments

Collaborative Governance

The GNWT's relationship with Indigenous governments is integral to the future prosperity of the NWT and the following commitments will guide the implementation of the Mandate across all Priorities.

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Continue implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry Calls to Justice.	Continue to support the delivery of 'Living Well Together,' online training which is mandatory for all GNWT employees.	% of employees who complete Living Well Together training.	90% of employees complete training.	As of September 30, 2025: 78.4% of active employees are enrolled in training. 66.1% of active employees have completed the training.
	Recruitment and training of a public service that is representative of the Indigenous population of the NWT with the cultural competencies required for reconciliation.	All departments & agencies have Indigenous Employment Plans completed with attainable & achievable targets.	Departmental Indigenous Employment Plan targets are met & reported on a yearly basis.	Finalized Indigenous Employment Plans with 2024–25 targets are now publicly available. The 2024–25 Annual Results Report is in progress & will be tabled in Spring 2026.

To best support the delivery of programs and services to our residents and the dedicated public servants who deliver those programs, the following commitments will guide the implementation of the mandate across all Priorities:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Make programs and services more accessible and integrated through enhanced collaboration across government.	Continue working with departments, to provide an additional channel (online) for the public to access government services, via the GNWT's eServices portal.	% of IT Capital projects assessed for online services/eServices suitability.	100% of IT Capital project proposals assessed for online service/eServices delivery suitability.	3 new IT capital projects are included in the 2026-27 Capital Estimates. All 3 projects were assessed for fit for eServices. No new eServices are expected to come online from these 3 new IT capital projects.
	Update the IT Business Case template to ensure online service delivery is considered early in the development of the project proposal.	Update IT Business Case template.	Pilot new template in 2024-25 & launch new template in 2025-26.	The updated IT Business case template was used for the 2026-27 IT Capital Planning process, including a section to review eServices fit. It is being further refined for the 2027-28 process to include additional architecture considerations.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Implement approaches to design programs and services in ways that promote and the support self reliance and resiliency of residents.	Continue to support the Building Capacity (BCIG) with Indigenous Governments Program that supports secondment arrangements with Indigenous governments in all regions to help develop their human resource capacity.	# of secondments with IGs per year.	Funding of \$400,000 for BCIG is fully subscribed annually (approximately 10 supported employees per fiscal year).	8 secondments have been supported under the BCIG program in the 2025–26 fiscal year. Program funding can support 1 additional secondment in 2025-26.
Better streamline administrative processes, policies and legislation across government to enhance the capacity of the public service to work better together.	Update the <i>Public Service Act</i> with a framework for a more streamlined approach for the management and direction of an effective and skilled territorial public service that meets the needs of the GNWT.	Legislative proposal submitted & bill is drafted.	The <i>Public Service Act</i> bill is passed during the 20th Legislative Assembly.	The draft Bill was tabled during the October 2025 Session.
	Realize the benefits of having the Technology Service Centre (TSC) join the Department by amalgamating the TSC Service Desk and the Information Systems Shared Services Client Care desk to simplify and improvement client experience.	Client satisfaction with the new amalgamated IT Service Desk.	70% initial target for satisfaction with an increasing trend over time.	Planning continues on defining a new Service Delivery model for an integrated IT service desk. Once the new model is in place, client satisfaction will be measured.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Engage the public service to identify opportunities to improve efficiency, and coordinate processes to support long term fiscal sustainability.	Development and implementation of an Employee Satisfaction Action Plan that includes information gathering and policy initiatives.	Employee Satisfaction Action Plan is launched in 2024.	Improved scores on the employment satisfaction survey.	The Employee Satisfaction Plan Committee was established in January 2025 to oversee the implementation of the Action Plan.
		Measures will be developed within the action plan.		
		New programs, training, & resources to improve employee engagement & satisfaction.	Improved scores on the employment satisfaction survey.	Finance is developing a HUB webpage for employee engagement, where feedback will be sought from employees on existing programs, training, & resources.
		Review of existing programs, training, & resources to improve employee engagement & satisfaction to enhance performance & effectiveness across the GNWT.	Improved scores on the Employment Satisfaction.	Finance is developing a HUB webpage for employee engagement, where feedback will be sought from employees on existing programs, training, & resources.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
	Complete an assessment of current IT Governance processes, organizational structures, and operating models to identify and correct inefficiencies or redundancies.	Completed assessment.	Assessment completed.	The assessment has been completed.
		Renewal of IT Strategy to include a new organizational structure for the Office of the Chief Information Officer branch.	Adjustments to IT Governance processes, structures, & operating models completed.	A renewed approach to guiding the work of IT has been adopted, 1 which focuses on the use of Objectives & Key Results (OKRs) to improve alignment of resources on priority work. The focus continues to be on improving our approach to IT service delivery & integrated planning across all IT functions.
			IT Strategy reviewed & renewed.	Governance processes are being reviewed, organizational structures & operating models in 2025-26 & 2026-27, to improve the resilience of the IT function, in supporting the needs of government.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Steward the fiscal health and sustainability of the GNWT through ongoing efforts to increase revenues, reduce expenditures, and ensure every public dollar spent serves the needs of residents and communities.	Continued adherence to the fiscal strategy for the 20th Legislative Assembly.	Improved efficiency & reduced redundancy of programs and services across departments.	Remain within the parameters of the Fiscal Responsibility Policy.	The GNWT achieved significant budget reductions & revenue increases in both the 2024-25 & 2025-26 Main Estimates. In early 2025, the federal government granted a \$1.3 billion increase to the federally imposed borrowing limit which increase the GNWT's capacity to borrow. Efforts continue to manage expenditures closely, seek new revenue opportunities & identify opportunities for efficiencies while remaining within the confines of the Fiscal Responsibility Policy.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Empower the public service by ensuring they are provided the flexibility to deliver programs and implement policies in ways that best serve residents.	Explore ways in which the GNWT can further incorporate consideration of technology such as systems, artificial intelligence, etc. when developing policy and initiatives.	Government-wide approaches that consider technology in development of policy & initiatives.	IT factors are included as considerations in Cabinet & FMB submissions.	<p>The Office of the Chief Information Officer completed presentations to all Senior Management Committees, Directors of Finance, & Directors of Policy. Further presentations on Artificial Intelligence & on Business Continuity related to Ransomware Attacks are being delivered across government.</p> <p>Ongoing government-wide engagement supports policy & initiative development that is informed by technology-related risks, dependencies, & opportunities.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
	Platforms that provide open data include the GNWT Open Data Portal and the NWT Centre for Geomatics' website.	Maintain the Open Data Portal to be used by all GNWT departments for publishing their datasets. NWT Centre for Geomatics publishes data via its website as they become available.	Annual increase in data added.	As of September 30, 2025, the Open Data Portal had 340 datasets available, a 10% increase from January 2023. The NWT Centre for Geomatics is planning the release of all aerial photography & LiDAR in January 2026.
Honour the GNWT's commitments to openness, transparency, and accountability by engaging with our partners, the public, and the public service on decisions that affect their lives.	Work across government to ensure that all departments are including awareness and consideration of Technology into the policy and program planning at the earliest opportunity.	IT systems & policy considerations are included in the development of project plans/charters & considered as a factor in resourcing & financing projects.	Project plans/Project charters include considerations of IT systems & resources.	The Office of the Chief Information Officer continues to work with departments to increase awareness about IT capacity challenges & the need to integrate IT into policy planning.

Housing

To improve the suitability, accessibility, and affordability of housing options in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Increase housing availability for all residents by working with partners to address gaps in the northern housing continuum including more transitional and supportive living options.	Develop an in-depth territory-wide housing needs analysis / assessment in partnership with Housing NWT, Finance, Indigenous governments, and community governments.	Completed territory-wide housing needs assessment.	Assessment completed by January 2026.	Engagement sessions completed in September 2025 with report planned for January 2026. Note: Housing NWT is the lead on finalizing the qualitative community engagement process & Finance will review the final needs assessment for any other support it can provide to Housing NWT.

Economy

To strengthen the economic foundation of the NWT, the GNWT will support the development of the private sector and community capacity, encourage a diversity of economic activity across sectors, and reduce the cost of doing business in the NWT. We will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Grow and enhance the northern workforce by investing in skill development and by attracting skilled workers to the NWT.	IT Apprenticeship program for Indigenous Peoples (collaboration between OCIO and Employment and Social Development Canada) to address the barrier to entry for IT jobs.	# of apprentices hired through the GNWT pilot program.	Agreement signed by GNWT & Canada. A minimum of 2 apprentices hired over 4 years.	The GNWT onboarded 2 apprentices through the pilot program in October 2025. Employment & Social Development Canada (ESDC), the federal partner on this program, plans to visit the NWT in the Spring of 2026 to discuss progress on this pilot project.
	Internships/summer student programs.	# of internships awarded.	25-30 Internships annually.	33 Internships were awarded to eligible Northern Graduates through the Internship Program for 2025-26.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of summer students participating.	250-300 summer students annually.	<p>The Summer Student Employment Program was used in 2025 to hire 266 students.</p> <p>Of note, of the 266 students hired, 134 were Indigenous.</p>
	Range of programs focused on improving Indigenous recruitment and retention.	Utilization rates of Indigenous Career Gateway Program (ICGP), Indigenous Development Training Program & Building Capacity with Indigenous Governments Programs.	Fully subscribed each fiscal.	<p>The ICGP is fully subscribed.</p> <p>The ICGP has funded 9 employees as of September 30, 2025.</p>
Increase investment certainty and create opportunities for the private sector by streamlining administrative processes, and ensuring regulatory systems and decision-making are consistent, efficient, and predictable.	Applying the Macroeconomic Policy Framework to all proposed initiatives and existing programs with economic components to ensure that decisions are based on evidence and consider important economic implications.	All proposed initiatives with economic implications clearly identify & consider the Macroeconomic Policy Framework (MPF) lens.	All briefing materials & submission material where there are economic impact considerations clearly identify & consider the MPF lens.	Departments are considering the MPF lens for all submissions with economic implications for Cabinet/FMB consideration & for all Legislative Proposals. Training & other support continues to be provided by the Fiscal Policy Division to departments when requested.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Support Red Tape Reduction efforts, including continued participation in the Red Tape Reduction Working Group (small business).	# of red tape issues identified & resolved.	Issues sent to the working group are resolved within 5 business days.	Since March 2025, 3 issues were identified & resolved within the 5-day deadline.
Leverage federal funding to close the infrastructure gap through investments in green power generation and transmission, transportation and communications networks.	Advocating to CRTC for improved affordability, quality, reliability, and competitive choice for broadband services in the NWT.	# of CRTC proceedings GNWT participated in.	100% departmental participation in proceedings impacting residents & businesses in the NWT.	<p>The GNWT has participated in 1 CRTC proceeding to date in 2025-26. The proceeding is very large starting in January 2025 & is on-going as of the Fall of 2025.</p> <p>The proceeding is to determine how the CRTC will provide NWT residents & small to medium businesses with a subsidy to reduce their internet costs.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Encourage a diverse range of economic activities by promoting entrepreneurship, fostering research and innovation, building strong partnerships and leveraging opportunities in all regions.	Revising the vendor complaint process and continuing to implement the vendor performance management policy.	Not applicable. Specific measures will be established when process is approved.	Revised Vendor Complaint Process.	<p>An independent fairness advisor conducted a jurisdictional scan, & a survey was released publicly & has concluded. The new process has been largely completed & is in the review & approval phase.</p> <p>The final approval of the revised process is expected to be completed by March 31, 2026, & will be made public at that time.</p>

Access to health care

To strengthen preventative measures, public awareness and improve access to trauma-informed, culturally appropriate health care, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Train and support Indigenous and local residents to pursue careers in the health professions, while also recruiting and retaining qualified health and social services professionals to the NWT.	Continue to support employee development in health care professions through the Indigenous Development Training Program (IDTP).	# of employees supported through IDTP to pursue development in health-related areas per year.	7 employees supported through IDTP pursuing development in health-related areas per year.	9 employees have been supported through IDTP to pursue development in health-related areas.
	Support increases in the number of health care professionals in the NWT through the Health Recruitment Unit by working with DHSS, NTHSSA, and TCSA to identify qualified candidates and promote positions within organizations.	# of indeterminately filled health professional positions.	Increase the number of indeterminately filled health professionals by 5% annually during the 20th Assembly.	For fiscal year 2025-26, from April 1, 2025 to September 30, 2025, the number of indeterminately filled health professionals increased by 5.8%.

Address the effects of trauma

To prevent, interrupt and address the effects of trauma, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that policies and programs are designed and renewed with a trauma-informed, anti-racist and cultural safety lens that is informed by residents.	Implement the Indigenous Recruitment and Retention Framework and Action Plan so policy initiatives, programs, training, and resources are culturally appropriate, culturally sensitive, and barriers are removed.	All departments & agencies have Indigenous Employment Plans completed with attainable & achievable targets.	Departmental Indigenous Employment Plan targets are met & reported yearly.	Departmental Indigenous Employment Plans with target updates for 2024-25 have been finalized & publicly posted online. The 2024-25 Annual Results Report is currently being drafted & will be tabled during the Spring 2026 Session.
	The Indigenous Employee Advisory Committee (IEAC) and the GNWT Advisory Committee on Diversity and Inclusion (GACDI) review new and existing programs and initiatives with anti-racist and cultural safety lens.	# of committee meetings held per year.	Committees meet 4 times per year.	An IEAC virtual meeting was held in May 2025 & a virtual meeting is scheduled for the November 2025. An GACDI meeting took place in June 2025. An in-person meeting is scheduled for November 2025.

Emergency Management

To enhance the safety of residents and communities, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that emergency management and preparedness initiatives strengthen our capacity to respond to more frequent and severe climate-driven disasters and other emergencies.	Provide financial support to evacuation emergency relief program.	# of residents who access the program.	Relief is provided to all eligible residents who require support.	For 2025-26, as of October 31, 2025, the Emergency Evacuation Relief Program provided \$845,200 in relief to 1213 residents in 2025-26.
Invest in robust and redundant community, energy, telecommunications, and transportation infrastructure.	Advocating to CRTC for improved affordability, quality, reliability, and competitive choice for broadband services in the NWT.	Participation in CRTC proceedings impacting residents & businesses in the NWT.	100% participation in proceedings impacting residents & businesses in the NWT.	<p>The GNWT has participated 1 CRTC proceeding to date in 2025-26. The proceeding is very large starting in January 2025 & is on-going as of the fall of 2025.</p> <p>The proceeding is to determine how the CRTC will provide NWT residents & small to medium businesses with a subsidy to reduce their internet costs.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Strengthen regulatory frameworks for emergency management, create territorial building standards, and improve community hazard mapping and monitoring.	The NWT Centre for Geomatics is collaborating with the department of ECC to update Flood maps for flood-prone communities in the NWT.	Flood hazard & inundation maps will be updated using available federal funding & GNWT in-kind funding & support.	Updated mapping will be provided for 7 communities by 2026.	<p>Flood hazard maps were received for Aklavik, Hay River & KFN, & Fort Simpson & have been shared with those communities. Maps are under development for Nahanni Butte & Fort Good Hope.</p> <p>An internal GNWT tool was built to share reports, maps, & data related to floods across the NWT. This tool is being released to a few departments for beta testing in the Fall of 2025.</p>

Public Safety

No specific actions under this commitment.

Risks and Mitigation Activities

Debt and Cost Pressure Growth

The GNWT is projecting rising debt levels, driven by limited revenue growth and rising expenditures. Aging infrastructure externally imposed economic conditions and inflation all contribute to expenditure pressures intensifying; particularly in health care, infrastructure, and energy, resulting in the fiscal environment becoming increasingly challenging. Finance mitigates these risks through ongoing fiscal planning and monitoring, debt management and promoting expenditure management across departments. This work also includes the review of financial processes to improve financial internal controls including new Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) functionality on VISA ONE transactions to improve accountability measures.

Cybersecurity and Information Protection

The GNWT faces the risk of cyberattacks, data breaches and associated disruption. Finance mitigates this risk by strengthening cybersecurity controls, mandatory employee training, and active monitoring of our environment.

Employee Wellness and Mental Health

The GNWT faces the risk of reduced productivity, absenteeism and higher turnover from employee wellness challenges. Finance supports all departments in mitigating this risk promoting wellness and mental-health resources, offering training to all employees across the organization, implementing strategies and policies to guide flexible work arrangements for managers to consider, undertaking employee engagement through the Employee Engagement and Satisfaction Survey, and encouraging a healthy and supportive work environment.

GNWT Fiscal Strategy for the 20th Legislative Assembly

The fiscal strategy for the remainder of the 20th Legislative Assembly focuses on supporting government priorities through strategic investments, while operating within the guardrails of the Fiscal Responsibility Policy. The Policy continues to require that a minimum of half the capital plan be financed through operating surpluses, which underscores the need for disciplined expenditure management, prudent debt oversight, and careful planning to meet mandate commitments.

The Department continues to identify efficiencies and cost-reduction opportunities, including initiatives such as:

- Review of TSC funding model to balance efficiency and flexibility;
- Improved approaches for medical travel bookings;
- Vacancy and workforce planning to better align staffing with operational needs; and
- Improved internal reporting on sole source contracts.

Human Resource Initiatives

No changes were required.

Legislative Initiatives

The Department has refocused its legislative priorities and policy development as part of an exercise undertaken midway through the 20th Legislative Assembly. Work planned to be completed in the later half of the Assembly is shown below:

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
1	<i>Public Service Act.</i>	Amendments to the <i>Public Service Act</i> to set out a modern framework for the management & direction of an effective & skilled public service for the GNWT.	Completed.	Target for October 2025.	Pending approval by Legislative Assembly.
2	<i>Public Service Act</i> (Phase II).	Amendments to the <i>Public Service Act</i> that ensure the legislation does not unduly restrict the ability of GNWT employees to bargain.	2026-27 Q2.	2026-27 Q3.	In Progress.
3	<i>Property Assessment and Taxation Act.</i>	Lead to advance phase II amendments regarding taxation with support from MACA.	2025-26 Q4.	2026-27 Q3.	In Progress.

#	Regulatory initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	<i>Liquor Act</i> Regulations.	Regulations required to bring the <i>Liquor Act</i> into force.	Drafting in progress.

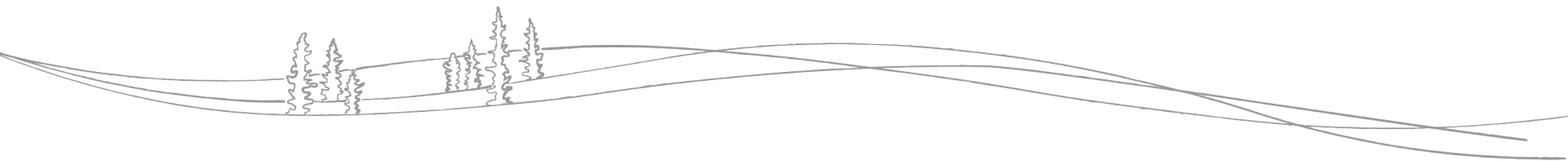
#	Policy initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	Finance Establishment Policy.	Review department establishment policy to address changes needed to address GIS Transfer & Enterprise Information Management.	Completed.
2	Integrating IT into policy planning.	The Office of the Chief Information Officer is working with departments to increase awareness about IT capacity challenges & the need to integrate IT into policy planning.	In Progress.
3	Vendor Complaint Process.	Update the Vendor Complaint Process with a goal of improving the GNWT procurement process.	In Progress.
4	Macroeconomic Policy Framework.	Revise the Macroeconomic Policy Framework to support improved economic policy & capital investment decision-making. The revised framework would require all FMB submissions to answer 14 Lens Criteria Questions & re-evaluation of these decisions after 5 years.	Use of the original Macroeconomic Policy Framework is now in use more diligently by departments. Cabinet endorsement of the revised framework that requires 5-year reviews of the original lens analysis is required.
5	Indigenous Employment Policy (IEP).	Implementing the IEP (following removal of the Affirmative Action Policy, April 1, 2025) & supporting departments with the implementation of this policy which is intended to provide equitable opportunity for employment & career advancement of Indigenous persons across all levels of the Public Service.	Completed - implementation effective as of April 1, 2025.
6	Affirmative Action Policy.	The Affirmative Action Policy was repealed, & the Indigenous Employment Policy was launched on April 1, 2025, to prioritize the hiring & career advancement of Indigenous persons.	Completed.
7	Indigenous Procurement Policy.	The development of an Indigenous Procurement Policy, which included a draft definition of an NWT Indigenous Business.	In Progress.

Evaluation Plan

The Department is committed to work on several Evaluations, some of which are being undertaken during the 20th Legislative Assembly, as follows:

#	Program / Policy Title	Purpose of Evaluation	Trigger	Timeframe	Current Status
1	Evaluation of Liquor and Cannabis Enforcement Program.	<p>Evaluation to assess the enforcement programs overall effectiveness & to identify opportunities to strengthen program design, improve operational practices, & enhance service delivery within existing resources.</p> <p>The evaluation will also result in the development of a clear program design, including performance measures to support ongoing monitoring & reporting.</p>	To ensure enforcement operations keep pace with legislative changes & reflect the expectations associated with a modernized <i>Liquor Act</i> , within existing resources.	2026-27.	In planning.

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2026-27 BUSINESS PLAN
ANNUAL UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
AND SOCIAL SERVICES

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Departmental Highlights

Administrative and Support Services: To provide strategic leadership to the Department of Health and Social Services (the Department) and the health and social services authorities (HSSAs), the Department and HSSAs, which together are referred to as the Health and Social Services (HSS) System, have developed the People's Strategy, a new health human resource strategy that is anticipated to be released in 2026. Additionally, the Department has continued to lead construction of the Wellness and Recovery Centre. The Centre (which will replace the existing day and sobering shelters) is intended to provide shelter and community wellness spaces for people from across the Northwest Territories (NWT) who are experiencing homelessness in Yellowknife. As of September 2025, foundation work is now underway.

Health and Social Programs: With 28% of residents in the NWT over the age of 15 considering themselves smokers (2023 NWT Tobacco, Alcohol and Drug Survey), the Department, in collaboration with Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) implemented the Ottawa Model for Smoking Cessation (OMSC) in early 2025 to address the need for systematic smoking cessation support within healthcare settings. OMSC is the gold-standard in Canada for integrating supports to help people quit smoking into routine healthcare practice. This model aims to ensure that all tobacco users receive appropriate treatment and follow-up as part of their routine care. On January 20, 2025, Yellowknife Primary Care became the first health care facility in the NWT to implement the OMSC. Implementing this approach at Yellowknife Primary Care is just the first step the Department is taking to enhance supports for residents who are ready to live a smoke-free life, and work is underway to bring this gold-standard model to Stanton Territorial Hospital and eventually to health centres across the NWT.

Continuing Care: To ensure Long Term Care (LTC) services are safe and meet LTC residents' needs, the Department implemented new NWT Long Term Care Standards in February 2025. The LTC Standards are modeled on National standards released by the Health Standards Organization (HSO) in 2023 that provide criteria and guidelines for delivering resident-centered, high-quality care enabled by a healthy and competent workforce. To help put these standards into practice, the Department is advancing the implementation of the Continuing Care Information System (CCIS) and the International Resident Assessment Instruments (interRAI). Together, CCIS and interRAI provide a standardized digital platform for clinical assessment, documentation, and reporting. This enables consistent data collection across the LTC program and supports monitoring and evaluation of the quality indicators in the LTC Standards, helping track trends and drive quality improvement.

Supplemental Health Benefits: To support continued provision of extended health benefits to residents who meet eligibility requirements the Department is updating medical travel guidelines and processes. The Department has made progress on modernizing the medical travel benefits and supports. Further, as a part of the NTHSSA Public Administrator's workplan, documentation of patient journeys in the Dehcho region is underway. The patient journey is being documented from a patient/resident perspective with a focus on quality of care.

Supporting the 20th Legislative Assembly

The HSS System has worked to advance priorities of the 20th Legislative Assembly over the course of the 2025-26 fiscal year. The following section highlights progress as of September 30, 2025, and describes activities anticipated to occur during the remainder of the fiscal year and the next two years.

Collaborative Governance: The HSS System has implemented several initiatives that advance HSS system sustainability. For example, the Department implemented new physician recruitment and retention incentives on April 1, 2025, which will be monitored along with existing incentives to understand their effectiveness in improving locum recruitment and retention.

Housing: New for the NWT, residents can now access safe transitional housing after completing an addictions treatment program. Housing NWT worked in collaboration with the Department and the Salvation Army to launch the Transitional Housing Addiction Recovery Program (THARP) in Yellowknife to provide structured support for northerners recovering from addictions. THARP offers a safe, substance -free, supportive living environment where residents can build sober relationships, rebuild daily life skills and work towards stable, independent living within their community. This program is in the early stages of implementation and will be evaluated for effectiveness to inform future opportunities for expansion.

Economy: The Department is identifying resources to support implementing the Meat Processing Safety Regulations, including training. Resources to support operations and enforcement are required before the regulations can come into force.

Access to Health Care: The Department is working to increase access to early childhood development programs and services by developing an overarching framework. The Department is also scheduled to complete a review of the Baby-Friendly Initiative by the end of 2026-27. A scope of practice and competency framework for the Healthy Family Program staff have also been developed and are under review to guide the implementation of the Healthy Family Program.

The Department is working towards amending the *Health and Social Services Profession Act*. These amendments will better enable the Department to bring existing regulated HSS professions under the *Health and Social Services Profession Act* through modernized profession-specific regulations, with efforts currently focused on advancing regulations for the midwifery, pharmacy, dental hygiene, and medical professions.

To continue advancing primary health care reform, the Department has developed a comprehensive methodology for primary health care, which outlines the methodology and strategic plan for the integrated primary care framework's development. This plan will serve as the guiding blueprint for the work occurring over the remainder of the fiscal year. Engagement and research activities are underway, ensuring that diverse perspectives and evidence-based practices inform the framework. Additionally, a study tour to learn from sites that have integrated traditional healing is

underway to support knowledge exchange and gather insights from other jurisdictions with successful primary health care models. Progress has also been made to establish a performance measurement approach for primary health care reform and work is underway to re-define dimensions of health care quality through an Indigenous worldview.

The Department continues to work with the HSSAs to implement the recommendations of the 2023 NWT Supported Living Review. The Department is working with the HSSAs on resource identification and analysis of out of territory and in territory Supported Living supports. Recent progress on the review's recommendations include the Department publishing the updated scope and definition of Supported Living on the HSS website, the HSSAs implementing the NWT Supported Living Performance Monitoring Framework, the Department and HSSAs establishing an NWT Supported Living Admissions Committee that is anticipated to begin operating in Q1 2026-27, and the Department initiating the development of NWT Supported Living standards that are anticipated to be completed by March 2027.

The Department remains committed to maintaining and strengthening established midwifery programs in Fort Smith and Hay River. The Department intends to have the Advisory Committee on Midwifery lead the development of a workplan to support sustainability of the Fort Smith and Hay River programs. Work continues on the Midwifery Profession Regulations under the *Health and Social Services Professions Act*. A What We Heard report summarizing the feedback received during the May/June 2025 public engagement was released in October 2025. This feedback will be used to inform the development of the regulations.

To address challenges posed to the consistent delivery of community health core services in small communities by the short supply of Community Health Nurses (CHNs), the Department and the HSSAs have come together to review the current state and brainstorm ideas to support core services delivery. The Department has also conducted a jurisdictional scan, literature review, and held targeted discussions with similar jurisdictions regarding the challenge. The Department has begun to analyse how the use of other health professionals can support the delivery of community health core services when CHNs are in short supply.

The Department has committed to partner with GNWT departments to identify and support opportunities to improve the availability of market housing, critical to the recruitment and retention of health and social services professionals. To progress on this work, the Department is working with GNWT partners on updating the GNWT's market housing needs assessment.

Address the Effects of Trauma: The Department continues to implement the HEART and SPIRIT training and assessment tools for foster placements and caregivers. HEART refers to the Helping Establish Able Resource-Homes Together, and SPIRIT, refers to the Strong Parent Indigenous Relationships Information Training. A pilot with 24 community members and staff in Hay River on the HEART and SPIRIT training was held August 2025 to support the customization process to determine its scalability across the NWT, regarding cost and resources required for full scale implementation. As the NWT is comprised of many different First Nations, Inuvialuit and Metis Indigenous groups, customization across the NWT

is significantly more complex when compared to previous customization of HEART and SPIRIT in organizations that customize the training to the specific community and cultural needs of one cultural group.

The Department is also working to redesign the proposed respite and foster care model(s) for families receiving prevention and protection services. A Request for Proposals was awarded in December 2024 for a proponent to propose a series of models for delivering “foster care”, “respite” and other approaches that support and promote Indigenous systems of care within the NWT. In April 2025, a synthesis report was completed outlining challenges and opportunities for model development and implementation, including recommendations on community engagement. The working group, “Care Rooted in Indigenous Practices”, are reviewing the report to find ways to integrate in key work, including training, standard revisions, and proposed legislation.

Following Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, the federal government, and the Department signing the trilateral Coordination Agreement in 2024 to implement Inuvialuit Qitunrariit Inuuniarnikkun Maligaksat child and family services law, the Department has continued to work with Maligaksat regularly through an implementation table to ensure the Coordination Agreement is implemented as intended and to note areas for future review.

Emergency Management: Emergency management and response plans for the Department and the HSSAs have been updated and was reviewed at the end of the 2025 fire season (October 2025). Additionally, the Health and Social Services Working Group has continued to meet under leadership of the Department since it was established in January 2024. The working group was established to provide oversight and coordination of HSS specific emergency response and support partners.

Public Safety: In support of the Public Safety priority of the 20th Legislative Assembly, the Department launched the Drugs in the NWT web page in April 2025. The web page contains a suite of online resources designed to inform, educate, and support residents around substance use. Resources include fact sheets on individual substances found in the NWT’s illicit drug supply, safer partying tips to help reduce harm in social and recreational settings, information on accessing naloxone kits, and links to territorial and federal support services for people navigating addictions. The Department also continues to maintain a partnership with the Department of Justice (JUS) to ensure a collaborative illicit drug response.

Mandate Commitments

Collaborative Governance

The GNWT's relationship with Indigenous governments is integral to the future prosperity of the NWT and the following commitments will guide the implementation of the Mandate across all Priorities.

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Explore options to support Economic Reconciliation through more flexible and streamlined funding arrangements with Indigenous governments.	Develop and implement funding structures that reduce administrative burdens for communities and increase local autonomy in program design.	Improvements to funding mechanisms implemented.	Improvements to the Mental Wellness & Addictions Recovery fund implemented by 2025.	To reduce administrative burden, the former On the Land Healing Fund, Peer Support Fund, & Addiction Recovery & After Care Fund have been combined into the Mental Wellness & Addiction Recovery Fund. In 2024-2025 & 2025-2026, the Fund has been fully allocated.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
			Improvements to FNIHCC implemented by 2027.	Seniors & Continuing Care Services division is exploring options to flow First Nations & Inuit Home & Community Care (FNIHCC) funding to Indigenous governments (IGs) & communities. Implementation is intended to start April 1, 2026.
Continue implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry Calls to Justice.	Train health and social services system staff, while supporting GNWT departments in their delivery of cultural safety and anti-racism training by offering resources and promoting best practices.	# of health & social services system staff trained a year.	180 health & social system staff trained per year once training updated.	The Cultural Safety & Anti-Racism training was redesigned to focus on building readiness for conversations about race & racism. The new curriculum was piloted in July with 17 NTHSSA medical residency staff & leaders working in primary health care reform. With the end of the training's redesign, reporting against the target will begin in the 2027-28 Business Plan Annual Update.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		Pathways for supporting GNWT departments identified.	Staff in the Department of Finance, Diversity & Inclusion Unit & Indigenous Patient Advocate Program (NTHSSA) complete anti-racism facilitation training by spring 2025.	The Cultural Safety & Anti-Racism, Community Culture & Innovation, Indigenous Patient Advocates program (NTHSSA) & Diversity & Inclusion Unit (Department of Finance) participated in anti-racism facilitator training held by The Center Consultancy (previously Center for Equity & Inclusion). In total, nine anti-racism facilitation practice sessions were delivered to support a pool of anti-racism facilitators across the GNWT.

To best support the delivery of programs and services to our residents and the dedicated public servants who deliver those programs, the following commitments will guide the implementation of the mandate across all Priorities:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Engage the public service to identify opportunities to improve efficiency and coordinate processes to support long term fiscal sustainability.	Clarify and redefine roles and responsibilities for health and social services corporate support, and program and service delivery between the department and health and social services authorities.	Roles & responsibilities defined.	1 corporate service area reviewed & roles & responsibilities clarified by the end of the 20th Legislative Assembly.	Work to define roles & responsibilities between the Department & HSSAs continues to be scoped for priority. Work planning has progressed in the areas of Information Services/Technology & Child & Family Services. Other areas of priority consideration include Privacy, Communications, Cultural Safety & Anti-Racism, & Finance. Further planning for these areas has not yet been initiated.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Steward the fiscal health and sustainability of the GNWT through ongoing efforts to increase revenues, reduce expenditures, and ensure every public dollar spent serves the needs of residents and communities.	Contribute to GNWT Restoring Balance Exercise.	Income assessment process & fee structures established & incorporated into more health & social services program & service delivery areas.	Target not established.	Locum Recruitment & Retention Performance Measurement Framework (LRRPMF) for the NTHSSA implemented to support the Department's understanding of current locum usage patterns within the health system & inform decision making on future locum compensation.
	Define and communicate core program and services for the HSS system, including insured services, to inform prioritized service delivery within limited resources (led by EIA).	Core programs & services are prioritized for delivery within the health & social services system.	Establishment of the Healthcare System Sustainability (HCSS) Unit. (EIA led)	All fee increases came into force on April 1, 2025, except for fees related to the licensing & registration of HSS professions, which takes effect October 2025 to align with annual license renewals. Completed. The HCSSU was established July 2024 & substantially staffed as of March 2025. A project charter & Monitoring & Evaluation Plan were developed to guide the scope of the Unit's work.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
			Clarified roles & responsibilities with HSS & HSSAs as it relates to defining core programs & services within HSS's mandate letter. (EIA/HSS Co-lead)	<p>In progress.</p> <p>The HCSSU takes a coordinated effort to improve operational efficiency & sustainability of the HSS System. A dedicated Project Team, comprising of representatives from the HCSS Unit, DHSS & HSSAs has been established to guide this work. Next step is to finalize a consolidated workplan that outlines key activities & timelines.</p>
			Establish a core health & social services inventory.	<p>In progress.</p> <p>Preliminary Analysis completed spring 2025 which includes an inventory of programs & services currently offered in the NWT. Next step is to conduct analysis that will lead to a core HSS inventory.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
			Develop a continuous quality improvement cycle related to improvement cycle related to a sustainable HSS system.	Not yet started. Scheduled for completion August 2026.

Housing

To improve the suitability, accessibility, and affordability of housing options in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Increase housing availability for all residents by working with partners to address gaps in the northern housing continuum including more transitional and supportive living options.	In collaboration with GNWT partners, increase access to transitional housing for individuals in recovery.	# of Transitional Housing Addictions Recovery Programs (THARP) supported by health & social services & partners.	2 Transitional Housing for Addictions Recovery (programs) funded by end of 20th Legislative Assembly.	<p>2 Transitional Housing for Addictions Recovery (THARP) Programs received funding in 2025-2026.</p> <p>Yellowknife: Contract in place with the Salvation Army for operation of a 5-bedroom THARP home. Operations began in June 2025.</p> <p>Inuvik: Contract in process with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation for the operation of a 5-bedroom THARP Home. Intakes anticipated in late October 2025.</p>

Economy

To strengthen the economic foundation of the NWT, the GNWT will support the development of the private sector and community capacity, encourage a diversity of economic activity across sectors, and reduce the cost of doing business in the NWT. We will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Increase investment certainty and create opportunities for the private sector by streamlining administrative processes, and ensuring regulatory systems and decision-making are consistent, efficient, and predictable.	Advance meat processing safety regulations to support safe production by NWT food producers.	% of producers trained on regulatory requirements.	100% of producers trained on regulatory requirements.	0% of producers have been trained. DHSS is identifying resources to support the implementation of the Meat Process Safety Regulations.

Access to health care

To strengthen preventative measures, public awareness and improve access to trauma-informed, culturally appropriate health care, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Deliver equitable access to sustainable primary care in all NWT communities.	Update HSS system approach to quality assurance.	Critical incident guidelines reviewed & updated.	Critical incident guidelines reviewed & updated by 2028.	Initial scoping meeting with stakeholders has occurred & preparatory work continues.
	Advance Electronic Health Record (EHR) implementation.	Replace MediPatient (Clinical Information System) registration, admission, discharge, & transfer modules.	Target not established.	Requirements gathering & validation for solution evaluation / selection was completed. Additional planning & preparation are underway for modernization of information systems across the HSS System.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Continue Primary Health Care Reform.	Integrate Primary Care framework developed.	Framework communicated by 2026.	<p>A foundational document outlining the methodology & strategic plan for framework development has been completed. This document emphasizes inclusive & robust engagement with key stakeholders, including IGs & IGOs, the public, HSS staff, & professional associations.</p> <p>This plan will serve as the guiding blueprint for the work over the remainder of the 2025-26 fiscal year. Engagement & research activities are currently underway, ensuring that diverse perspectives & evidence-based practices inform the framework.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		Performance measures established & trended to identify improvement areas.	Performance measures established & in place by May 2026.	Progress continues in the development of performance measures to support primary health care transformation. A collaborative team is actively engaged in designing & refining a logic model (LM) that captures regional activities, outputs, & intended outcomes. This model will serve as the foundation for establishing meaningful performance indicators aligned with the goals of the transformation initiative. The LM will be shared with Yellowknife region leadership & staff & refined over time & will then inform territory-wide performance measurement.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Transform Public Health System.	Public health considerations are built into all appropriate health information systems & processes.	Public health considerations integrated into relevant health information systems & processes by 2028.	Public Health experts have attended all sessions & participated in all EHR discussions where necessary.
		% of Canadian public health accreditation standards met.	NWT Public Health meets 100% of Canadian public health accreditation standards.	<p>Though the EHR will support some of the functions that public health needs for a more effective system, further considerations for functions that are not a part of the EHR still need to be addressed (e.g. Outbreak management).</p> <p>As per the April 2024 survey, 91.6% of the Canadian public health accreditation standards were met by the NTHSSA.</p> <p>Next update will be when the next accreditation cycle occurs. This happens every 4 years.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		Clarity & alignment of roles & responsibilities between the department & health & social services authorities.	Target not established.	<p>Key areas of public health operations such as vaccine management, respiratory program coordination & sexually transmitted infection program coordination have been moved from DHSS to the Territorial Operations Public Health Unit. Support is still being provided by DHSS while in transition.</p> <p>Transferring core operational public health functions from DHSS to operations has been a challenge. More clarification & process documentation are planned & will help further define scope.</p>
	Modernized regulatory framework and expand scope of practices for pharmacists.	Work completed in alignment with the <i>Health and Social Services Professions Act</i> implementation.	New regulations coming into force by Spring 2027.	<p>Key Elements Public Engagement completed summer 2024.</p> <p>Drafting instructions finalized fall 2025.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Support youth in care as they transition from childhood to adulthood through the completion of the Action Plan.	Progress on publicly disseminated action tracker.	Online progress tracker launched in 2024-25.	<p>Progress tracker launched in July 2024.</p> <p>To better support youth as they transition to adulthood, revisions being made to the Child & Family Services Standards Manual.</p> <p>Another initiative to better support youth as they transition to adulthood is Hay River Health & Social Services Authority & NTHSSA - YK Region piloting youth worker positions.</p>
Focus on health promotion and preventative care, and disease prevention across all age groups.	Improve Chronic Disease Prevention and Management through the establishment of a governance model and standards of care.	Progress on establishment of governance model.	Governance model established by end of the 20th Legislative Assembly.	Jurisdictional scan across Canada to support the development & mandate of the chronic disease governance model has been completed.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		Progress on standards of care developed & implemented.	An inventory of standards of care required, including net new standards for care & those for update will be developed by 2028.	Office of the Chief Public Health Officer has released updated cancer screening guidelines & updated guidance for screening & diagnosis of type 2 diabetes in adults. The establishment of the chronic disease prevention & management governance model will support the prioritization & identification of need for standards of care that need to be developed or updated. It is expected this work will be completed by the end of this Assembly.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Improve access to information about available mental health and addiction services.	Progress on public-facing resources, model for access, indicators, & measures of equitable access.	Public-facing resources, models for access, indicators, & measures available by 2026.	<p>Collaboration between DHSS & NTHSSA to streamline & improve public-facing website content & materials underway. This work is being coordinated with communications teams to ensure content is plain language, usable, accessible & organized around topics, themes & tasks that residents care about.</p> <p>Updates to the Facility Based Addiction Treatment website content have been made based on feedback from frontline staff & the public.</p> <p>Community Culture & Innovation division is working on rebranding & relaunching Community Healthy Living Fairs to focus on access to mental health & wellness.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	With partners and across the health and social services systems and the GNWT, improve the co-ordination of public health education and awareness.	Areas of co-ordination identified & actioned.	Target not established.	To address public health needs, 15 health cafes were hosted during a syphilis outbreak, reaching populations with limited prenatal care; 87,000 condoms were distributed. Ten flu vaccine events & a measles clinic in Behchokò were funded. A pilot program delivered 11,228 3-in-1 COVID/Flu A/B self-tests across three regions. For smoking cessation, 264 Quit Kits were distributed. Injury prevention efforts included training & agreements with community groups to reduce falls, drownings, & vehicle-related injuries. The 811-service handled 6,707 non-urgent health calls (Aug 2024–Aug 2025), averaging 592 monthly since Nov 2023, with 54% occurring after clinic hours.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	In partnership with existing community resources, increase access to early childhood development programs and services.	% increase in Well Child visits.	Target not established.	Due to 2024-25 operational limitations, this measure is not reportable. DHSS is working on identifying a new measure to report on for next year.
		% of NWT communities with access to programs that support healthy families.		The distribution of communities with adequately staffed programs that support healthy families includes:
			63.6% or more of communities with Healthy Family Program;	63.6% communities with a Healthy Family Program;
			Maintain % of regions with a Family Preservation Worker; &	21.2% of communities with a Family Preservation Program; &
			100% of communities have access to Baby Bundle Program.	100% of communities with a Baby Bundle program.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Train and support Indigenous and local residents to pursue careers in the health professions, while also recruiting and retaining qualified health and social services professionals to the NWT.	Create, support, and evaluate recruitment and retention strategies and initiatives.	% decrease in employee turnover.	Target not established.	During the 2024-25 fiscal year, the turnover rate for healthcare, allied health & social services positions in the NWT was 14.8%. This represents a 0.3 percentage point increase when compared to the 2023-24 fiscal year employee turnover rate of 14.5%.
		% decrease in vacancy rates.	Target not established.	The vacancy rate for healthcare, allied health & social services positions in the NWT was 14.8% on March 31, 2025. This represents a 0.9 percentage point decrease when compared to the 15.7% vacancy rate on March 31, 2024.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Partner with GNWT departments to identify and support opportunities to improve the availability of market housing, critical to the recruitment and retention of health and social services professionals.	Progress on identifying & supporting opportunities to improve the availability of market housing for HSS professionals in partnership with GNWT departments.	Target not established.	<p>DHSS is working with Housing NWT & other GNWT partners to keep the GNWT's market housing needs assessment updated. Once finalized, 2025 LTC bed projections will be shared with Housing NWT.</p> <p>DHSS collaborated with Housing NWT to design, construct, & open a new 4-plex in Tulita that officially opened & began operations on August 1, 2024.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Prioritize connecting with NWT students and graduates for employment opportunities within the Health and Social Services System and reduce barriers to entry for residents into health and social services professions.	% of NWT resident health & social services professionals.	Increased % of NWT residents health & social services professionals.	<p>87.4% (856/979) of healthcare, allied health & social services professionals were NWT residents as of March 31, 2025.</p> <p>The methodology to define “NWT resident HSS professionals” changed between 2023/24 & 2024/25 & cannot be compared. In 2023/24, “resident” included Priority 1 (Indigenous Aboriginal) & Priority 2 (Indigenous Non-Aboriginal) candidates per the Affirmative Action Policy. With the introduction of the Indigenous Employment Policy, “resident” in 2024-25 is defined based on the permanent address. This methodology includes HRHSSA employees & is a more accurate representation of residency status.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		% of new hires that are NWT residents.	Target not established.	49.0% of new healthcare, healthcare, allied health & social services professionals hired in the 2024/25 fiscal year were NWT residents. Please refer the measure, “% of NWT resident health & social services professionals” for details about changes in how this measure was calculated for the 2024-25 fiscal year reporting.
	Amend the <i>Health and Social Services Profession Act</i> to modernize regulatory framework for pharmacists, midwives, and dental hygienists.	Progress on <i>Health and Social Services Profession Act</i> amendments.	New regulations coming into force by Spring 2027.	Key elements of Public Engagement completed summer 2024. Legislative Proposal approved by Cabinet May 2025. Drafting instructions finalized fall 2025.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Improve medical travel and out-of-territory care, with a focus on clinical coordination and cultural safety.	Review and update medical travel benefits, including scheduling, appointment co-ordination, and communication.	Updated medical travel guidelines & processes in place.	Medical travel guidelines & processes updated by 2026.	Initiated a medical travel modernization plan. DHSS is currently in phase 1 & includes a policy review, a communication plan to the public to increase awareness (radio ads began in July 2025), & business process mapping of the current state.

Address the effects of trauma

To prevent, interrupt and address the effects of trauma, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that policies and programs are designed and renewed with a trauma-informed, anti-racist and cultural safety lens that is informed by residents.	Better meet the needs of foster caregivers and First Nation, Métis, and Inuit children / youth in the NWT.	% of foster caregivers trained in HEART & SPIRIT.	70% by 2028.	Initial stages for project, no data for the measures yet. A pilot with 24 community members & staff in Hay River was held August 2025 to support the customization process to determine its scalability across the NWT in regard to cost & resources required for full scale implementation.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Redesign proposed respite and foster care model(s) for families receiving prevention and protection services.	Proposed care models developed to reflect Indigenous practices.	Care models developed by 2027.	<p>Between January & March 2025, 80 models of care were reviewed & scored against the principles & values from the engagement analysis along with the feasibility of implementation in the NWT.</p> <p>In April 2025, a synthesis report was completed outlining challenges & opportunities for model development & implementation, including recommendations on community engagement. A Working Group entitled “Care Rooted in Indigenous Practices” are reviewing the report to find ways to integrate in key work, including training, standard revisions, & proposed legislation.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Review and develop health and social services policies and programs that are culturally safe, anti-racist and trauma informed.	Pathways for policy review & development are designed & implemented.	Mechanism to assess implementation of the equity tool completed by March 2026.	From September 2024 to March 2025, the Cultural Safety & Anti-Racism division piloted a cultural safety & anti-racism tool, & related consultation process, to assist the HCSS Unit with policy review & development. The consultation process to engage & orient teams to this tool is currently under revision.
		Re-designed territorial prenatal education program.	Territorial prenatal education program re-designed by 2028.	A Terms of Reference for Indigenous knowledge holders has been drafted & is under review. The purpose of the Indigenous knowledge holder panel is to review & inform projects related to parenting & early childhood based on Indigenous knowledge systems & community values.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Support Indigenous governments and other partners to develop and deliver culturally appropriate, northern and regional trauma treatment, mental wellness and addictions programming by removing administrative barriers and streamlining supports.	Identify system changes to strengthen engagement with the Indigenous Advisory Body (IAB).	Pathways to consider & address recommendations from IAB established.	Mechanism to monitor implementation of the IAB's recommendations established by the end of the 20th Legislative Assembly.	The Cultural Safety & Anti-Racism unit is working on implementing improvements to accountability processes that will assess the extent to which programs have implemented the Indigenous Advisory Body's recommendations. The division will continue to improve the reporting & coordination of recommendations & streamline business processes to ensure efficient & structured follow-up on IAB recommendations & action plan items.
Encourage community wellness and self-determination by supporting the development and delivery of community-based wellness programs to address mental wellness, prevention, early intervention, and holistic health.	Implement review for revised approach to early intervention service delivery and training.	Scope of review defined & progress on review.	Training modules completed by 2026.	A specialized unit is being established to operate across the cultural, operational, & training dimensions of the HSS system to ensure the review process is trauma-informed & culturally safe.

Emergency Management

To enhance the safety of residents and communities, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that emergency management and preparedness initiatives strengthen our capacity to respond to more frequent and severe climate-driven disasters and other emergencies.	Update health and social services emergency response plans to reflect lessons learned from after-action review, including clarification of health and social services roles in overall GNWT response and continue to do this on a regular basis.	Emergency response plans updated.	Emergency response plans are updated by 2025.	Emergency response plans have been updated at both DHSS & the HSSAs. These plans will be reviewed at the end of the fire season (October 2025). Any lessons learned will be incorporated into the plans. The role of the HSS System in the NWT Emergency Plan has been clarified & the operational limitations of the system continue to be reinforced with regards to emergency social services when Local Authority capacity is exceeded. Local Authorities are defined per the NWT Emergency Plan.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Establish Health and Social Services Emergency Management working group to provide oversight and coordination of health and social services specific emergency response and support our partners.	Working group established & active.	Working group established & active by 2025.	Since it was established in January 2024, the working group continues to meet under the leadership of DHSS, with representation from the HSSAs.

Public Safety

To promote the safety of residents and communities in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Focus on crime prevention through collaborative efforts at early intervention, integrated and person-centered service delivery, and community driven solutions.	Develop and implement elder abuse training and awareness campaigns for GNWT service providers and organizations serving seniors.	Progress on the development of elder abuse training.	Elder abuse training implemented in 2026-27.	Elder abuse training is on target for implementation 2026-27.
		# of relevant GNWT staff that participate in training sessions.	Target not established.	Development of training materials is in progress.
		# of GNWT departments who participate in the training session.	Target not established.	Development of training materials is in progress.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Enhance public education and awareness of drugs and alcohol and their connection to crime in the NWT.	Work with partners to deliver education and awareness campaign focused on illicit drugs, by providing data, expertise, and tools.	# of naloxone kits distributed.	Target not established.	NWT residents can access Naloxone kits primarily through community pharmacies & health centres. From Jan 1 – Nov 10, 2025, the NWT Take Home Naloxone program has distributed 734 Naloxone kits. As of Aug 2025, the Department is now delivering Naloxone through “healthboxes”, which are interactive vending machines. Healthbox machines are available at Behchokq Sportsplex, Hay River Community Centre, Inuvik Airport, Inuvik Midnight Sun Complex, & Yellowknife Public Library. Information about a second Yellowknife location is forthcoming. Reporting on the number of Naloxone Kits distributed through the Healthboxes will begin in the 2027-28 Business Plan Annual Update.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of fentanyl testing strips distributed.	Target not established.	<p>Since October 2024 there have been 1,185 fentanyl testing strips distributed.</p> <p>Program is shifting to “healthboxes”. Reporting on the number of fentanyl testing strips distributed through the healthboxes will begin in the 2027-28 Business Plan Annual Update. There are currently 4 active Healthboxes in the NWT: Behchokò Sportsplex, Hay River Community Centre, Inuvik Airport, Inuvik Midnight Sun Complex, & Yellowknife Public Library.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of communications & education sessions.	Target not established.	From September 2024 to September 2025 the CPHO has released 3 public health advisories in relation to public safety & toxic drugs. Approximately 28 education sessions/presentations have been provided during the same timeframe. A new web resources "Drugs in the NWT" is now available. Yellowknife wastewater data is being regularly sampled & is now posted on national website (updated every 6 months).

Risks and Mitigation Activities

The HSS System faces several challenges, including increasing rates of chronic disease, impacts related to mental health and substance use, an aging population and significant health status disparities. This is combined with significant fiscal challenges and mounting accumulated health and social service authorities' debts.

Health of the Population and Equity of Outcomes: Relative to the rest of Canada, the NWT population fares worse in several lifestyle indicators such as daily smoking, heavy drinking and obesity. These disparities are linked to differences in social determinants of health due to racism, colonialization and the legacies of the residential school system. The lack of a robust Public Health Information System has resulted in reduced effectiveness of coordinated health response and preventative measures.

Mitigation activities to address these risks include:

- Continuing to advance the Electronic Health Record (EHR) initiative. This will provide a coordinated modernization of eHealth information flows and technology. The goal of the EHR initiative is to create a more complete patient record and improve information sharing for providers and patients. Ensuring that information systems are right funded will be critical to managing system risks.
- Acknowledging and addressing systemic racism in the HSS System to improve accessibility and improve the ability of the system to identify disease conditions at earlier stages.
- Continuing to implement Primary Health Care Reform. These reforms aim to provide residents with the right care, by the right provider, at the right time and place, through the delivery of culturally safe and people-centered health and social services.

Aging NWT Population: The NWT Bureau of Statistics is projecting the population of seniors in the NWT to increase by 36% between 2024 and 2044. The combination of an aging population and rising chronic disease rates are expected to result in an increased need for health services, including home and community care and long-term care services. Without appropriate planning and investment, there is a risk the HSS System may be challenged to meet the growing demand for these services.

To address this risk, the HSS System is:

- Preparing for the implementation of the International Resident Assessment Instruments (interRAI) in Long Term and Home and Community Care. InterRAI are a set of digitized tools that allow standardized, evidence-based assessment of clients' needs.

- Increasing the number of long-term care beds. The opening of the Łiwegòatł building provides 17 new long-term care beds. Depending on future demand, the Łiwegòatł building can provide a total of 74 new beds for long-term care.
- Continuing to advance the Electronic Health Record initiative. This initiative will assist with mitigating multiple risks through information and technology improvements for program areas.

Better Access to Better Services: With an aging population, disparities in the health status of the population, health human resource shortages and a rural, remote-service delivery context, the HSS System faces risks associated with the accessibility of health and social services.

To mitigate these risks, the HSS System is focused on improving and designing new models of access, reducing wait times, strengthening cultural safety, addressing anti-Indigenous and systemic racism and creating a more robust system of supports. For example:

- The Department continues to invest in 811 services to provide 24/7 nurse advice, mental health support and smoking cessation in over 200 languages. The service has supported communities during brief health centre/facility closures. Continued expansion of this service will support system access and health care improvements.
- There is an increased focus on client experience and cultural safety through the Office of Client Experience and Indigenous Patient Advocate positions and enhancements to patient navigation.
- Electronic Health Record implementation will enable a more complete patient record, with the right information being shared with the right person, at the right time.
- The HSS System is advancing integrated care to prioritize early childhood development and culture-centered, preventative approaches to supporting parents, caregivers and nurturing children.

The HSS System continues to invest in recruitment and retention initiatives to address health human resource shortages. This includes developing the renewed People Strategy for 2025-2028. This new plan will incorporate successes and knowledge gained from the previous Human Resources Plan (2021-2024), including assessment and feedback mechanisms, targeted investments in workforce development, strategic hiring and talent management, and a continued commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Quality, Efficiency and Sustainability of the Health and Social Services: Increasing cost pressures and rising demand for programs and services require efforts to manage expenditure growth and maximize the return on HSS System investments. These pressures are resulting in affordability challenges for both the HSS System and the GNWT overall. There is a heavy reliance on third-party funding to support system sustainability initiatives.

Cost pressures within the system are intended to be mitigated, in part, by the work being undertaken by the HCSS Unit established within the EIA. In its mandate to define core health and social services for the NWT, including insured services, the Unit is undertaking a review of the HSS System that will explore options to improve sustainability and efficiency across the system while protecting access to essential care. How the outcome of this work will mitigate cost pressures will depend on the decisions made about the core health and social services that will be provided within the NWT.

The HSS System requires sustainable technology investments to keep pace with changing patient and provider needs. However, along with the rest of the GNWT, the HSS System faces limited allocation of funding for information and technology improvements. This poses a risk to timely modernization of information and technology within the HSS System.

Activities underway to mitigate these risks include:

- Prioritizing investments, and
- Seeking third-party funding opportunities.

Stable and Representative Workforce: The Northwest Territories, along with the rest of Canada, faces challenges in recruiting and retaining the necessary workforce. These shortages pose risks to the effective and efficient delivery of services.

To address risks posed by human resource shortages:

- In the 2024-25 fiscal year, the HSS System released a human resource bridging plan to continue recruitment and retention programs and activities that were underway prior to the end of the NWT Health and Social Services Human Resources Plan 2021-2024.
- The HSS System is developing a renewed 3-year health human resources strategy. The new 2025-2028 People Strategy will represent a cross-system collaborative approach to strategic human resource planning. The strategy will focus on increasing employee retention, higher productivity, improved organizational agility, enhanced marketing strategies, and sustainable growth.
- Modernization of information systems will increase availability of appropriate tools and information to support staff working in the system, which supports recruitment and retention.

GNWT Fiscal Strategy for the 20th Legislative Assembly

The Department has been successful in negotiating multi-year funding agreements with various federal partners. These funding agreements support system sustainability efforts, as well as the GNWT's fiscal strategy for the 20th Assembly, while also ensuring progress in the delivery of enhanced programs and services.

- During the 2024-25 Restoring Balance exercise, the HSS system identified \$3.488 million in ongoing expenditure reductions and support for initiatives estimated to result in \$25 million in increased revenue for 2024-25, including fee increases for professional licensing, and a renewed agreement with Indigenous Services Canada to recover costs of administering the federal Non-Insured Health Benefit Program.
- The Department has negotiated Pricing Listing Agreements (PLAs) with a number of drug manufacturers, which allow the GNWT to claim rebates and volume discounts for specific drugs. There are over 200 drugs now being covered under approximately 150 PLAs which is estimated to result in approximately \$3 million in invoices for rebates.
- The Aging with Dignity Bilateral agreement with Health Canada is a five-year funding agreement to help Canadians age with dignity, closer to home, with access to home care or care in a safe long-term care facility. Health Canada and the NWT amended the Bilateral Agreement to provide an additional \$5.3 million over 5 years to support existing Personal Support Workers (PSW) within the system through increased continuing quality care training and investment in the Aurora College PSW program to build northern human resource capacity for PSW in continuing care services.
- The Working Together to Improve Health Care for Canadians Bilateral Agreement with Health Canada is a three-year funding agreement to expand access to health services, supporting health workers and reducing backlogs, modernizing health systems and improving access to quality mental health, substance use and addictions services.
- The Territorial Health Investment Fund agreement with Health Canada is a five-year funding agreement. The NWT is using this funding to offset the costs of medical travel and to support health system innovations in the areas of Primary Health Care, Health Human Resources and Cultural Safety and Anti-Racism. Under the agreement, funding is provided for dedicated resources for System Sustainability, which has been used to fully support the establishment of the HCSS Unit within EIA. Funding for the unit is time limited to March 31, 2028, and equals about \$2 million per year to support nine positions and some operational funding for engagement and communications.
- The HSS System administers Non-Insured Health Benefits on behalf of Indigenous Services Canada. A new \$94.6 million agreement over 2 years covering 2023-24 and 2024-25 was signed, addressing a significant amount of the funding shortfall under prior arrangements, specific to medical travel. There is commitment by Indigenous Services Canada to prioritize further conversations in 2025-26 to ensure the GNWT

is adequately compensated for administration across all program areas (e.g., vision, dental, medical travel, medical equipment and supplies).

- In 2024-25, the Department negotiated with Indigenous Services Canada to renew the Northern Wellness Agreement. This five-year agreement will provide significant investment to support community wellness initiatives and improve the health outcomes of Indigenous individuals, families and communities in the NWT.
- In 2025-26, the Department will be negotiating with Indigenous Services Canada to renew the First Nations and Inuit Home and Community Care Agreement for a new five-year term. This agreement will provide investment for homecare initiatives enhancing core home and community care services across the NWT for First Nations and Inuit people.

The HSSAs had a combined operating deficit of \$35.2 million in the 2024-25 fiscal year and the accumulated deficit, as of March 31, 2025, was \$302 million.

Human Resource Initiatives

NWT HSS System Human Resources Plan: The NWT HSS System Human Resources Plan (2021-2024) has expired, and a renewed People Strategy for 2025-2028 is currently under development. The renewed plan will be developed to leverage the successes and knowledge gained from the previous plan and is anticipated to be released in 2026.

In 2024-25, the NWT HSS Bursary Program completed its second year, with 66 bursary recipients, up from 55 in 2023-24. There were more than 85 marketing campaigns delivered for hard-to-fill positions through the PracticeNWT brand. PracticeNWT attended 35 conferences, recruitment fairs, and health fairs, with a focus on HSS professionals, physicians, students, and youth. The NWT HSS Employee Transition Support Program welcomed 65 new and relocating employees to the NWT HSS System, with significant increases in employee engagement throughout the year.

In 2024–25, the HSS System Employee Engagement Strategy was launched, gathering feedback from multiple staff engagement channels to identify opportunities for increased engagement, strengthened culture, and improvements. Phase 2 of the Learning Management System, myLearning, was implemented, including the onboarding of NTHSSA staff to the platform. HSS System Development Programs, including the Professional Development Initiative (PDI) and the Targeted Academic Support Program (TASP), experienced increased participation, with 481 staff accessing PDI funding, 65 staff enrolled in academic programs through TASP, and 12 staff graduating from their TASP programs.

Cultural Safety and Anti-Racism Training: The Cultural Safety and Anti-Racism division leads the development, continuous improvement, and delivery of cultural safety and anti-racism training across the HSS System to disrupt and correct long-standing racist beliefs, attitudes, and behaviours at the interpersonal and organizational level.

This training builds capacity for challenging conversations about race and racism by exploring group agreements and relationship-building that enable the vulnerability and accountability needed for anti-racism to begin. The training develops common language and foundational skills. The readiness training also builds awareness of how racism is maintained through HSS systems and builds personal and professional commitments to dismantling it. The training provides information and opportunities for discussion about the history and ongoing legacy of colonialism and anti-Indigenous racism in Canada.

A partnership with The Centre Consultancy, a racial equity training and consultation organization, has been established to provide greater expertise in advancing equity and cultural safety and to support the sustainability of the Cultural Safety and Anti-Racism Training. The training facilitates increased understanding of how racism manifests within personal and organizational settings. Over the course of the 20th Assembly, the Department will support GNWT departments in their delivery of cultural safety and anti-racism training by offering resources and promoting best practices.

Legislative Initiatives

The Department has refocused its legislative priorities and policy development as part of an exercise undertaken midway through the 20th Legislative Assembly. Work planned to be completed in the latter half of this Assembly is shown below:

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
1	<i>Health and Social Services Professions Act (HSSPA).</i>	<p>Amendments are required to the <i>Health and Social Services Professions Act (HSSPA)</i> to clarify the role of the registration committee, clarify the role of the registrar, require mandatory employer reporting of employee unprofessional conduct, and replace gender-specific language.</p> <p>Additionally, the <i>Medical Profession Act</i> and <i>Social Work Profession Act</i> will be amended to comply with labour mobility. The <i>Public Health Act</i> and <i>Pharmacy Act</i> will be amended to move the regulation of the pharmacy profession under the HSSPA.</p> <p>Public engagement occurred between July 29 and August 30, 2024. A “What We Heard” Report summarizing feedback received was published December 2, 2024.</p>	The Legislative Proposal was approved by Cabinet on May 22, 2025.	The proposed Bill is currently targeted for introduction in the May/June 2026 sitting.	Drafting instructions have been sent to the Department of Justice to initiate drafting of the Bill.

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
2	<i>Child and Family Services Act.</i>	<p>Amendments to the <i>Child and Family Services Act</i> will be influenced by two significant factors: Standing Committee on Social Development's March 2022 "Report on the <i>Child and Family Services Act</i> - Lifting NWT Children, Youth and Families: An all of Territory Approach to Keeping Families Together", and the need to align the NWT's legislative framework with the federal government's <i>Act</i> respecting First Nations, Inuit and Métis children, youth and families.</p> <p>The Department engaged the public on amendments to the <i>Child and Family Services Act</i>, including Indigenous governments, in April 2022. A "What We Heard" Report, summarizing the feedback received from this initial engagement, was posted online on May 2, 2023.</p>	The Legislative Proposal was approved by Cabinet on July 10, 2025.	The Department will endeavour to have a bill ready for introduction in the May/June 2026 sitting per the Minister's direction, so that Standing Committee can complete its public review of the bill during its summer tour. However, introduction may be delayed due to the complexity of the bill.	Drafting instructions have been sent to the Department of Justice to initiate drafting of the Bill.

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
3	<i>Vital Statistics Act.</i>	Amendments will be made to correct a legal error with respect to mature minors' applications to change gender indicated on documents, add professionals that must certify a death and allow for more than two parents on certificates, certificates without gender indicator and gender change certificates when not born in NWT. Amendments will also be made to the <i>Change of Name Act</i> to complement the amendments to the <i>Vital Statistics Act</i> : to allow the Registrar to decline to publish a name change in the Northwest Territories Gazette at the request of a person who is transgender, and to allow mature minors to apply on their own to make a legal change of name. Public engagement of key elements occurred September/October 2022 and a "What We Heard" Report was released May 2023.	The Legislative Proposal was approved by Cabinet on January 16, 2025.	The proposed Bill is currently targeted for introduction in the February/March 2026 sitting.	The Bill is currently being drafted and is on track for introduction in the February/March 2026 sitting.

#	Regulatory initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	Pharmacy Profession Regulations (HSSPA).	On the Minister's own initiative, work has begun toward the development of Pharmacy Profession Regulations. An Advisory Committee with representatives from the NWT Pharmaceutical Association has been created to inform us about this work. Public engagement on the proposed key elements took place between July 29 & August 30, 2024, & the "What We Heard Report" was published on December 3, 2024.	Drafting instructions are currently being finalized. It is anticipated that the regulations will be ready to come into force at the same time as the <i>Health and Social Services Professions Statutes Amendment Act</i> , which will make amendments to other statutes that are required to move the regulation of the pharmacy profession to the HSSPA.
2	Midwifery Profession Regulations (HSSPA).	In November 2022, the Midwives Association of the Northwest Territories (MANWT) applied to have the midwifery profession regulated under the <i>Health and Social Services Profession Act</i> . Following Executive Council approval, the Department began work to develop the regulations. An Advisory Committee with representatives from the Midwives Association of the Northwest Territories has been created to inform this work. Public engagement on the proposed key elements took place between May 8 & June 12, 2025.	The "What We Heard Report" will be published in October 2025 & drafting instructions are currently being developed. It is anticipated that the regulations will be ready to come into force with the coming into force of the <i>Health & Social Services Profession Statutes Amendment Act</i> .

#	Regulatory initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
3	Dental Hygienist Profession Regulations (HSSPA).	The <i>Dental Hygienists Statutes Amendment Act</i> received assent on October 6, 2023, & will move the regulation of dental hygienists from the <i>Dental Auxiliaries Act</i> to profession-specific regulations under the <i>Health and Social Services Profession Act</i> on December 1, 2025. An Advisory Committee with NWT dental hygienists has been created to inform the development of Dental Hygienist Profession Regulations. Public engagement on the proposed key elements took place between September 12 & October 14, 2024, & the “What We Heard Report” was published on January 20, 2025.	The proposed regulations were posted for public engagement on September 15, 2025, for 30 days & will then be finalized & brought into force on December 1, 2025. Additional updates to the regulatory framework will need to be completed to allow for the updated scope of practice, as consequential amendments to other statutes are required, which cannot be completed within the legislated timeframe. To the extent possible, this work will be completed to align with the work on the <i>Health and Social Services Professions Statutes Amendment Act</i> .

#	Regulatory initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
4	Meat Processing Safety Regulations (<i>Public Health Act</i>).	<p>Increasing food security through locally produced, harvested & affordable food was a priority of the 19th Legislative Assembly. A meat-safety related regulatory framework for the sale of locally produced meat products is underway.</p> <p>Meat Processing Safety Regulations have been developed that support safe meat processing & sales at farmers markets, farm gate sales, & through retail outlets.</p> <p>A discussion paper on the proposed regulatory model was posted online for public engagement from December 15, 2021, to February 17, 2022. A “What We Heard Report” was released in May 2022. The proposed Regulations were released for public engagement between May 27 & June 27, 2024, & the regulations have been finalized.</p>	A coming into force date is still being determined as the Department works to finalize the Standards & the approved training program & allocate resources to this work.
5	Reportable Disease Control Regulations (<i>Public Health Act</i>).	Amendments to the Reportable Disease Control Regulations under the <i>Public Health Act</i> were required to update approved resource documents & requirements for contact tracing in relation to control measures for reportable diseases.	Amendments came into force July 31, 2024.

#	Regulatory initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
6	Regulations – Long-Term Care (<i>Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act</i> (HIHSSA)).	The Department has been exploring mechanisms to regulate long-term care facilities, both public & private, since the 18th Assembly. While the concept of legislation to support vulnerable populations has been supported by most stakeholders, there is concern that legislation would be overly complex, unnecessarily costly & heavy-handed, given the NWT has only one independent long-term-care provider currently funded by the GNWT.	Advancement of a regulatory framework for long-term-care is currently on hold & will be re-examined once essential components to develop a framework are advanced, including but not limited to the implementation of interRAI, analysis of public service implications, introduction of the <i>Federal Safe Long Term Care Act</i> & determination of long-term-care fees & funding models that appropriately reflect the costs of the insured & non-insured components of long-term-care.
7	Disease Surveillance Regulations (<i>Public Health Act</i>).	<p>Amendments to the Disease Surveillance Regulations were required to allow for the addition of a Chronic Disease Register & broader Cancer Screening Register; to update notifiable diseases, conditions & tests; remove the requirement for researchers to apply directly to the Chief Public Health Officer; & make changes to the collection of information regarding mandatory reporting requirements. Consequential amendments were required to the Summary Conviction Procedures Regulations (<i>Summary Conviction Procedures Act</i>) to reflect language & section number changes & to update offence amounts.</p> <p>An additional amendment was subsequently required to update the list of reportable diseases.</p>	<p>Amendments came into force December 1, 2023.</p> <p>This amendment came into force on June 19, 2024.</p>

#	Regulatory initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
8	Order Respecting Facilities (<i>Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act</i>).	An Order will be developed to list which facilities each of the health & social services authorities are responsible for under the <i>Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act</i> . This was raised by the Auditor General in 2022 as a potential gap that would benefit from clarity.	<p>This is now reflected as item 13, Hospital Insurance Regulations (<i>Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act</i>).</p> <p>The Department will need to amend the regulations to update the list of approved facilities & will be doing a directive instead of an order, as permitted under HIHSSA.</p>
9	Statutory Review – <i>Health Information Act</i> (HIA).	Section 195.1 of the <i>Health Information Act</i> requires the Minister of Health and Social Services to review the <i>Health Information Act</i> & table a report in the Legislative Assembly every 10 years after the <i>Health Information Act</i> came into force. The <i>Health Information Act</i> came into force on October 1, 2015. The first Minister's report is due October 1, 2025.	The report was written by October 1, 2025, & is currently being finalized for the Minister's approval . Once approved & translated, it will be tabled in the House. It is anticipated to be tabled during February 2026 session.
10	Statutory Review – <i>Mental Health Act</i> (MHA).	Section 105 of the <i>Mental Health Act</i> requires the Legislative Assembly or one of its committees to begin a review of the <i>Mental Health Act</i> , which may include recommendations for changes, within 5 years of the <i>Mental Health Act</i> coming into force. The <i>Mental Health Act</i> came into force on September 1, 2018. The Standing Committee on Social Development (SCOSD) led the review process & released its "Report on the Statutory Review of the <i>Mental Health Act</i> " on October 29, 2024. The GNWT response to the report was tabled on February 26, 2025.	Work is now underway to scope the proposed amendments that will be put forward in the 21st Legislative Assembly.

#	Regulatory initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
11	Medical Assistance in Dying Interim Guidelines for the Northwest Territories (Interim Guidelines).	Updates to the Guidelines were required to incorporate National Practice Standards & other changes based on feedback from Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) providers for clarity & additional guidance. Additional updates will be required in 2027 to comply with amendments to the Criminal Code, expected on March 17, 2027, which will allow for the expansion of medical assistance in dying to those whose sole underlying medical condition is a mental illness.	The updated Guidelines came into effect June 2, 2025. Updates to prepare for the March 2027 expansion will begin in 2026.
12	Medical Profession Regulations (HSSPA).	On the Minister's own initiative, work has begun toward moving the regulation of the medical profession from the <i>Medical Profession Act</i> to Medical Profession Regulations under the HSSPA. An Advisory Committee with representatives from the NWT Medical Association will be formed to inform this work.	Initial research & scoping are underway to inform the proposed key elements. It is anticipated that the Advisory Committee will be formed in fall 2025.
13	Hospital Insurance Regulations (<i>Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act</i>).	Schedule A of the Hospital Insurance Regulations is being amended to update the list of approved facilities for the provision of insured services. As part of this initiative, a Ministerial Directive is also being developed to list which facilities each of the health & social services authorities are responsible for under the <i>Hospital Insurance and Health and Social Services Administration Act</i> . This was raised by the Auditor General in 2022 as a potential gap that would benefit from clarity.	The amending regulations are currently being finalized, & it is expected that the Orders will be developed in 2025-26.

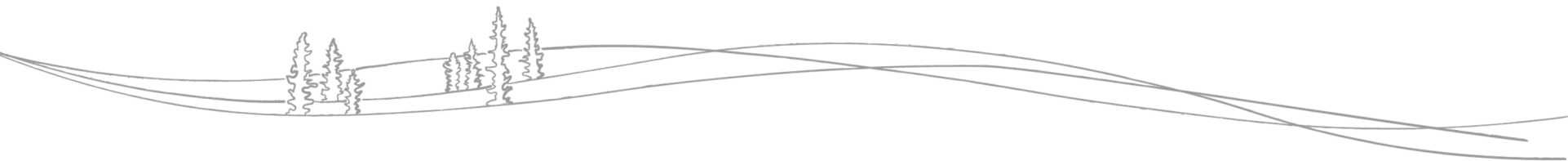
#	Policy initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	Extended Health Benefits Policy.	The new Extended Health Benefits (EHB) Policy came into effect September 3, 2024.	Assessment of program access in year 1 is underway through the established monitoring & evaluation framework & will inform any adjustments that may be needed. Feedback from residents on the application process continues to be considered to make processes easier for residents.

#	Policy initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
2	Medical Travel Modernization.	Review & modernize the NWT Medical Travel Policy & administration of benefits.	Phase 1 of 2 is underway & is expected to be completed by September 2026. Work underway includes mapping the existing state of medical travel processes; enhancing communications for staff, practitioners, & the public; developing a monitoring & evaluation plan; & reviewing expenses, funding, & positions for medical travel & its administration. Gaps & inefficiencies identified through this work are informing changes or clarifications necessary to the policy framework & benefit administration practices to improve client experience. Phase 2 will consider further updates to the policy framework, such as long-term medical travel, benefit coverage (e.g., escorts), & cost sharing requirements.

Evaluation Plan

The Department is committed to work on several Evaluations, some of which are being undertaken during the 20th Legislative Assembly, as follows:

#	Program / Policy Title	Purpose of Evaluation	Trigger	Timeframe	Current Status
1	Supporting Tobacco Cessation.	The evaluation will assess the implementation process & outcomes of the program's implementation.	To meet requirements of Health Canada's Substance Use & Addictions Program (SUAP) funding agreement.	FY 2025-26 to FY2027-28.	Developing a Request for Proposals to procure a qualified external evaluator.
2	Healthcare system sustainability (EIA led).	Support the Healthcare System Sustainability Unit in meeting its mandate to define core health & social services, including insured services, that should be delivered for the NWT.	Support completion of the Healthcare System Sustainability Unit's monitoring & evaluation plan.	Target completion September 2027.	Department is engaged with EIA to support implementation of the monitoring & evaluation plan.



2026-27 BUSINESS PLAN
ANNUAL UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRY,
TOURISM AND INVESTMENT

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Departmental Highlights

The GNWT remains committed to developing a strong and independent territory in which individuals, families, and communities participate in and share the benefits and responsibilities of a prosperous and environmentally responsible economy.

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (the Department) continues to promote economic self-sufficiency by supporting entrepreneurs by refining the Supporting Entrepreneurs and Economic Development policy and its funding streams (SEED). The Department is also working to migrate all programs under one Grants and Contribution Policy to support consistent and transparent funding program delivery regardless of which program people apply to. These programs help support responsible mineral and petroleum resource development; advance creative and traditional economies such as arts and fine craft, film, fur, agriculture, and commercial fishing; and the promotion of tourism, trade and investment, business, manufacturing, and secondary industries.

Additionally, the delivery of Arts programming was successfully amalgamated within the Department on April 1, 2025, following the transfer of these programs from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE).

Work has also continued the development of the *Mineral Resources Act* Regulations development and the supporting Mineral Administration and Registry System to support the coming into force of the *Mineral Resources Act* during the 20th Assembly. The Department, Indigenous governments, and Indigenous organizations are collaborating as a part of the technical working group on the development of the regulations under the Intergovernmental Council's Legislative Development Protocol. In completing this work to modernize the mineral tenure system, the Department is also regularly engaging with the NWT mineral resources sector to both get their feedback as well as build an understanding and prepare for the implementation of the *Mineral Resources Act*.

Supporting the 20th Legislative Assembly

Since the formal acceptance of the 2024-2028 Business Plan, the Department has continued to support NWT residents, communities, businesses, Indigenous governments, and Indigenous organizations. This includes developing and delivering a new one-time funding program that supports businesses and governments in the Sahtu and Beaufort Delta that were affected by the barge cancellations due to low water.

The Department continues to support the priority of strengthening the economic foundation by supporting the diversification of the natural resources sector both in commodity and location by supporting exploration through pathfinding and investing in public geoscience.

The Department's regional approach to program delivery supports the equitable access to economic participation at the local, regional, and territorial level.

The Department is working with the Chamber of Commerce and the Emergency Measure Operations to develop a Business Emergency Preparedness Guide for entrepreneurs and businesses to help them be prepared for unexpected emergencies and situations requiring business continuity plans. Finding innovative ways to encourage industries to grow and insulate from shocks will ensure businesses continue to serve and meet customers' needs and remain in the Territory. The Department will continue to maintain focus on strengthening sectors; and supporting and encouraging innovation and new economic development opportunities, including attracting investment. This will build economic resiliency and further support the housing, healthcare, and safe communities' priorities.

To do this, the Department will continue to work with Indigenous governments, its partner departments, trade partners and associations, and stakeholders to attract investment to support the strengthening of all sectors including tourism, creative and traditional economies, natural resources sectors, and their support sectors.

In the territorial film sector, the Department is setting goals to increase the value of income, employment, and dollars spent on all film productions taking place in the NWT.

Beginning in 2024-25, the Financial Management Board approved an expenditure target adjustment increase of the Film Commission budget thereby increasing to the NWT Film Rebate Program (FRP) annual budget from \$100,000 to \$500,000 in 2024-25 and will increase to 1M in 2025-26, ongoing. The Film Commission is currently reviewing the FRP guidelines to make improvements to coincide with the recent program budget increase. In addition to this the Film Commission updated its monitoring and evaluation framework to include measures that will enable the department to report on income and employment figures as well as dollars spent on film productions in the NWT. The measures for program reporting include leveraged NWT monies spent, direct hires, as well as goods and services spent.

Mandate Commitments

Collaborative Governance

The GNWT's relationship with Indigenous governments is integral to the future prosperity of the NWT and the following commitments will guide the implementation of the Mandate across all Priorities.

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Collaborate with Indigenous governments and residents to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.	Complete the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> (MRA) in collaboration with Indigenous governments as per the Intergovernmental Council Legislative Development Protocol.	% of steps completed under Intergovernmental Council Legislative Development Protocol.	100% of steps completed.	Steps A-E were completed in the 19th Legislative Assembly. Step F is currently on schedule & in progress & expected to be complete by early 2026-27. The last step, step G, is expected to be complete in 2027-28.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Support EIA to track, monitor, and report on actions taken by the Departments to fulfill obligations and support objectives under TRC and MMIWG.	Procurement & Socio-Economic Agreement (SEA) program review measures (once developed).	Target TBD dependent on measures developed.	<p>In progress. ITI is actively providing support to the Department of Finance on the development of the Indigenous Procurement Policy.</p> <p>In progress. A final report on the SEA Program Redesign was completed & decisions are being made on how to improve SEA performance, ensuring benefits flow to NWT Indigenous women, NWT resident women & all women working for major projects.</p>
Strengthen government-to-government relationships with Indigenous governments and work in partnership to jointly engage the federal government to advance issues of shared interest.	Work with Indigenous governments, departments, and businesses to collaborate on resource exploration and development.	# of joint resource initiatives with IGs.	4 per year.	<p>6 joint resource initiatives were undertaken by the GNWT & IGs to engage with the Federal government.</p> <p>During 2024-25, 31 applications were received & approved through the Indigenous Capacity Building program.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Explore options to support Economic Reconciliation through more flexible and streamlined funding arrangements with Indigenous governments.	Migrate programs under ITI's Grants and Contributions Policy to ensure consistent and transparent funding delivery in support of economic reconciliation.	% of ITI programs migrated under the G&C Policy.	100% of ITI contribution programs are under the G&C Policy.	Drafts of all schedules have been finalized & will go live on the ITI's website winter 2025-26.
Continue implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry Calls to Justice.	Continue to implement Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry Calls to Justice 71 and 72.	# of recommendations specific to the Indigenous Procurement Policy (IPP) implemented.	TBD. Contingent on the development of the IPP. Expected to be completed in 2025-26.	ITI is actively supporting the Department of Finance on the development of an Indigenous Procurement Policy.
		TBD. Socio Economic Agreement (SEA) Program measures once program is redesigned.	Target TBD once Socio Economic Agreement (SEA) Program is redesigned. Expected to be redesigned by end of 2025-26.	In progress. A final report on the SEA Program Redesign was completed & decisions are being made on how to improve SEA performance, ensuring benefits flow to NWT Indigenous women, NWT resident women & all women working for major projects.

To best support the delivery of programs and services to our residents and the dedicated public servants who deliver those programs, the following commitments will guide the implementation of the mandate across all Priorities:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Make programs and services more accessible and integrated through enhanced collaboration across government.	Improve accessibility of the Northwest Territories Arts Program streams.	Fewer points of entry for arts programming within the GNWT.	1 department delivering arts programming & services.	Assessment of arts programming was completed by a consultant. Recommendations will be reviewed & a new program design will launch April 1, 2026.
Better streamline administrative processes, policies and legislation across government to enhance the capacity of the public service to work better together.	Migrate programs under ITI's Grants and Contributions (G&C) Policy to ensure consistent and transparent program delivery.	% of ITI programs migrated under the G&C Policy.	100% of ITI contribution programs are under the G&C Policy.	Drafts of all schedules have been finalized & will go live on the ITI's website winter 2025-26.
Engage the public service to identify opportunities to improve efficiency, and coordinate processes to support long term fiscal sustainability.	Engage departmental staff as appropriate on updating organizational structure to support the new responsibilities required to bring <i>the Mineral Resource Act</i> (MRA) into force.	# of mineral & energy resource jobs updated & evaluated.	New organizational structure completed. MRA comes into force with updated organizational structure.	The work on organizational design & job descriptions is currently in progress. Expected in March 2026. Organizational structure will be implemented over 2026-27 & 2027-28 fiscal years.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Steward the fiscal health and sustainability of the GNWT through ongoing efforts to increase revenues, reduce expenditures, and ensure every public dollar spent serves the needs of residents and communities.	Update the fee structure to bring the <i>Mineral Resource Act</i> (MRA) into force.	# of fees reviewed & updated.	MRA comes into force with a new fee structure.	Current fee review is on hold, the focus has shifted to the fee structure for the MRA.
			Increase revenues.	Dependent on MRA coming into force. The MRA is expected to come into force in 2027.
	Monitor new parks fees for intended outcomes.	% increase of park fees & park visitation statistics.	Increase revenues.	Final 2024-25 revenue with new parks fee: \$1,159,000. NWT Parks saw 80,470 overnight visitors in 2024, which represents an 8% increase from 2023.
				Final 2024-25 revenue from TOLs: \$21,600.
	Monitor tourism fees for intended outcomes.	% increase of user fees.	90% of statistics maintained.	TOLs 2025 (to date): 159 approved; 8 pending.
		% of Tourism Operator Licences (TOL) issued.	90% of TOLs maintained.	2024-25:158 2023-24:156

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Empower the public service by ensuring they are provided the flexibility to deliver programs and implement policies in ways that best serve residents.	Continue to support regional decision-making.	% of program funding delivered by regional offices.	Total dollars spent, 100% of funding allocated to regional programming is spent in the regions annually.	Beaufort Delta Region \$1,685,276 - 21%. Sahtu Region \$1,835,918 - 23%. Dehcho Region \$1,258,747 - 16%. North Slave Region 1,889,858 - 23%. South Slave Region \$1,413,215 - 17%.
Honour the GNWT's commitments to openness, transparency, and accountability by engaging with our partners, the public, and the public service on decisions that affect their lives.	Develop and implement a public registry under the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> (MRA) and increase notification and information sharing with Indigenous governments.	% of companies that migrate under the new MRA.	100% of tenure transactions delivered within new policy & timelines once MRA comes into force.	Dependent on MRA coming into force. Meetings to inform companies of what it means to migrate to MRA are in planning, expected in 2027.
		% of notifications to IGs.	100% notifications to IGs.	32 Notifications of Application to Record for 8 separate Applications. Further notifications dependent on MRA coming into force.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
		# of implementation engagements.	MRA changes have been comprehensively communicated to all impacted groups.	MRA engagement ongoing: 5 meetings with industry totaling 10.5 hours; 1 engagement meeting with IGs totaling 1 hour; & 17 collaborative development meetings totaling 91.5 hours.
		# of tenure transactions.	100% of tenure transactions delivered within service timeframe, once the MRA is in force.	Dependent on MRA coming into force. The MRA is expected to come into force in 2027.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
	Continue to support business.	# information sessions by type (business sessions, lunch & learns, etc.).	Information sessions in region annually.	Mackenzie Delta Liquefied Natural Gas Regulatory Lunch Session: 1 Small Business Week Information Sessions: 17 Tourism Week: 11 Community Visits: 44 ITI & FIN conducted in-person Business Incentive Policy information sessions in the following communities: Fort Simpson 3, Fort Smith 1, Hay River 2, Norman Wells 1, Inuvik 2, Tuktoyaktuk 1. Information Sessions by Region: Beaufort Delta Region 5, Sahtu Region 17, Dehcho Region 10, North Slave Region 6, South Slave Region 16.
	Complete schedules under Grants and Contributions Policy.	# of schedules completed.	The GC Policy includes all ITI's contribution programs.	Drafts of all schedules have been finalized & will go live on ITI's website winter 2025-26.

Housing

To improve the suitability, accessibility, and affordability of housing options in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Increase housing availability for all residents by working with partners to address gaps in the northern housing continuum including more transitional and supportive living options.	ITI will work with FIN, Housing NWT, and other partners to complete analysis/research on the NWT housing market to better describe the total housing continuum, supply and demand and quantify gaps and barriers.	# of gaps identified.	Support completion of the Territorial Housing Needs Assessment & identify gaps & barriers to inform the NWT housing situation.	Foundational planning is underway to define scope, timelines, & next steps.
		# of barriers identified.	Support completion of the Territorial Housing Needs Assessment & identify gaps & barriers to inform the NWT housing situation.	Foundational planning is underway to define scope, timelines, & next steps.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Work with industry partners to determine opportunities for economic sectors to play a role in increase access to housing.	# of facilitations for repurposing existing assets to increase housing options explored.	GNWT & industry partners explore opportunities to increase housing using existing industry assets.	GNWT has held information discussions with an IG supporting a CANNOR application to seek funding for a local housing construction joint venture. GNWT has been involved in discussions with the City of Yellowknife & other Giant Mine Remediation Project stakeholders about developing workforce-related housing projections to share with housing developers. GNWT invited southern modular construction companies to share insights with First Nations from the NWT at the AME Roundup 2025.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Encourage private investment in housing by reducing administrative and regulatory barriers to housing development, and by implementing clear processes to increase the amount of land available for housing development in communities.	Conduct economic analysis of the housing sector to determine whether an industry-led micro cluster could be fostered for the NWT housing sector.	# of barriers identified.	Target TBD depending on barriers & opportunities identified.	Project initiation is planned for the 2025-26 fiscal year.
		# of opportunities identified.	Target TBD depending on barriers & opportunities identified.	Project initiation is planned for the 2025-26 fiscal year.
	Make geoscience information publicly available so that new community developments are informed by existing geoscience information.	# of documents.	Increased use of geoscience data in decision-making.	112 Geotechnical & Engineering reports have been made available upon request on the Northwest Territories Geological Survey website. The NWT Permafrost Database launched in November 2025.
	Support community governments with their community economic development plans including identifying housing opportunities where they exist.	# of community economic development plans funded & updated.	All communities that approach ITI for support to develop community economical plans are assisted as appropriate.	South Slave Region: 1 community economic development plan & 1 agriculture development plan. Dehcho Region: 3 community economic development plans, 1 agriculture development plan, & 4 tourism business plans.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Support residents to gain skills and education in the trades through a range of programs and partnerships.	Support transfer of skills from mine closures by working with Indigenous governments, partners, and departments to identify available opportunities for skill transfer and workforce migration.	# of NWT mine employees that find employment opportunities in the NWT.	100% of Diavik mine closure workers that want to stay in the NWT are employed.	GNWT has held information discussions with an IG supporting a CANNOR application to seek funding for a local housing construction joint venture. GNWT has been involved in discussions with the City of Yellowknife & other Giant Mine Remediation Project stakeholders about developing workforce-related housing projections to share with housing developers, which would include local employment. GNWT invited southern modular construction companies to share insights with First Nations from the NWT at the AME Roundup 2025.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
			NWT workforce is maintained.	GNWT has held information discussions with an IG supporting a CANNOR application to seek funding for a local housing construction joint venture. GNWT has been involved in discussions with the City of Yellowknife & other Giant Mine Remediation Project stakeholders about developing workforce-related housing projections to share with housing developers, which would include local employment opportunities. GNWT invited southern modular construction companies to share insights with First Nations from the NWT at the AME Roundup 2025.

Economy

To strengthen the economic foundation of the NWT, the GNWT will support the development of the private sector and community capacity, encourage a diversity of economic activity across sectors, and reduce the cost of doing business in the NWT. We will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Grow and enhance the northern workforce by investing in skill development and by attracting skilled workers to the NWT.	Through Socio-Economic Agreements, increase Indigenous and NWT resident participation in the mineral resource sector, over all phases of project lifecycles.	% Northern procurement for major resource projects.	Increase NWT Indigenous & NWT resident procurement in the natural resource sector.	Based on figures from Ekati, Diavik, & Gahcho Kué, 69.8% of the mines' procurement in 2024 was with Northern companies, representing nearly \$800 million. Procurement with Northern Indigenous companies was \$456 million in 2024.
		% Northern employment for major resource projects.	Increase NWT Indigenous & NWT resident employment in the natural resource sector.	Northern employment at the 3 diamond mines was 32.1% in 2024. Indigenous NWT employment was 16% in 2024.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Work with ECE and other GNWT partners to advance plans to transition the Diamond Mine workforce.	# of NWT mine employees that find employment opportunities in the NWT.	100% of Diavik mine closure workers that want to stay in the NWT are employed.	Diavik & GNWT formed a closure oversight committee designed to provide supports for workers transitioning from the mine. Diavik has created a program called MyPath to achieve this goal, that supports their workers through the transition based on their plans & interests post-closure. Workers are made aware of GNWT program supports & have had the opportunity to participate in 4 career fairs to date supported by Diavik & GNWT, among other partners.
	Promote and support mentorship and capacity building programs in all non-extractive sectors.	# of participants in ITI's mentorship & capacity building programs.	Increase participation in skill development programs.	Beaufort Delta: 42 Sahtu Region: 48 Dehcho Region: 85 North Slave Region: 29 South Slave Region: 26

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Support Indigenous governments in increasing geoscience knowledge of the resource potential of their lands.	# of geoscience initiatives completed or underway.	2 geoscience initiatives completed.	<p>Collaboration between Northwest Territories Geological Survey (NTGS) & Tlicho Government (TG) has been established. NTGS is supporting the hiring of a TG Geologist. 1 geoscience initiative completed: NTGS provided advice to TG on a geophysics survey that was completed in spring 2025.</p> <p>Second geoscience initiative: Geoscience Capacity Building for staff & Tlicho citizens in progress. 1 week training session in June 2025. NTGS collaborated with TG to secure NRCan funding for geoscience training 2025-27 for fieldwork in the Great Bear Magmatic Zone in July 2025.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of joint resource initiatives with IGs.	4 per year.	4 joint resource initiatives building geoscience knowledge were held: Arctic Development Expo, Yellowknife Geoscience Forum, AME Roundup, Arctic Energy Resource Symposium.
	Participate in the Giant Mine Remediation Project (GMRP) as a co-proponent with the Federal government to ensure regulatory requirements are met.	Targets for GMRP key socioeconomic performance indicators are being met or exceeded, revised, & improved based on lessons learned.	GMRP Northern employment targets of 55-70%.	Northern Employment: 31%, 347 people, 165,745 hours. Below target of 55-70%.
			GMRP Northern Indigenous employment targets of 25-35%.	Northern Indigenous Employment: 13%: 167 people, 70,245 hours. Below target of 25-35%.
			GMRP Female employment targets of 15-30%.	Female Employment: 19%: 413 people, 102,608 hours. Achieved target of 15-30%.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Increase investment certainty and create opportunities for the private sector by streamlining administrative processes, and ensuring regulatory systems and decision-making are consistent, efficient, and predictable.	Identify and work with partners to create and release an economic vision to 2035.	Performance measures TBD.	Economic vision for the NWT is articulated & progress to achieving it is communicated.	Economic vision is in preliminary stages of development.
	Identify and work with partners to create and release an Investment Strategy for the NWT.	Performance measures TBD with strategy.	An investment strategy for the NWT is articulated & progress to achieving it is measurable.	Preliminary planning is underway.
	Complete and implement <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> (MRA) regulations, including royalty regime and bring the MRA into force.	Regulations drafted, consultation completed, Act is in force Q4 2025-26.	Increased exploration expenditures.	1. Finalizing Mirrored Royalty Regulations; 2. Developed & shared with Technical Working Group & Industry (established Chamber of Mines Royalty Working Group), proposed royalty regime changes to the royalty rate structure, allowable cost deductions, & general administrative changes.
		% of companies that migrate under the new MRA.	100% of tenure transactions delivered within new policy & timelines, once the MRA comes into force.	Dependent on MRA coming into force. Meetings to inform companies of what it means to migrate to MRA are in planning, expected in 2027.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of notifications to IGs.	100% notifications to IGs sent.	32 Notifications of Application to Record for 8 separate Applications. Further notifications dependent on MRA coming into force.
		# of implementation engagement events.	MRA changes have been comprehensively communicated to all impacted interest groups.	MRA engagement ongoing: 5 meetings with industry totaling 10.5 hours; 1 engagement meeting with IGs totaling 1 hour; & 17 collaborative development meetings totaling 91.5 hours.
		# of tenure transactions.	100% of tenure transactions delivered within service timeframe.	Dependent on MRA coming into force. The MRA is expected to come into force in 2027.
	Work with partners to support and promote sustainable development of resources via efficient and timely regulatory review and environmental assessment (EA) processes and decision making.	# of regulatory improvement initiatives identified by the Mackenzie Valley Operational Dialogue (MVOD).	MVOD meets once per year.	5 initiatives are currently identified.
		# of regulatory initiatives completed under the MVOD.	1 regulatory workplan completed annually under MVOD.	3 MVOD touchstone meetings were held.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of facilitated pathfinding interactions including Resource Development Advisory Groups (RDAG) between proponents, IGs, & partners.	100% of requests for support are actioned.	2 RDAG meetings were held: 1 in October 2024 & a preliminary meeting facilitated in August 2025.
			New projects enter production.	2 RDAG meetings were held: 1 in October 2024 & a preliminary meeting facilitated in August 2025.
		# of pathfinding services delivered annually to resource industry clients, & between proponents, IGs, & partners.	Increase projects reaching the advanced & operating stages.	Client Service & Community Relations pathfinding services were delivered to 17 resource industry clients, where each service to the client involves an average of 25 interactions.
		# of interactions that promote IG & NWT resident participation in advanced & operating projects.	Increase projects reaching the advanced & operating stages.	No joint resources initiatives were held in the first quarter of 2025-26. Throughout the remaining quarters of 2024-25, 31 applications received & approved through the Indigenous Capacity Building program. An annual initiative at AME Roundup brings many IG delegates to the NWT Regions booth.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of projects in advanced & operating stages.	Increase projects reaching the advanced & operating stages.	3 projects currently in operating stage. 4 projects currently in advanced stage.
	Support resource exploration.	# of pathfinding services delivered annually to resource industry clients, between proponents, IGs, & partners.	Increase resource exploration expenditures.	Client Service & Community Relations pathfinding services were delivered to 17 resource industry clients, where each service to the client involves an average of 25 interactions.
		Ratio of leveraged private to public sector investment for Mining Incentive Program (MIP).	Increase resource exploration expenditures.	2014-25 Ratio Range: 2.8 to 22.8. 2014-25 Ratio Mean: 7.9 2024-25 Ratio: 4
		# of NTGS geoscience research & information documents publicly released.	Increase resource exploration expenditures.	NWT Open Reports: 5 (12 cumulative total) NWT Open Files: 1 (3 cumulative total) External Peer Reviewed Journal Papers: 21 (50 cumulative total) Other: 2 (cumulative 21 total) Total: 29 (86 cumulative total).

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of NTGS publications downloaded.	Increase resource exploration expenditures.	13,799 total downloads 320,362 cumulative total downloads (1,800,5 TB of data).
		# unique visitors to the NTGS website.	Increase resource exploration expenditures.	13,798 active users 20,898 cumulative active users.
		# of geoscience projects funded under new partnership agreements.	Increase resource exploration expenditures.	7 active Northwest Territories Geological Survey projects.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Work with partners to support increased mineral and energy resource development capacity for Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations.	# of support initiatives.	2 Indigenous led or partnered projects funded.	<p>Collaboration between Northwest Territories Geological Survey (NTGS) & TG has been established. NTGS is supporting the hiring of a TG Geologist.</p> <p>1 geoscience initiative completed: NTGS provided advice to TG on a geophysics survey that was completed in spring 2025.</p> <p>Second geoscience initiative: Geoscience Capacity Building for staff & Tlicho citizens in progress. 1 week training session in June 2025.</p> <p>NTGS collaborated with TG to secure NRCan funding for geoscience training 2025-27 for fieldwork in the Great Bear Magmatic Zone in July 2025.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Implement the actions in Priorities for Critical Minerals in NWT.	# of critical minerals actions ongoing or completed.	100% of the actions in Priorities for Critical Minerals in NWT are implemented.	Pan-Territorial Resources Marketing Initiative awarded contract, hosted investor engagement event at PDAC 2025 & is preparing for 3 resource conferences in 2025-26.
	Outreach to residents about NWT mineral opportunities including critical minerals and conduct public opinion survey.	# outreach activities.	Increased awareness & support through public opinion survey.	Mining Week 2025 was held in May including: 3 rock walks, MLA tour of NTGS, Tlicho Geoscience Training in Gameti, Tundra Science & Culture Camp, Mildred Hall classroom.
	Facilitate collaborative efforts among industry stakeholders and partners to identify and address investment barriers.	# barriers identified.	TBD depending on barriers identified.	A preliminary economic analysis of interdepartmentally identified barriers to entrepreneurship has been completed. 12 were identified for further consideration.
	Implement the actions from the procurement review under the 19th Legislative Assembly by implementing recommendations specific to the NWT Manufactured Products Policy (NMPP).	# of recommendations specific to the NMPP implemented.	Increased NWT manufacturers.	The NMPP is currently under review. ITI has completed targeted engagement with registered manufacturers & is developing a revised bid adjustment approach based on their feedback.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Leverage federal funding to close the infrastructure gap through investments in green power generation and transmission, transportation and communications networks.	Work with mineral and energy sector clients to assist them in business case development for infrastructure projects.	# of projects supported.	3 projects funded.	ITI has completed targeted engagement with registered manufacturers & is developing a revised bid adjustment approach based on their feedback.
	Advance geoscience research on lower carbon energy initiatives and resources (carbon sequestration, geothermal, critical minerals).	# of collaborative research projects completed.	NWT Carbon Capture study is completed.	The NWT Carbon Capture study is anticipated to be completed by the end of 2025 -26. Progress continues on a total of 10 active Northwest Territories Geological Survey Projects.
Encourage a diverse range of economic activities by promoting entrepreneurship, fostering research and innovation, building strong partnerships and leveraging opportunities in all regions.	Implementation of the Innovation Action Plan (IAP).	# of ITI-led actions implemented.	15 of 15 (100%) ITI-led actions implemented.	8 in progress, 2 transferred as ECE-led, and 5 implemented.
	Implement new Business Incentive Policy (BIP) and develop and implement performance measures.	BIP performance measures TBD.	Increase number of companies registered with BIP.	Approved BIP businesses on the registry: September 30, 2025: 1,336 September 30, 2024: 1,375 Decrease of 39.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
			Service standards are met.	Approved BIP businesses on the registry: September 30, 2025: 1,336 September 30, 2024: 1,375 Decrease of 39.
	Implement recommendations of the procurement review including recommendations specific to the NWT Manufactured Products Policy (NMPP).	# of recommendations implemented.	Increase NWT manufacturers.	The NMPP is currently under review. ITI has completed targeted engagement with registered manufacturers & is developing a revised bid adjustment approach based on their feedback.
		# of recommendations specific to the NMPP implemented.	Service standards are met.	The NMPP is currently under review. ITI has completed targeted engagement with registered manufacturers & is developing a revised bid adjustment approach based on their feedback.
	Improve accessibility of the Northwest Territories Arts Program Streams.	Fewer points of entry for Arts programming within the GNWT.	1 department delivering Arts programming & services.	Assessment of arts programming was completed by a consultant. Recommendations will be reviewed & a new program design will launch April 1, 2026.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Continue to support NWT artists and arts organizations to strengthen the NWT creative sector including raising the profile of NWT arts industries and supporting creation of new jobs and opportunities within the arts.	Amount of funding provided.	Increased number of funded artists & arts organizations funding.	To date, ITI has provided \$650,000 to artists & organizations.
		# artists & organizations.	Increased number of funded artists & arts organizations funding.	1,452 artists & 175 organizations are currently registered in the NWT Arts Program.
		Return on Investment (ROI).	Increase leveraged investment in sector (ROI).	Since 2019, the Artist to Market Program (AMP) has helped 72 artists attend 20 markets outside the NWT, with \$488,800 in ITI funding generating \$600,000 in artist earnings. In 2023–24, recipients of the Large Arts Project Fund & Arts Operating Fund leveraged \$771,000 in territorial support to secure \$1,272,968 in federal funding from Canadian Heritage, CANNOR, & the Canada Council for the Arts.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of activities & partnerships to raise profile.	Increased number of activities to raise profile.	Plans are underway to send 28 more artists to attend & sell their work at 5 markets outside the NWT in November & December 2025. ITI will invest \$143,112 to support 28 artists to attend these 5 markets, which includes travel costs, market fees, marketing campaign costs, & support staff travel.
	Complete program review of Support to Entrepreneurs and Economic Development (SEED) Policy with new guidelines.	# of recommendations implemented.	Target TBD depending on performance measures developed.	Contractor engaged for SEED Policy Evaluation in May 2025. Contractor report expected by February 2026.
		# of changes improvements made.	Target TBD depending on performance measures developed.	Contractor engaged for SEED Policy Evaluation in May 2025. Contractor report expected by February 2026.
		Performance measures TBD based on review.	Target TBD depending on performance measures developed.	Contractor engaged for SEED Policy Evaluation in May 2025. Contractor report expected by February 2026.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Continue to engage with partners to streamline business supports services across the NWT.	# of collaborative engagements.	TBD depending on engagement.	In collaboration with ECE & Prosper NWT, work to map the ecosystem of business supports in collaboration with other organizations continues. Work is expected to be completed by March 31, 2027.
	Work with partner departments to identify pathways to entrepreneurship in public housing and from income assistance.	# of barriers identified.	Target TBD depending on barriers identified.	In progress. Collaboration with ECE & Housing NWT commenced in May 2025. Work is expected to be completed by March 31, 2026.
	Implement the recommendations from the evaluation of the Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur (GMVF) program.	# of ITI related recommendations implemented.	All 13 actions under 5 recommendations implemented.	Realignment has commenced & is expected to be fully completed & implemented by April 1, 2026.
		# of fur sales.	Increased fur sales.	In fiscal year 2024-25, ITI's Fur Shop sold \$433,070 worth of traditional materials to NWT artists. The value of the contracts is \$375,000 each fiscal year. To date in 2025-26, ITI's Fur Shop has sold \$148,045.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# trappers.	Increased trappers.	ECC has indicated there were 291 active harvesters for the 2024-25 harvest season. With the realignment of the GMVF Program, ECC is responsible for the number of active trappers.
	Identify and promote access to opportunities in non-extractive sectors and creative and traditional economies.	# of Northern Food Development Program (NFDP) applicants.	Increase number of NFDP applicants.	2025-26: 19 applications to-date. 2024-25: 30 applications.
		# of Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership (SCAP) applicants.	Increase number of SCAP applicants.	2025-26: 36 applications to-date. 2024-25: 42 applications.
		# of commercial fishers.	Increase number of commercial fishers.	2025-26: 112 residential Commercial Fishing Licences to-date, 11 non-resident fishing licences.
				2024-25: 123 residential Commercial Fishing Licences, 8 non-resident fishing licences.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		Volume of fish harvested.	Increase volume of fish harvested.	Summer 2025: 853,297 lbs. Winter 2025: 57,583 lbs Summer 2024: 831,817 lbs. Winter 2024: 93,042 lbs Summer 2023: 671,523 lbs. Winter 2023: 69,961 lbs.
		Ratio of enrolled vs completed for film & media workshops, courses, training programs, mentorships.	Increased participation in film & media workshops, courses, training programs, & mentorships.	Independent Producers Fund Pre-Application Training Program for Northern Producers: 1 NWT film producer participating.
		# of film & media applications funded through NWT Film Commission programming.	Increase number of film & media applications funded.	2 projects have been approved & 3 projects are in progress.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Explore potential pathways for the transformation of the Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation (FFMC) and the future trajectory of the commercial fishing sector.	Complete research on options for the transformation of the FFMC & the future of the commercial fishing sector.	TBD depending on research.	ITI is working with Fisheries & Oceans Canada on a timeline for FFMC devolution & have completed research on options for continued support of the commercial fishing sector. Scoping of policy for retaining secondary fish processing in the NWT has begun with corresponding support program changes to be implemented in 2025-26.
	Complete economic analysis of emerging sectors to support decision-making with a lens of supporting innovation and benefit retention.	# of sector analyses completed.	Complete 4 sector analyses.	Commercial fisheries sector analysis in progress, expected completion in winter 2025. Film sector analysis in progress, expected completion in fall 2025. Tourism & housing sector analyses are in preliminary stages of development.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Explore industry-led micro clusters.	# of existing micro clusters.	1 micro enterprise cluster is established.	Economic analysis of the manufacturing sector is in progress. Looking at alternative data sources such as a survey of manufacturers.
		# of emerging micro clusters.	1 micro enterprise cluster is established.	Economic analysis of the manufacturing sector is in progress. Looking at alternative data sources such as a survey of manufacturers.
	Promote and support tourism sector growth across all regions through NWT.	# visitors.	Increase visitor numbers to pre-pandemic levels.	In progress. 72,000 total visitors (up 13% from 2022). 2024 numbers expected to be finalized in November 2025. Growing visitor volumes are boosting total spend, though per-capita spending remains below high-yield pre-pandemic segments (e.g., international leisure travelers).

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# visitor spend.	Increase visitor spend to pre-pandemic levels.	In progress. Total Visitor Spending (2023–2024): \$129 million in visitor spending. This represents a 13.4% increase from 2022. Expected to be finalized in November 2025.
		# Tourism Operator Licences (TOL).	Maintain # TOL for 2 years & then increase.	TOLs 2025 (to date): 159 approved; 8 pending. Baseline TOLs 2024: 158 TOLs 2023: 156
	Work with partners to identify barriers for remote lodge operations.	# of barriers identified.	Target TBD depending on barriers identified 100% of requests for support are processed.	An economic analysis of interdepartmentally identified regulatory barriers to entrepreneurship, including remote lodge owners as a key case study, has been completed. 4 barriers were identified (Fire Inspections; Liquor licencing; Environment Health/Water; Immigration hospitality sector).

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of pathfinding activities for the sector.	Target TBD depending on barriers identified 100% of requests for support are processed.	An economic analysis of interdepartmentally identified regulatory barriers to entrepreneurship, including remote lodge owners as a key case study, has been completed. 4 barriers were identified (Fire Inspections; Liquor licencing; Environment Health/Water; Immigration hospitality sector).
Support communities to realize economic opportunities by enhancing their ability to access and manage lands within their boundaries.	Work with partner departments to identify, understand, and reduce barriers to land access and increase access to land for economic opportunities.	# barriers identified.	Target TBD on barriers identified.	Preliminary planning is underway.

Access to health care

To strengthen preventative measures, public awareness and improve access to trauma-informed, culturally appropriate health care, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Train and support Indigenous and local residents to pursue careers in the health professions, while also recruiting and retaining qualified health and social services professionals to the NWT.	Support HSS to create, support, and evaluate recruitment strategies and initiatives that attract quality talent to the HSS system through novel ways to attract health care professionals to live in the NWT.	# of promotions completed.	TBD once engagement with HSS commences.	Preliminary discussions with HSS have been initiated.

Address the effects of trauma

To prevent, interrupt and address the effects of trauma, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that policies and programs are designed and renewed with a trauma-informed, anti-racist and cultural safety lens that is informed by residents.	Review programs under ITI's Grants and Contributions Policy to ensure that trauma-informed, anti-racist, and prioritizing cultural safety considerations are considered where appropriate.	Contacts updated under BCP for end of calendar year 2025 & tabletop exercise will be complete in winter 2025-26.	ITI's contribution programs are delivered under a lens of cultural safety.	Drafts of all schedules have been finalized & will go live on the ITI's website winter 2025-26. All programs were reviewed during this process &, where appropriate, incorporate flexibility to include trauma-informed & anti-racist provisions & prioritize cultural safety.
	Continue to include trauma-informed, anti-racist, and cultural safety practices in training for program delivery staff.	# of training sessions that include trauma-informed, anti-racist, & cultural safety practices delivered to program officers.	100% of staff complete training programs.	Living Well Together: Indigenous Cultural Awareness & Sensitivity Training 78.1%. Equitable Workplace (Employees) 5.5%. Equitable Workplace (Managers) 30.0%. Diversity & Inclusion 43.8%. 2SLGBTQQIA 101 20.6%. Unconscious Bias Training 6.3%.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Support Indigenous governments and other partners to develop and deliver culturally appropriate, northern and regional trauma treatment, mental wellness and addictions programming by removing administrative barriers and streamlining supports.	Work with industry partners on program design that identifies barriers and ensures culturally appropriate provisions.	# of barriers to culturally safe programming identified.	Target TBD on barriers identified.	GNWT supported IGs in developing cultural wellbeing indicators related to the processed kimberlite containment facility at Diavik Diamond Mine, through Diavik Measure 6. GNWT has completed a draft monitoring report for 2024, with plans to share with IGs & get feedback on improving the report.
		# of best practices on culturally appropriate programming design shared with industry partners.	Target TBD on barriers identified.	GNWT supported IGs in developing cultural wellbeing indicators related to the processed kimberlite containment facility at Diavik Diamond Mine, through Diavik Measure 6. GNWT has completed a draft monitoring report for 2024, with plans to share with IGs & get feedback on improving the report.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Encourage community wellness and self-determination by supporting the development and delivery of community-based wellness programs to address mental wellness, prevention, early intervention, and holistic health.	In support of well-being, continue to deliver ITI programming in the creative and traditional economy.	# artists.	Increase in: # artists.	1,452 artists & 175 organizations are currently registered in the NWT Arts Program.
		# trappers.	Increase in: # trappers.	ECC has indicated there were 291 active harvesters for the 2024-25 harvest season. With the realignment of the GMVF Program, ECC is responsible for the number of active trappers.
		# park visitations by NWT residents.	Increase in: # park visitations by NWT residents.	52,916 of overnight visitors were NWT residents which represent 66% of all overnight visitors to NWT Parks for the 2024 season.
		# creative & traditional economy programs delivered in parks.	Increase in # of creative & traditional economy programs delivered in parks.	There were 35 Interpretive events held in the NWT Parks throughout the 2024-25 season.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# mentorships.	Increase in # of mentorships.	<p>SEED Policy was amended in 2025 to clarify that mentorships are eligible training costs under the Entrepreneur Support program.</p> <p>SEED: 2 mentorships/training in 2025-26.</p> <p>Tourism Business Mentorship: 4 mentees for 2025-26.</p> <p>Youth Mentorship for Tourism: 5 mentees or 2025-26.</p>

Emergency Management

To enhance the safety of residents and communities, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that emergency management and preparedness initiatives strengthen our capacity to respond to more frequent and severe climate-driven disasters and other emergencies.	Update ITI departmental business continuity plan (BCP) annually with regional considerations.	# of business continuity plans updated.	100% of plans updated in 2024-25.	Contacts updated under BCP for end of calendar year 2025 & tabletop exercise will be complete by Senior Management Committee.
		# of parks plans updated.	100% of plans updated in 2024-25.	BCP for Parks is in progress. Finalization expected in November 2025.
	Participate in federal supply chain initiatives.	# of communities assisted.	All communities that approach ITI for support with supply chain issues are assisted as appropriate.	ITI has helped the communities of Norman Wells & Fort Good Hope by supporting businesses in these communities with increased supply chain costs caused by low water associated with barge cancellations.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Support communities in reducing vulnerability of supply chains.	# of communities assisted.	All communities that approach ITI for support with supply chain issues are assisted as appropriate.	ITI has helped the communities of Norman Wells & Fort Good Hope by supporting businesses in these communities with increased supply chain costs caused by low water associated with barge cancellations.
	Support industry and communities with business continuity and emergency preparedness initiatives.	# of tools developed.	1 guidance tool developed.	The guidelines are in review with the Chambers of Commerce.
		# of applications & amount funded.	Eligible business & communities in need are made aware of available programming & apply.	In 2024-25, ITI provided \$159,425 in funding to 7 companies impacted by barge cancellations.
Enhance our understanding of climate change-related threats and impacts and support innovative climate change mitigation and adaptation responses.	Support the increased understanding of the impacts of permafrost thaw on infrastructure.	Value (\$) of research leveraged.	100% of the research completed available to the public.	Total leveraged from GNWT: \$177,000. Total leveraged from external funding sources: \$714,185.
		Amount of research completed (# of studies/published research/co-authored/etc.).	100% of the research completed available to the public.	21 papers (increase of 9) & 21 extended abstracts (2-pages) on permafrost conditions in NWT authored or co-authored by Northwest Territories Geological Survey staff published.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Support permafrost training opportunities and information sharing sessions.	# of community training sessions or information meetings.	2 community training sessions or information meetings.	2 community training sessions with a total of 130 participants.
		# of participants.	2 community training sessions or information meetings.	2 community training sessions with a total of 130 participants.
		# of outreach sessions.	2 outreach sessions.	21 outreach sessions were held, 16 in the Beaufort Delta Region, 4 in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, & 1 in the North Slave Region.
		# of advisory activities.	2 advisory activities.	7 advisory activities held.
		# of mentoring activities.	5 mentoring activities.	21 early career researchers are currently being mentored by Northwest Territories Geological Survey staff.
	Support ECC with flood and permafrost hazard mapping integration into LMA, especially pertaining to community surficial geology maps and geotechnical information.	# of publications available pertaining to NWT community surficial geology maps & geotechnical information & # downloaded.	Increased number of publications available online.	112 Geotechnical Reports collected through GNWT contracts have been made available upon request through the Northwest Territories Geological Survey website. 3 reports pertaining to geotechnical information is in progress.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Support private sector investment in innovative climate resilient infrastructure.	# of applications received & funded (baseline & yearly).	3 projects funded annually.	3 climate change resilient infrastructure projects funded.
Invest in robust and redundant community, energy, telecommunications and transportation infrastructure.	Invest in climate-resilient and lower emission strategic infrastructure in NWT Parks.	# of projects completed.	10 climate-resilient & lower emission strategic infrastructure in NWT Parks completed.	13 Parks are currently equipped with renewable energy, including solar & hydroelectric. Since April 2024, 1 new park is now equipped with hydroelectric.
Strengthen regulatory frameworks for emergency management, create territorial building standards, and improve community hazard mapping and monitoring.	Support ECC with hazard mapping integration into LMA, especially pertaining to permafrost and surficial geology characterization and geotechnical information compilation especially around communities and infrastructure corridors.	# of accessible reports, maps, & datasets pertaining to permafrost & surficial geology characterization & geotechnical information around communities & infrastructure corridors.	100% of the project reports available to the public.	4 Open Reports are currently in progress. 1 Data Open Report is in Review. 1 Oblique Photographic Database of Permafrost Landforms has been published. 1 database report is currently in progress & scheduled to go live by November 2025.

Public Safety

To promote the safety of residents and communities in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Focus on crime prevention through collaborative efforts at early intervention, integrated and person-centered service delivery, and community driven solutions.	Continue to support public safety in parks.	# of incidents reported.	Reduction in incidents.	144 incidents have been reported since April 2025. This shows an increase of 13 from last season.
	Support HSS in its programming with the resource sector.	# HSS program related engagements with resource sector companies & organizations.	Increased HSS mental health sessions at mine sites.	GNWT staff & senior management meet quarterly with mine officials, & annually with mine senior officials, to discuss public safety & mental health support programs & other topics. GNWT & the mines look for ways to support each other to provide mental, personal, & family health services to mine employees. GNWT also produces an annual Social Data Report which monitors & analyzes more than 20 socio-economic indicators, with a goal of measuring the impacts of diamond mining on NWT residents & communities.

Risks and Mitigation Activities

No changes were required.

GNWT Fiscal Strategy for the 20th Legislative Assembly

In 2025-26, the Department has an expenditure reduction of \$534,000 comprised of contributions and arts operations funding that were allocated for purchasing cases, artwork display, and conducting workshops to streamline expenditures and prioritize more impactful initiatives. The Department has also planned new revenue generation totaling \$1,166,000 comprised of mining regulations administrative fees and Significant Discovery Licence rental rates.

The Department made reductions to arts operations funding to allow the prioritization of high-impact, high-priority projects that are central to the Department's mission. The reduction in Community Transfer Initiatives contributions will result in a better alignment and consistency of the funding provided to the Community Futures Development Corporation; and Prosper NWT will be able to offset the reduction with additional revenue streams.

Human Resource Initiatives

For 2024-25, the Department has a total of 185 funded positions. There are 102 positions based in headquarters and Yellowknife (55%) and 83 positions based in regional offices (45%).

The Department currently exceeds the overall Indigenous Employment levels for the GNWT as a whole at the end of 2024-25, with 28.7% of the employees being Indigenous Aboriginal. The Department continues to face a challenge in recruitment and retention for technical and specialized positions. The Department is working to revise select job descriptions to allow for a broader range of potential candidates. The Department expects to continue to have difficulties in filling geoscience and legal positions as these specializations are in high demand in both the private sector and in other Canadian jurisdictions.

The Department will also work to regularly review its vacancy report and retirement listing to ensure the short, medium, and long-term employment needs of the Department are met.

The Department will also continue to work to ensure summer students who are currently enrolled in post-secondary institutions who are interested in a future position with the Department are hired into positions that align with their current study programs or will shape their future choices and increase their opportunities for full-time employment once completing their studies.

Legislative Initiatives

The Department is working on several legislative and policy projects, some of which are being undertaken during the 20th Legislative Assembly, as follows:

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
1	<i>Tourism Act.</i>	Review <i>Act</i> & regulations & determine what areas of the legislation need to be amended to align the legislation with establishment agreements for Thaidene Nëné.	January/February 2026.	Fall 2026-27.	Policy development. Invitations sent to IGs & Indigenous organizations to form technical working group & begin meetings.
2	<i>Freshwater Fish Marketing Act.</i>	Evolution of relationship with Freshwater Fish Marketing Corporation: Investigate options for fisheries management through legislation or policy.	N/A.	N/A.	ITI has determined this work will be completed through policy & this work is underway.

#	Regulatory initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	Mineral Resources Regulations.	Development of regulations required to bring the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> into force.	Drafting underway to bring the <i>Mineral Resources Act</i> into force. Initial drafts of regulations have been shared with Technical Working Group.
2	<i>Petroleum Resources Act</i> & <i>Oil & Gas Operations Act</i> regulations.	Review & modernize existing regulations & considerations for geothermal legislation.	Pending.

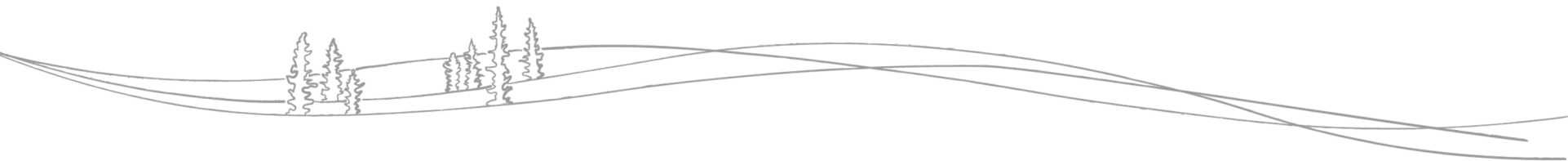
#	Policy initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	Indigenous Procurement Policy.	Work continues with EIA as lead & collaboration with our Modern Treaty & Self Government Partners & the NWT Council of Leaders to develop policy approaches to enhance participation of Indigenous businesses in GNWT procurement.	Underway.
2	SEED Program Review.	Review & modernize the program to ensure it is meeting the needs of NWT businesses while ensuring it aligns with ITI's overarching Grants & Contributions Policy.	Underway.
3	Community Futures & Community Transfer Program reviews.	Review the functions of these two programs to determine if they are still necessary & meeting the original objectives for which they were established.	Underway.
4	Business Incentive Policy Updates.	Develop approach to bid adjustment.	Complete.
5	Northern Manufactured Products Policy Updates.	Undertake comprehensive review.	Underway.

Evaluation Plan

The Department is committed to work on several Evaluations, some of which are being undertaken during the 20th Legislative Assembly, as follows:

#	Program / Policy Title	Purpose of Evaluation	Trigger	Timeframe	Current Status
1	Support for Entrepreneurs & Economic Development (SEED) Policy.	Examine the relevance, impact, effectiveness & efficiency of the SEED Policy & provide evidence-based recommendations for the Policy going forward.	No evaluation since inception in 2008.	June 2025 - February 2026.	In progress.
2	Producers Incentive Pilot Program (PIPP).	Examine the implementation, effectiveness, efficiency & feasibility of the PIPP & provide evidence-based recommendations for program delivery.	Pilot program paused, planning to reoffer.	September 2025 - March 2026.	In progress.
3	Indigenous Capacity Building (ICB) Program.	Small-scale evaluation to clarify program structure and rationale to inform program re-design.	No evaluation completed; difficulty collecting data under current performance measurement plan.	November 2025- March 2026.	In progress. Program theory & design in place need clarification, update design, & performance measurement plan.
4	Commercial Fisheries Support Program.	Examine the program for effectiveness & efficiency.	No evaluation completed; program has been operating for 5+ years.	2026-27.	In planning. Absent program theory, design, & performance measurement.

#	Program / Policy Title	Purpose of Evaluation	Trigger	Timeframe	Current Status
5	Diamond Policy Framework.	Examine the framework for effectiveness & efficiency.	No evaluation completed; framework has been operating for 5+ years.	2026-27.	In planning. Absent program theory, design, & performance measurement.
6	Geoscience Datasets.	Examine the program for effectiveness & efficiency.	No evaluation completed; program has been operating for 5+ years.	2027-28.	In planning. Absent program theory, design, & performance measurement.
7	Community Tourism Infrastructure Contribution (CTIC) Program.	Examine the program for effectiveness & efficiency.	No evaluation completed; program has been operating for 5+ years.	2027-28.	In planning. Absent program theory, design, & performance measurement.
8	Tourism Product Diversification and Marketing Program (TPDMP).	Examine the program for effectiveness & efficiency.	No evaluation completed; program has been operating for 5+ years.	2028-29.	In planning. Absent program theory, design, & performance measurement.



2026-27 BUSINESS PLAN
ANNUAL UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF INFRASTRUCTURE

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Departmental Highlights

The Department of Infrastructure (the Department) has a mandate to provide services to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) with respect to the planning, design, construction, acquisition, operation, and maintenance of government infrastructure; including airports, buildings, highways, and bridges; and to promote the development and increased use of energy efficient technologies. This mandate also includes the provision of regulatory safety services to the public; the provision of petroleum products to communities that are not serviced by the private sector; and the marine transportation of cargo to Northwest Territories (NWT) communities.

In 2025-26, the Strategic Infrastructure, Energy and Supply Chains (SIESC) branch was created to provide focused leadership for nation-building projects that are critical to advancing economic growth, energy security, climate resilience, and Arctic sovereignty. SIESC is leading three major initiatives: the Taltson Hydro Expansion, the Arctic Economic and Security Corridor (AESC), and the Mackenzie Valley Highway (MVH). These initiatives demonstrate the Department's role in building sustainable infrastructure, advancing climate and energy priorities, and positioning the NWT as a leader in northern and national development.

Complementing these large-scale initiatives, the Department also enhanced the DriveNWT.ca service, which provides the public with real-time highway and road condition information, including updates on closures, construction, and winter road safety. Through this platform, residents and industry can access up-to-date maps, advisories, and safety reminders before travelling. Improvements to the service this year included clearer navigation tools, segmented roads to show conditions more accurately, expanded safety messaging, and source identification. By making DriveNWT.ca a reliable, go-to source for travellers, the Department is helping ensure safer journeys, better planning for resupply and commercial activity, and improved public awareness of transportation conditions across the Territory.

Looking forward, the Department is advancing one of its most significant infrastructure priorities: the replacement of the Dehk'è Frank Channel Bridge (DFCB). This bridge is a critical transportation link for people and goods travelling to Yellowknife and beyond. Design work is progressing, and with permits now secured and draft federal approvals in hand, the window for further environmental review has closed. This clears the way for construction to begin, pending final approvals. Engagement has been a priority throughout, with multiple community sessions held earlier this year. Planning is also underway for signage and a groundbreaking event.

Supporting the 20th Legislative Assembly

The Department continues to advance the priorities of the 20th Legislative Assembly with a clear focus on the safety of residents and communities, while laying the foundation for a strong economic future.

Following the Committee's Report on the 2024–25 Main Estimates, the Department took several actions. These included restoring the Community Access Program funding to the 2023–24 levels of \$1.5 million and reinstating the Community Government Retrofits Program (\$150,000) to support energy audits and retrofits of community government facilities.

The Department is modernizing the Yellowknife Airport (YZF) to better serve residents, industry, and visitors. A strategic plan for YZF is currently being developed to guide long-term sustainability and support economic growth across the Territory. In 2024-25, the Department released Phase I of the Gateway Strategy, providing an Economic Impact and Social Connectivity Report. Building on this, Phase II is now underway with comprehensive planning for the capital investments, land use, and financial sustainability.

SIESC is advancing work on three nation-building priorities: the Taltson Hydro Expansion, the Arctic Economic Security Corridor, and the Mackenzie Valley Highway. While important milestones have been achieved, several targets remain in progress. For example, regulatory and community engagement requirements have extended timelines for the Taltson project, while planning for the Mackenzie Valley Highway continues to be shaped by feedback on funding models and environmental assessment processes.

The Mackenzie Valley Highway, in particular, will play a pivotal role in enabling the future economy of the NWT by opening new opportunities for resource development, strengthening supply chains, and providing reliable, all-season access for communities. Advancing this project directly supports the 20th Legislative Assembly's commitments to economic diversification, transportation resilience, and sustainable infrastructure—delivering benefits for residents today while laying the foundation for future generations.

Looking ahead to 2026-27, SIESC will maintain momentum on all three initiatives with a focus on securing federal investment, finalizing partnership agreements with Indigenous governments, and addressing logistical challenges identified during the 2024-25 to 2027-28 Business Plan reviews. This includes responding to MLA concerns about timelines, cost pressures, and departmental capacity to manage multiple major projects simultaneously. In addition to advancing commitments under the government's 2023–2027 Mandate, SIESC is also driving mandate-letter priorities not fully captured elsewhere—such as preparing for critical minerals development and strengthening northern transportation resilience beyond reliance on winter roads.

Mandate Commitments

Collaborative Governance

The GNWT's relationship with Indigenous governments is integral to the future prosperity of the NWT and the following commitments will guide the implementation of the Mandate across all Priorities.

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Strengthen government-to-government relationships with Indigenous governments and work in partnership to jointly engage the federal government to advance issues of shared interest.	Define ownership opportunities for Indigenous partners of the Taltson Hydro Expansion Project; grow capacity and create a framework for economic investment in the project.	Memorandum of Intent (MOI) established & signed by all Indigenous partners to the project.	MOI signed by Q4 2024-25.	Progress continues in defining the project structure & in identifying the critical considerations for a commercial partnership. Drafting of the MOI is ongoing; focus also includes other commercial priorities.
	Work with the Tłıchǫ Government (TG) to advance the Whatì Transmission Line to enhance security in the region while lessening our reliance on diesel.	# of project design & engineering documents developed collaboratively.	Regulatory application submitted for Whatì Transmission Line within the life of this Assembly.	The GNWT & the TG are in the final stages of preparing the scope of work & executing contracts to advance the project.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	The GNWT continues to work in collaboration with Indigenous governments and organizations on the advancement of the Mackenzie Valley Highway between Wrigley and Norman Wells.	# of engagement activities with IGs & organizations.	Renewed project related agreement with SSI Q2 2024-25.	<p>GNWT-SSI MOU was renewed in July 2024. Decision of Environmental Assessments will be delayed, as GNWT seeks to implement work planning with the PKFN to address Dehcho alignment concerns. Revised forecast late - 2026.</p> <p>More than 50 project specific engagement activities have occurred including SIESC participation in Community Information Sessions & Technical Sessions facilitated by the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, plus regular meetings of the GNWT-SSI MVH Steering Committee.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
			Regulatory authorizations submitted – Q1 2026-27.	Applications for project specific regulatory authorizations will be pushed back until Environmental Assessments completion (late 2026).

To best support the delivery of programs and services to our residents and the dedicated public servants who deliver those programs, the following commitments will guide the implementation of the mandate across all Priorities:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Engage the public service to identify opportunities to improve efficiency, and coordinate processes to support long term fiscal sustainability.	Undertake review of the governance and operating models for Marine Transportation Services (MTS).	Acceptance of revised operating structure for the entity.	MTS Crown Corporation Legislation in force by April 2027.	MTS is transitioning to a Crown corporation. Legislation will be introduced in spring 2026 & is targeted to come into force in April 2027.
		# of engagement opportunities provided.	Various engagement activities during the life of this government.	As the project progresses, staff will continue to be involved. Additional opportunities for implementation may also be recognized.
	Establish a continuous improvement committee to address opportunities for efficiencies and improve internal processes.	# of meetings held.	Quarterly meetings.	2 meetings have occurred.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
		# of process improvements made.	Implement 1 major & 5 minor efficiencies annually.	Development of an internal information portal with centralized tools & links; reorganization of Project Management under a central reporting structure; creation of a feedback & suggestion form; standardization of workflows for regular processes.
Steward the fiscal health and sustainability of the GNWT through ongoing efforts to increase revenues, reduce expenditures, and ensure every public dollar spent serves the needs of residents and communities.	Establish internal process and methodology for regular review and updates to INF fees and tolls.	Establishment of review process & methodology.	Review process & methodology established by 2025.	Fee reviews & updates have advanced. Compliance & Licensing fees are under review, with changes targeted for implementation in Spring 2026. Yellowknife Airport fees were recently updated. Marine Transportation Services undertook detailed work on charging cargo fees, focusing on streamlining & ensuring that different vehicles, such as trucks & snowmobiles, are recognized at appropriate & differentiated rates.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
	Undertake regular evaluation of INF programs and services to ensure programs are meeting intended objectives and are cost effective.	# of programs reviewed.	2 programs reviewed annually.	Deferred Maintenance review is nearing completion. Driver Vehicle & Licensing Services program review is underway. In the "interview" stage with 25+ interviews scheduled for staff & contractors providing services, & 4 jurisdictional interviews. A public survey is also planned & expected to be underway in early October through "Have Your Say". Once the interviews & public survey are completed & analysed, reporting will be done with the expectation the final report will be completed in January 2026.

Housing

No specific actions under this commitment.

Economy

To strengthen the economic foundation of the NWT, the GNWT will support the development of the private sector and community capacity, encourage a diversity of economic activity across sectors, and reduce the cost of doing business in the NWT. We will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Grow and enhance the northern workforce by investing in skill development and by attracting skilled workers to the NWT.	Working with Procurement Shared Services (FIN), include requirements for training and targets for apprentices in all INF Design-Build (DB) project evaluation criteria.	# of contracts that include training requirements & apprentice targets.	100% DB contracts (or contracts procured through RFP) to include evaluation criteria related to local employment, local business opportunities, & training opportunities.	INF did not release any RFPs for DB contracts in 2025-26.
	Hire and train INF apprentices.	# of apprentices hired.	10 apprentices hired.	1 new apprentice hired. (3 in total)
		# of Schools North Apprenticeship Program (SNAP) students.	5 SNAP students hired.	0 SNAP students hired.
Leverage federal funding to close the infrastructure gap through investments in green power generation and transmission, transportation and communications networks.	Develop and release a new strategic approach to energy with targets that guide investment, in cooperation with ECC and ITI.	New approach to energy targets & reporting developed as part of renewed Energy Strategy.	Approach developed in 2024-25 & released with renewed Energy Strategy by Q4 2025-26.	SIESC & ECE will develop a new whole-of-government Climate Change & Energy Strategy, in collaboration with other departments.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		Public release of a renewed Energy Strategy for the NWT.	Energy Strategy released by Spring 2026.	<p>As of Fall 2025, INF & ECC are engaging with other departments to develop a joint strategy. It is anticipated that the strategy will be shared with Cabinet for approval in Winter 2026, with a release planned in Spring 2026.</p> <p>Also being released in Spring 2026 is a draft implementation plan containing the actions & initiatives supporting the strategy, for targeted engagement, with a finalized plan expected by Summer/Fall 2026.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Advance planning and design of Taltson Hydro Expansion selecting a preferred transmission route and filing EA initiation package with MVEIRB.	# of project milestones met.	Selection of preferred transmission route by Q1 2024-25.	The overland line and submarine cable route was selected as the preferred route for the project in November 2024. The Taltson Working Group is focused on advancing commercial arrangements, which include a framework for a limited partnership agreement & Memorandum of Intent & conducting baseline information gathering, to support a regulatory application.
		EA package filed.	EA initiation package filed by Q4 2025-26.	Indigenous partners are actively engaged & need more time to define terms agreeable to all parties.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Sign Memorandum of Intent (MOI) between the business entities that wish to partner.	Signed MOI.	Signed by Q4 2024-25.	Indigenous led community engagements to gather baseline information north & south of Great Slave Lake continue. A regulatory application will rely on outcomes of engagement, targeted for submission in Fall 2026.
	Advance planning and design of the Mackenzie Valley Highway by participating in environmental assessment, seeking regulatory authorizations, and updating business cases.	# of engagement activities.	Business case update initiated – Q2 2024-25.	INF advanced work to update the MVH Business Case & is pursuing a P3 pre-feasibility study to support continued engagement with IGs & Canada on project financing and delivery.
		Environmental Assessment Workplan Activities/Phases (% Complete).	Decision of environmental assessment expected mid-2025.	Decision of Environmental Assessment will be delayed, as GNWT seeks to implement work planning with the PKFN to address Dehcho alignment concerns. Revised forecast late – 2026.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		Regulatory Review Progress (% Complete).	Regulatory authorizations submitted – Q1 2026-27.	Applications for project specific regulatory authorizations will be pushed back until Environmental Assessment is complete (late 2026).
	Advance planning and design of the Slave Geological Province Corridor by undertaking community and Indigenous Government engagement and preparing an environmental assessment initiation package.	# of engagement activities.	Environmental assessment of Lockhart All-Season Road underway in 2026.	For the reporting period - approximately 212 project specific engagements have been made, including formal meetings & information exchanges.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		Environmental assessment initiation.	Submit the EAIP to the MVEIRB.	Initiation of the Environmental Assessment for the Lockhart All-Season Road (LASR) has been put on hold. LASR specific work activities have been paused to explore collaboration with IGs on the broader AESC. An AESC Intergovernmental Working Group, comprised of GNWT, Yellowknives Dene First nation & Tlicho Government officials, has been established to facilitate collaboration & explore project governance models & opportunities for Indigenous participation & leadership in project planning & delivery.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Advance planning and construction of transmission lines to expand existing hydro grids, including Fort Providence and Whatì transmission lines by completing construction of the Fort Providence transmission line and submitting regulatory application for Whatì transmission line.	# of project milestones met.	Fort Providence transmission line construction completed in 2027-28.	Final design expected completion date - end of December 2025. A federal announcement regarding funding from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program is expected in the coming months. A construction decision is expected by spring 2026.
		Submit regulatory application.	Regulatory application submitted for Whatì transmission line within the life of this Assembly.	A service contract to complete engineering design for the Whatì Transmission line route is in the final stages of negotiations.
Encourage a diverse range of economic activities by promoting entrepreneurship, fostering research and innovation, building strong partnerships and leveraging opportunities in all regions.	Work with the Economic Advisory Committee to finalize and implement the Yellowknife Airport (YZF) Strategic Plan, attract investment from business community and further develop YZF.	Public release of YZF Strategic Plan.	Strategic Plan released in 2024-25.	INF will engage with IGs, Indigenous organizations, community governments, & Standing Committee on the Strategic Land Use Plan.
		Meet milestones related to site selection.	Site selected for new ATB 2025-26.	Engagement with key stakeholders is scheduled to commence at the end of October 2025.

Access to health care

No specific actions under this commitment.

Address the effects of trauma

No specific actions under this commitment.

Emergency Management

To enhance the safety of residents and communities, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that emergency management and preparedness initiatives strengthen our capacity to respond to more frequent and severe climate-driven disasters and other emergencies.	Develop and launch a new highway conditions map and reporting system (Drive NWT) that links the travelling public with real time information on highway conditions, including cameras, traffic counters and environmental and weather information.	# of responsible employees trained in use of system.	100% of required staff trained by Q4 2024-25.	DriveNWT roll out complete. System operations & maintenance, including improvements to user experience, are ongoing.
		Availability of system & # of visitors to the site.	Drive NWT launched in 2024.	INF is working on a baseline to track site visits.
		Tone & sentiment of social media coverage.	Drive NWT is a trusted source of truth for travelling public.	Drive NWT has been updated daily by regional staff.
	Continue to invest in and undertake highway, ferry and airport maintenance and rehabilitation projects to ensure a safe, reliable transportation system.	# of bridges inspected annually.	All bridges inspected on 3-year cycle.	All bridge inspections completed for 2025–26 as per the 3-year cycle.
		# of bridges maintained in good – very good condition.	95% of bridges to be maintained in good-very good condition (per Bridge Condition Index).	95% of bridges inspected were found to be in good to very good condition for 2025.
		# of kilometers of chipseal completed annually.	150 kms of chipseal completed per year.	177.6 km of chipseal overlay was completed in 2025–26.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of airport runway inspected annually.	All runways inspected on a 3-year cycle.	All runway inspections have been completed for 2025–26 as per the 3-year cycle.
	Update INF Business Continuity Plan, INF Emergency Plan and list of essential employees and businesses.	% of Senior Management staff with ICS training.	95% of Senior Management staff with ICS training.	33% of Senior Management staff have taken ICS training.
		# of emergency preparedness exercises conducted annually.	4 emergency preparedness exercises conducted annually.	5 regional emergency preparedness exercises completed this year.
		Frequency of updates to plans.	Plans reviewed & updated annually.	INF participates on GNWT Business Continuity Plan steering committee; plans are reviewed & updated annually.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Enhance our understanding of climate change-related threats and impacts and support innovative climate change mitigation and adaptation responses.	Research, assess and undertake feasibility studies for innovative, emerging technological solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.	# of technologies assessed &/or tested in the context of the NWT.	3 technological solutions assessed &/or tested by Q4 2027-28.	INF commissioned the Arctic Energy Alliance to complete Phase 1 of its cold climate air-source heat pump monitoring project. The final report will be released by the end of 2025-26, & Phase 2 is now underway with additional units being installed in Yellowknife housing. The Hydrogen study is complete, & INF's Energy Division is working on a plain language summary & GNWT response prior to publication in October 2025.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Invest in robust and redundant community, energy, telecommunications and transportation infrastructure.	Complete extension, modernization and rehabilitation of Inuvik runway to be more resilient to the effects of climate change and to support a multimodal transportation system <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work package (WP) 3 Embankment and WP 4 Drainage. • WP 5A Advanced electrical. • WP 6A Advanced paving. • Paving and Electrical. 	Complete workplan 3 &4.	WP 3 & 4 complete in FY 2024-25.	WP 3 & 4 are substantially complete, 1 item remaining for final completion in 2026.
		Complete workplan 5A.	WP5A – complete in FY 2024-25.	WP5A complete, only survey report submittal remaining.
		Complete Workplan 6A.	WP6A – complete in FY 2024-25.	WP6A ongoing annual maintenance contract, work completed for 2025.
		Paving & Electrical out for tender.	Paving and electrical – tender in 2025.	Major paving & electrical design is completed & in review; contracts are planned for public procurement in 2026.
		Runway Extension Complete.	Target 2027.	The project has been extended out to completion construction season of 2029 (Fiscal 2030). This delay allows us to monitor ground temperature in the new embankment to determine that the permafrost is established within the new construction.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Advance planning and construction of transmission lines to expand existing hydro grids, including Fort Providence and Whatì transmission lines.	# of project milestones met.	Fort Providence Transmission Line construction completed 2027-28.	The final design is targeted for completion by the end of December 2025. A federal funding announcement under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program is anticipated in winter 2025–26, with a construction decision identified for spring 2026.
		Submit regulatory application.	Regulatory application submitted for Whatì Transmission Line within the life of this Assembly.	A service contract to complete engineering design for the Whatì Transmission line route is in the final stages of negotiations.
	Advance planning and design of Taltson Hydro Expansion by selecting a preferred transmission route, filing an EA Initiation Package with MVEIRB, and signing a memorandum of Intent between the business entities that wish to partner.	# of project milestones met.	Selection of preferred transmission route by Q1 2024-25.	The Taltson Working Group is focused on advancing commercial arrangements, which include a framework for a limited partnership agreement & Memorandum of Intent.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		File EA package.	EA initiation package filed by Q4 2025-26.	Indigenous partners are actively engaged & need more time to define terms agreeable to all parties. Indigenous-led community engagements to gather baseline information north & south of Great Slave Lake continue.
		Signed MOI.	MOI signed by Q4 2024-25.	A regulatory application will rely on outcomes of engagement, targeted for submission in Fall 2026.
	Support electrification of transportation by developing electric vehicles charging infrastructure.	# of installations of level 2 electric vehicle chargers.	2 level-2 electric vehicle chargers.	Installations are operational in Yellowknife, Hay River, Enterprise, Fort Providence, Fort Smith, & Behchokò. Drivers can now travel from Yellowknife, Hay River or Fort Smith to Alberta on Highways 1, 2, 3, & 5.
		# of installations of level 3 electrical vehicle chargers.	12 level-3 electric vehicle chargers.	There are 11 operational level 3 chargers & 2 that will come online in 2026. There are 6 operational level 2 chargers & 1 that will come online in 2026.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Undertake design and construction of Dehk'è Frank Channel Bridge, in cooperation with the Tłıchq Government.	# of project milestones met.	Complete design, construction & open to the public 3 years after award of DB contract.	Water license & land use permit for construction of Dehk'è Frank Channel Bridge have been received. Groundbreaking occurred in Fall 2025.
		#/% of Tłıchq involvement in project.	Meet or exceed the requirements outlined in the Tłıchq Infrastructure Cooperation Agreement for economic & employment benefits achieved for Tłıchq citizens and businesses.	Tlıcho-Kiewit General Partnership (TKGP) is progressing towards 100% design & construction. Construction Contract was signed in September 2025.
	Build redundancy and improve condition of fuel storage facilities in remote communities to mitigate the non-delivery of fuel.	% of project completed & volume of additional storage added.	Storage capacity in communities is double annual consumption by 2030.	Original project was aimed at Sachs Harbour, Ulukhaktok, & Paulatuk. Estimates showed costs exceeded funding. Project was re-scoped to the 2 communities (Ulukhaktok and Sachs Harbour). Federal funding secured for re-scoped project. Tender expected mid fall 2025 & contract anticipate contractor in late 2026.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Strengthen regulatory frameworks for emergency management, create territorial building standards, and improve community hazard mapping and monitoring.	Work with MACA and Housing NWT to undertake policy, research, and scoping to bring forward FMB submission seeking funding to support the creation of an <i>NWT Building Standards Act</i> .	Develop Project Plan.	Project planning developed in 2024-25.	Building Standards Framework Working group has been organized & is planning engagement with stakeholders.
	Implement an online application and processing system for gas, electrical, and boiler pressure vessel permits to reduce the wait time for approval.	Applicants can access permits online.	Online system launched in 2025-26.	The online AMANDA system is currently being tested. The launch is planned for 2026.
		75 % improvement in permit application processing.	75% improvement annually.	Once launched, INF will report on improvements.
	Work with MACA to continue Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment for GNWT Assets.	# milestones met in framework development.	Framework completed in 2024-25.	Phase 1 Framework is now complete. It sets out a structure for analyzing individual assets against different climate-related hazards. While some data gaps remain, these will be addressed over time as resources allow & as specific needs arise.
	Further development of the framework used to evaluate assets and begin evaluating assets using that framework.	% of major managed assets evaluated.	50% of major managed assets evaluated annually.	24.3% (29 out of 119) of major facilities were assessed in 2024-25.

Public Safety

To promote the safety of residents and communities in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Enhance public education and awareness of drugs and alcohol and their connection to crime in the NWT.	Develop and implement a new Safe Driving Campaign as part of interagency efforts under the NWT Alcohol Strategy, to increase awareness of risks of impaired driving.	# of project milestones met.	Campaign developed & launched in 2024-25.	The Safe Driving Campaign successfully delivered milestone initiatives on: Impaired & distracted driving, youth & back-to-school safety, winter & wildlife safety, & snowmobile, ATV, & summer recreation safety. It expanded outreach & aligned GNWT initiatives with messaging from JUS, ECE, ECC, HSS, the RCMP, & the City of Yellowknife. Federal funding was secured & reached residents territory-wide through ads, social media, videos, quizzes, & keychains for new drivers. Started tracking in September 2025.
		# of website hits, social media impressions, ads.	Establish baseline data.	

Risks and Mitigation Activities

No changes were required.

GNWT Fiscal Strategy for the 20th Legislative Assembly

The Department continues to support the Fiscal Strategy for the Northwest Territories' 20th Legislative Assembly by leveraging existing resources where possible and identifying opportunities for efficiencies. Despite rising costs for materials and services, the Department has taken a strategic approach to forced growth, requesting additional funding only for pressures that cannot be accommodated within the existing appropriation. In addition, the Department continues to advance initiatives with the potential to generate cost savings across government.

To support fiscal sustainability, the Department continues to explore opportunities to reduce the GNWT's leasing footprint through a coordinated, government-wide approach. As the central manager of most GNWT leases, the Department is leading work to modernize the Office Space Standards and Guidelines, last updated in 2012. Proposed updates reflect the evolving nature of the workforce, including hybrid work arrangements. Engagement with departments on the draft standards is underway and the Department remains committed to supporting implementation.

The Department is actively advancing work to support the centralized management of the GNWT's light fleet, which includes cars, trucks, vans, and other passenger vehicles used across government operations. Planning efforts are underway to enable implementation as early as April 2026. Through consolidated oversight, the Department aims to improve operational efficiency, promote consistent standards, and support long-term cost savings across departments.

Human Resource Initiatives

The Department has finalized its Human Resources Implementation Plan in alignment with the GNWT 2022–25 Human Resources Strategic Plan, with several key initiatives already underway. A central element of this work is an internal communications plan designed to improve information sharing, strengthen cross-departmental collaboration, support professional growth and wellbeing, and enhance employee engagement and morale.

To improve access to training and centralize resources, the Department launched a dedicated Teams Channel for departmental announcements and information. The Training Tuesday Channel has become the go-to space for training announcements, mandatory course highlights, reminders to dedicate time to completing training, and progress tracking. This platform supports a culture of continuous learning by grouping training courses together by theme, promoting regular engagement through monthly updates, and celebrating staff achievements. It simplifies access to essential resources, enhances compliance with mandatory training, and encourages professional development across all levels.

Employee engagement and recognition also remains a priority. With new departmental leadership at both the Department and SIESC, a departmental Town Hall event was hosted by senior management to update staff on recent and upcoming changes. An anonymous feedback form was also created and distributed, which gives employees a chance to communicate what's working, what isn't, and to make recommendations for improvement. The annual Deputy Minister Awards were held to highlight the outstanding achievements of staff, while monthly newsletters continue to celebrate milestones and other accomplishments across the organization.

Legislative Initiatives

The Department is working on several legislative and policy projects, some of which are being undertaken during the 20th Legislative Assembly, as follows:

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
1	<i>Motor Vehicles Act (MVA).</i>	<p>Subject: Information Sharing.</p> <p>Amendments will expand use of information collected for driver's licenses to support consumer protection initiatives, voters registry, NWT Bureau of Statistics, & enable related amendments to the Driver's Licence Regulations regarding photos for Driver's licences.</p>	2023-24 Q4.	2024-25 Oct-Nov Session.	<p>Bill was given assent in March 2025.</p> <p>Information sharing clauses are in force.</p> <p>Amendments to the Drivers Licence Regulations are necessary to bring the rest of the Bill into force, these are in the final drafting stages.</p>
2	<i>Boilers and Pressure Vessels Act.</i>	<p>The Act will be repealed & replaced to reflect modern operations & to address public safety considerations. The Act is currently too broad, allows for unskilled individuals to replace equipment such as propane tanks, & puts the Department (Government) at risk.</p>	2024-25 Q1.	Oct-Nov 2025 Session.	<p>Bill was introduced in Fall 2025. The <i>Elevators & Lifts Act</i> is amended into the TSA.</p>

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
3	<i>Gas Protection Act.</i>	The <i>Act</i> will be repealed & replaced to address broader public safety issues.	No earlier than 2026-27.	To be addressed through TSA.	TSA introduced Oct - Nov 2025 session.
4	<i>Electrical Protection Act.</i>	The <i>Act</i> will be repealed & replaced to address broader public safety issues.	No earlier than 2026-27.	To be addressed through TSA.	TSA introduced Oct - Nov 2025 session.
5	<i>Motor Vehicles Act.</i>	Subject: Dangerous Driving. This amendment will modernize ticketing requirements & review minimum license restrictions after Criminal Code Conviction.	2025-26.	LP no earlier than 2026-27.	Work not started.
6	<i>Motor Vehicles Act.</i>	Subject: Traffic Rules. To align with the rest of Canada, INF will move the “Rules of the Road” into regulation. Moving this significant portion of content to regulation will make the <i>Act</i> easier to apply, amend, & will modernize rules of the road.	2025-26.	LP no earlier than 2026-27.	Work not started.
7	<i>Public Highways Act.</i>	The <i>Act</i> will be amended to allow control of pedestrians outside of Municipalities.	2026-27.	The bill received assent on Nov 1, 2024.	Completed under <i>Misc Statutes Amendment Act</i> submission.
8	<i>Motor Vehicles Act.</i>	Subject: Dealer Plates. Review use of dealer & rental plates.	2027-28.	LP no earlier than 2026-27.	Work not started.

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
9	<i>Marine Transportation Corporation Act.</i>	Includes provisions establishing MTS as a body corporation separate from government, & confirming it has the powers of a natural person including the ability to contract, own property, take on debt, etc. See e.g. section 6 of the <i>Ferry Corporation Act</i> & section 4 of the <i>Canada Post Corporation Act</i> .	April 2025.	May – June 2026.	Legislative Proposal was approved in June 2025, drafting is underway.

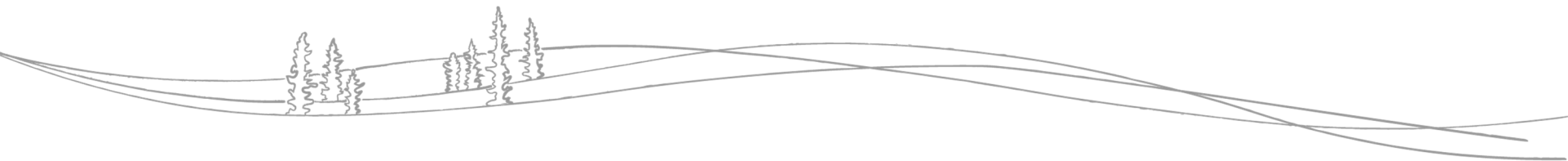
#	Regulatory initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	Summary Conviction Procedures Regulation.	Amendments to the hours-of-service Regulation in May 2023 created offenses; the Summary Conviction Procedures Regulations need to be consequently amended to reflect that list.	Complete.
2	MVA – Vehicle Registration Regulations.	Amendments will move requirements for proof of ownership from program policy to regulations. These amendments must be made prior to developing abandoned vehicle regulations.	Completed March 2025.
3	Gas Protection Regulations.	Amendments will address public safety issues including inspector powers & restricting exemptions which currently allow a person who does not hold a gas fitter license to engage in gas fitter work.	Completed April 2025.
4	MVA – Vehicle Registration Regulations.	<p>This amendment will address 2 issues:</p> <p>Medical Exams: it will provide more detail around submission of medical examinations & correct errors regarding medical examination requirements for specific drivers' licenses including code & standard references.</p> <p>V-Class Licenses: End requirement for INF to endorse licenses for extended length trainers & require employee/company to manage this endorsement.</p>	Drafting of amendments underway.
5	MVA – Vehicle Registration Regulations.	Updates required to technical standards.	Drafting instructions pending finalization of trucking MOU.
6	Boiler and Pressure Vessel Act Regulations.	Updates will address changes to legislation.	Drafting instructions dependant on passage of TSA.
7	MVA – Abandoned and Worthless Vehicle Regulation.	This new regulation will define ownership of vehicles & establish a program so that they can be disposed of.	Drafting instructions being developed.
8	Gas Protection Regulations.	Updates to reflect changes to legislation.	Drafting instructions, no earlier than 2026-27.
9	MVA – Driver's License Regulations.	Updates to reflect changes to the legislation.	Drafting instructions, no earlier than 2026-27.

#	Policy initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	Disposal of Improved Real Property Policy (DIRPP).	Amendments to this policy will address new departmental responsibilities for INF & ECC and add Indigenous governments as a priority interest group for the sale of surplus property. This will include moving some provisions to a new Ministerial policy. These projects will be advanced simultaneously & will involve engagement with Indigenous and community governments.	Engagement with Indigenous Governments, Indigenous Organizations, community governments & MLAs, is scheduled for Winter 2025. Second Quarter fiscal 2026-27 - Implementation of revised policy & companion Ministerial Policy.
2	Building Standards Framework.	INF will work with MACA to form a multi-departmental team to undertake policy, research, & scoping to bring forward a business case for funding & research required to support the creation of an <i>NWT Building Standards Act</i> .	A building standards Policy framework is being developed through a working group, legislative solutions may be required.
3	Policy direction to the NWT Public Utilities Board.	Work with EIA to assess & provide policy direction to the Public Utilities Board on electricity system issues.	The Policy Direction was issued, & the PUB is currently engaging with Utilities to implement it. The GNWT will monitor & participate in proceedings when requested by the PUB.

Evaluation Plan

The Department is committed to work on several Evaluations, some of which are being undertaken during the 20th Legislative Assembly, as follows:

#	Program / Policy Title	Purpose of Evaluation	Trigger	Timeframe	Current Status
1	Review of Contribution Agreements.	The evaluation will assess the effectiveness, efficiency, & accountability of Contribution Agreements in advancing departmental business objectives & supporting mandate priorities. The purpose is to ensure that agreements are delivering measurable results for communities & stakeholders, while also identifying opportunities to streamline administration, strengthen outcomes, & maximize the value of departmental resources.	This evaluation was initiated to address the administrative burden associated with managing Contribution Agreements. It aims to identify opportunities to streamline processes, reduce complexity, & improve efficiency.	2026-27.	Evaluation framework & scope under development.



2026-27 BUSINESS PLAN
ANNUAL UPDATE
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Departmental Highlights

The Minister and the Department of Justice (the “Department”) have the mandate for the administration of justice in the Northwest Territories (NWT), including policing and corrections. This mandate is carried out in a manner which respects community and Indigenous values and encourages communities to assume increasing responsibilities. The Department also ensures that the government’s administration of public affairs accords with the law, and by virtue of holding the responsibility of the Attorney General for the NWT, is entrusted with the powers and duties outlined in the *Department of Justice Act*.

The Department is committed to ensuring all residents feel safe in their homes and communities. The prevalence of illicit drugs, increasing gun seizures and gang related activity are causing harm in NWT communities and eroding residents’ sense of community safety. Multifaceted approaches are needed to address these complex problems and include effective enforcement, supporting persons at risk to prevent them from becoming victims and/or offenders; disrupting and deterring criminal activity; and facilitating close partnerships with all levels of government, non-governmental organizations, and individuals to combat crime. The GNWT is working closely with the Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP), Indigenous governments, and communities to address these challenges and enhance public safety.

Additional demand pressures on the Department and the NWT justice system arise as the Department works to address a wide range of community needs. The challenge is to explore how residents in each community, including families in crisis or in transition, can access justice services in a way that is both sustainable over time and appropriate to the needs in that community. The Department is working to promote opportunities for all NWT residents to have equal access to justice services, which requires continued investment in modernizing the justice system, and working with stakeholders and partners to foster a culture of continuous improvement in programs and services, so that they meet the needs of NWT residents and are available to them in their home communities. In addition, the Department must regularly adjust programs and services, with associated cost implications, to ensure alignment with federal initiatives’ while also ensuring these programs and services meet the unique requirements of regional centres and small communities.

The Department must continue to modernize its programs and services to support improved access and outcomes for NWT residents. A key focus of this success recognizes that the Department cannot do this alone. Any progress made on strategic priorities is very likely a result of better service integration with departments, agencies, communities, Indigenous governments, and Indigenous organizations.

Supporting the 20th Legislative Assembly

The Department is undertaking the following work to support the Priorities of the 20th Legislative Assembly and the Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories:

Promoting the Safety of Residents and Communities in the NWT

Through proposed new legislation, the Department is working to provide law enforcement and the GNWT with more legal tools to protect property, shut down drug houses, seize assets from traffickers, deter crime, and stop those who profit from bringing drugs into NWT communities. The proposed legislation includes a new *Trespass to Property Act*, *Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods (SCAN) Act*, and a *Civil Forfeiture Act*. The Department submitted Legislative Proposals for all three legislative initiatives in the summer and fall of 2025.

The Department introduced new trespass legislation in October 2025 and received feedback from the public on the proposed legislation via an online survey. Extensive public, partner, and stakeholder engagement was also undertaken to inform the development of SCAN and civil forfeiture legislation in the fall of 2025, with the Department targeting February-March 2026 for the introduction of a civil forfeiture bill and May 2026 for the SCAN bill.

The Department is reviewing the *Residential Tenancies Act* (RTA) in response to recommendations raised in annual reports completed by the Rental Officer and the recurring issues of illegal activities in public housing that have been raised through various channels. This project has been delayed due to prioritization of the public safety legislative initiatives noted above, but the Department is aiming to have the review completed in early 2026. The results of this review will inform future amendments to the RTA.

Under the Guns and Gangs Funding initiative, the Department is improving information sharing and preventing illicit drug involvement through community programs. Since September 2024, it has partnered with the Chief Public Health Officer, Municipal and Community Affairs, and the RCMP to deliver 14 youth drug awareness sessions and enhance funding for youth centres. Funding also supports the 2-year Justice Navigator Pilot Program, which helps individuals leaving the justice system stabilize and avoid re-offending in four communities by 2026. The Department continues to see positive results from investments in RCMP specialized units, including the Crime Reduction Unit (CRU) and Emergency Response Team. Fully staffed between September 2024 and August 2025, the six-member CRU targets serious offenders, strengthens drug enforcement, and improves intelligence sharing under the Illicit Substances Strategy, leading to safer arrests and stronger community protection across the NWT.

Preventing, Interrupting, and Addressing the Effects of Trauma

The Department supports community-led men’s healing programs through the Men’s Healing Fund to help prevent family, intimate partner, and gender-based violence. 6 communities, including Behchokò, Łı́ı́ı́ı́ Kúé First Nation, Tulita, Aklavik, Fort McPherson, and Fort Providence were approved for 2025–2026 funding. The Department also supports and trains Community Justice Committees to offer alternatives to the criminal justice system. As of October 2025, 6 multi-year agreements were in place, with 16 more expected this year. 14 training and outreach sessions were delivered in 2024–2025, and a revised training program will launch in 2025–26.

The Wellness Court, Drug Treatment Option Program (DTOP), and Intimate Partner Violence Treatment Option Court (IPVTO) are alternatives to conventional court that function on the premise of therapeutic intervention to address the underlying causes of anti- social behaviour with an aim to reduce recidivism. As of September 2025, 215 individuals have been referred to Wellness Court, of which 111 participated in the program for some length of time and 28 completed their wellness plan and graduated from the program. As of September 2025, 206 participants have successfully completed the IPVTO related 8-module P.A.R.T.N.E.R program.

Amendments to the *Protection Against Family Violence Act* in 2025 were made to improve access to Emergency Protection Orders (EPOs) by widening the definition of family members who may apply for protection under the *Act* and adding “stalking” to the list of actions that constitute family violence under the *Act*. The Department also funds free, territory-wide legal advice and legal representation through the Independent Legal Advice and Representation Program for survivors of sexual assault, intimate partner violence, and those requiring EPOs. The program has a 13-member panel of lawyers who provided 731 hours of professional services to clients in the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Advancing Reconciliation and Good Governance

Bill 2: *Missing Persons Act* received assent on June 13, 2024, and is a key action that will assist the GNWT with the continued implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry Calls to Justice. Regulations to support the coming into force of the *Act* were posted for a 30-day public engagement period in the summer of 2025 and the Department worked to finalize the regulations and related forms to bring the *Act* into force in the 2025-26 fiscal year.

The *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act* (ATIPPA) is legislatively required to be reviewed within 18 months after the commencement of the 20th Legislative Assembly. In accordance with the legislation and the Government Renewal Initiative, the Department, with the assistance of a contractor, began the review of the ATIPPA and an evaluation of the Access and Privacy Office in the spring of 2025. The Department sought feedback via various channels, including interviews with stakeholders and an online survey for the public. The Department plans to table a What We Heard Report outlining the results of the review during the winter 2026 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.

The Department is proceeding with a capital project to implement an electronic document management system, and replace the existing court case management system, which will make more court information accessible online and will improve access to services for the public, the judiciary, and the bar. The Department is targeting 2027 for the new court services information management system to be in place.

The Legal Aid Outreach Clinic takes the lead on the Legal Aid Commission's public legal education and information initiatives. These include community visits, presentations, and publications. To help address demand, 'do-it-yourself' informational guides have been developed that include detailed instructions on how clients may represent themselves and handle certain commonly encountered legal issues. Guides are distributed on wills, small estate administration, varying emergency protection orders, varying child support orders, and filing documents by mail. The Divorce Guide and Joint Divorce Guide were also recently developed. Although the position of the Children's Lawyer has been defunded, there has been no change in the representation of children's voices before the Courts of the Northwest Territories. An evaluation of the Office of the Children's Lawyer is scheduled to be completed under the Government Renewal Initiative in fiscal year 2025-26.

Mandate Commitments

Collaborative Governance

The GNWT's relationship with Indigenous governments is integral to the future prosperity of the NWT and the following commitments will guide the implementation of the Mandate across all Priorities.

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Collaborate with Indigenous governments and residents to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.	Assess legislative initiatives for consistency with the <i>United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Implementation Act</i> .	# of statements of consistency drafted.	All legislative initiatives that are advanced are reviewed in this manner.	As of September 30, 2025, A total of 216 Statements of Consistency were prepared. Of these, 12 were for bills, all of which were consistent with the United Nations declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The remaining 202 were for regulations (192 of which were consistent & 10 were not applicable).

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Continue implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry Calls to Justice.	Develop missing persons legislation to provide support to RCMP in conducting missing persons investigations.	Specific measures to be established with coming into force of legislation.	2023-24 Q4.	Bill 2- <i>Missing Persons Act</i> received assent on June 13, 2024. JUS completed public engagement on the draft regulations in the summer of 2025 & after finalizing forms to be used under the <i>Act</i> , is aiming to bring the <i>Act</i> into force in the 2025-26 fiscal year.

To best support the delivery of programs and services to our residents and the dedicated public servants who deliver those programs, the following commitments will guide the implementation of the mandate across all Priorities:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Honour the GNWT's commitments to openness, transparency, and accountability by engaging with our partners, the public, and the public service on decisions that affect their lives.	Access to information requests responded to in a timely manner.	% of ATIPP requests processed within a 30, 60, 90 & over 90-day timeline.	Time to process ATIPP requests is reduced, & within legislated timeframes.	In 2024-25, the Access & Privacy Office (APO) closed 135 ATIPP requests, 60% of which were completed past legislated timeframes. Between September 30, 2024, to September 30, 2025, the APO received 161 new requests. This is in addition to 120 requests carried over from previous fiscal years.

Housing

No specific actions under this commitment.

Economy

No specific actions under this commitment.

Access to health care

No specific actions under this commitment.

Address the effects of trauma

To prevent, interrupt and address the effects of trauma, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that policies and programs are designed and renewed with a trauma-informed, anti-racist and cultural safety lens that is informed by residents.	Corrections programming that supports offender rehabilitation and reintegration back into their home communities.	# of offenders completing criminogenic programming: sentenced, non-sentenced, & dual status.	Not applicable - JUS has no control over who participates in the programs, & we therefore cannot determine a target.	As of September 30, 2025, 33 core criminogenic programs were delivered with 73 participants completing the programs. Of these 73 participants, 57 were inmates. Out of the 57 inmate participants, 32 were sentenced, 24 were remanded, & 1 were dual status at the time of completion of the program.
	Continued delivery and evaluation of a therapeutic community model within the South Mackenzie Correctional Center.	# of participants, & completion of phases in the program.	Continued delivery of the therapeutic model, with an evaluation to be completed in 2027.	As of September 30, 2025, a total of 82 participants were admitted into the program. Of these, 73 completed Phase 1, the orientation phase, & 49 completed all 3 Phases of the program.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Support Indigenous governments and other partners to develop and deliver culturally appropriate, northern and regional trauma treatment, mental wellness and addictions programming by removing administrative barriers and streamlining supports.	Development of a treatment program approval policy for offenders to attend approved treatment programs prior to sentencing.	# of programs approved under the policy.	Treatment program approval policy in place & screening applications to provide culturally relevant & community-based treatment options.	In the summer of 2025, JUS began work on a Terms of Reference (TOR) to establish a GNWT Committee to review applications received under the Treatment Program Approval Policy. JUS is targeting completion of this TOR & establishment of a committee in 2025-26, after which partners & stakeholders will be engaged on the policy & application form before they are finalized.
	Support communities to deliver community-led approaches to men's healing programming as a preventative approach to address family, intimate partner, and gender-based violence through the Men's Healing Fund.	# of budgets fully expended annually.	100% of funding being offered through this initiative is utilized by communities.	As of September 30, 2025, 100% of the Men's Healing Fund had been allocated.
		# & type of community partnerships & community collaboration.	100% of funding being offered through this initiative is utilized by communities.	For the 2024-25 fiscal year, there were 7 community agreements, 6 with IGs & 1 with an Indigenous organization. As of September 30, 2025, there are 6 community agreements, 5 are with IGs & 1 with an Indigenous organization.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of participants program supports.	100% of funding being offered through this initiative is utilized by communities.	For the 2024-25 fiscal year there were 141 cultural activities completed serving 3,122 participants.
		# of cultural healing activities.	100% of funding being offered through this initiative is utilized by communities.	For the 2024-25 fiscal year there were 141 cultural activities.
		Participant & community feedback - cultural competency & changes reported by participants.	100% of community program agreements require reporting on feedback from participants.	Participant & community feedback from all 6 programs was provided for the 2024-25 fiscal year. 2025-26 participant feedback has not yet been received & will be provided during year end reporting.
Encourage community wellness and self-determination by supporting the development and delivery of community-based wellness programs to address mental wellness, prevention, early intervention, and holistic health.	Provide a proactive, sustainable, trauma-informed, holistic approach to community safety, and bridge the gap between community safety needs and the role of the RCMP through the Community Safety Officer pilot program.	# of calls for support to the program.	Evaluation of the program to occur in 2026-27.	<p>There were over 136 CSO calls for support, 282 safe rides, 67 public assistance & mental health checks, & 20 minor disturbances in the 2024-25 fiscal year.</p> <p>From April 1, 2025-August 30, 2025, there were 71 CSO calls, 106 safe rides, 33 public assistance & mental health checks, & 9 minor disturbances.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of calls for service to RCMP.	No target established.	In Fort Liard, from the 2023 calendar year to the 2024 calendar year, there was an 8.2% decrease in calls for service to the RCMP. From September 2024 to August 2025, there have been 918 calls for service.

Emergency Management

No specific actions under this commitment.

Public Safety

To promote the safety of residents and communities in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Work with law enforcement, governments, communities, and across departments to create and strengthen tools that can be used to disrupt and combat the drug trade and associated criminal activity.	Support the establishment of a new Territorial Crime Reduction Unit within the RCMP “G” Division to disrupt illicit drug supply and enhance enforcement targeting criminal networks.	# of drug & organized crime investigations undertaken.	Territorial Crime Reduction Unit is established within the RCMP “G” Division.	1,343 drugs & organized crime investigations conducted in the 2024-25 fiscal year.
		# of people charged with drug trafficking & violent crime.	No target established.	74 individuals charged with drug trafficking in the 2024-25 fiscal year.
		# & type of weapon seized linked to organized crime by type.	No target established.	276 firearms were seized, & 138 weapons were seized in the 2024-25 fiscal year.
	Develop Safer Communities and Neighbourhoods legislation to address premises being used to support illegal activities.	Specific measures to be established with coming into force of legislation.	Bill introduced in 2025-26 Q3.	The Safer Communities & Neighborhoods Legislative Proposal was submitted in September 2025 with extensive public engagement (via community visits & an online survey) conducted in the fall of 2025. JUS is targeting introduction of a bill in May 2026.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Develop Civil Forfeiture legislation to discourage illegal activity by providing the power to seize goods obtained through the proceeds of crime.	Specific measures to be established with coming into force of legislation.	Bill introduced in 2025-26 Q4.	A Legislative Proposal for civil forfeiture legislation was submitted in the summer of 2025, with extensive public engagement (via community visits & an online survey) occurring in the fall of 2025. JUS is targeting introduction of a bill in February-March 2026.
	Develop Trespass legislation to deter criminal behaviour or inadvertent damage that trespassers may cause.	Specific measures to be established with coming into force of legislation.	Bill introduced in 2025-26 Q1.	A Legislative Proposal for trespass legislation was submitted in the summer of 2025. JUS introduced a bill in October 2025.
	Leverage existing partnerships with the RCMP to provide opportunities for training, awareness, and information sharing on the deterrence of illicit drugs.	# of training & information sharing events.	Enhanced awareness to aid crime prevention & help to combat the distribution of illicit drugs.	For the 2024-25 fiscal year there were 1,417 meetings, events, & activities held.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of partnership activities.	No target established.	For the 2024-25 fiscal year, there were 5 activities with Community Justice Committees, 7 activities with Victim Service Programs, 12 activities with Community Safety Officer Program, & 11 activities with shelters & other housing related social programs.
	Assess prolific offender monitoring and strategic interventions to support public safety.	# of prolific offenders baseline established.	Prolific offender profile defined, & data reporting on this established to help identify appropriate interventions.	JUS is in the process of establishing Bail Summary Reports to assist with repeat offender management in the territory. These reports will provide relevant information to the Courts while Judicial Interim Release Orders are being considered. The Bail Summary Reports will be implemented in Spring 2026.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Develop enhanced guidance and tools for GNWT departments and agencies to enable efficient information sharing with law enforcement.	A guide is created & disseminated to all GNWT departments.	1 guide created, distributed to 11 departments.	JUS is developing a handbook which will be shared with GNWT departments in 2025. The handbook is intended to be used as a tool for Senior Managers when considering the sharing of information as per privacy legislation.
Focus on crime prevention through collaborative efforts at early intervention, integrated and person-centered service delivery, and community driven solutions.	Expansion of First Nations and Inuit Policing Program (FNIPP) (federally funded).	# of additional FNIPP funded positions.	22 positions are created & cost shared with Canada.	All 22 RCMP FNIPP positions have been created.
		# of Letters of Collaboration.	All communities with Community Justice Committees have signed Letters of Collaboration.	As of September 30, 2025, there were 19 signed Letters of Collaboration out of 23 active CJs.
		# of communities with policing priorities.	All 33 communities have established policing priorities.	As of September 30, 2025, 20 communities have FNIPP policing priorities. 33 communities have community policing priorities in place.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Funding directed to community-based crime prevention and interventions, targeting youth and young men.	# of interventions supported through funding.	Community-based interventions support local needs, cultures, & traditions.	As of September 30, 2025, funding supported 20 youth centre crime prevention activities, 13 Men's Healing Programs, 23 Justice Committees, 14 school-based drug awareness sessions, 3 Community Conversations Toolkits (developed with the DOJ & CPHO), & 4 Reintegration/Justice Navigator Programs.
	Continue diversions to restorative justice options and advancing restorative justice approaches to service delivery.	# of communities funded to establish a Community Justice Committee (CJC).	100% of communities have funding & support available to establish a CJC if they choose.	As of September 30, 2025, 100% of communities have been allocated CJC funding. 23 communities accessed funding in 2024-25. It is anticipated that 23 will access funding in 2025-26.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of training sessions.	100% of CJs have access to ongoing training & skill development.	As of September 30, 2025, a total of 14 training sessions occurred: 3 coordinators trained in wrap around training, 6 justice coordinators were onboarded, & 4 were trained in the online reporting software. The 2024-25 Annual Community Justice Symposium hosted by Justice had 100 participants, including justice coordinators, justice committee members, victim service workers, judiciary, Crown, & the RCMP.
		# of referrals confirmed & completed.	No target established.	215 diversions were completed from September 2024 to September 2025.
		# of cases diverted from criminal justice system.	100% of diversions are referred, tracked, confirmed, & completed.	100% of diversions are tracked, confirmed, & completed.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Enhance public education and awareness of drugs and alcohol and their connection to crime in the NWT.	Enhance reintegration supports through partnerships, training, navigation, and case management.	# of programs established.	4 programs established.	As of September 30, 2025, 4 justice navigator programs have been established.
		# of individuals supported.	Improved supports to navigate criminal justice system & reintegrate.	As of September 30, 2025, 23 individuals have been supported.
	Continued RCMP reporting and measurement on policing priorities.	Introduce performance measure reporting in the RCMP annual report.	RCMP report on 100% of established performance measures.	In the 2024-25 Territorial Police Service Agreement (TPSA) Annual Report, 95% of performance measures have been reported on. The TPSA Annual Report is tabled during the fall sitting.
		Work with partners, including the RCMP, to support public education and awareness of drugs and alcohol and their link to crime.	# of public information sessions on drugs & alcohol.	Policing information improves actions & awareness of crime prevention with communities.
				There were 164 media releases, including 85 Facebook posts, & 1,417 events & activities, like meetings with leadership, community policing engagement, cultural activities, & school visits, to share information during the 2024-25 fiscal year.

Risks and Mitigation Activities

No changes were required.

GNWT Fiscal Strategy for the 20th Legislative Assembly

The beginning of the 2025–26 fiscal year marked the formal closure of the Fort Smith Correctional Complex – Men's Unit, as part of the Department's fiscal sustainability initiative. This resulted in annual savings of \$2,698,000.

The Department continues to undertake internal measures to address cost growth and budget pressures prior to requesting additional funding. An example of this in 2025-26 was establishing two urgently needed positions in the Access and Privacy Office by reallocating underutilized vacant positions.

The Department remains committed to supporting the GNWT's Fiscal Strategy for the 20th Legislative Assembly, ensuring that Justice programs and services continue to deliver value for money to residents of the Northwest Territories.

Human Resource Initiatives

Recruitment Progress

The Department continues to implement creative and targeted recruitment strategies, with a strong emphasis on advancing Indigenous representation and reducing barriers to employment, particularly through the consistent application of the Indigenous Employment Policy (IEP). Recruitment challenges persist, particularly in specialized areas such as the Legal Division and the Legal Aid Commission, where strict educational and licensing requirements, combined with external competitive compensation packages, limit the Department's ability to attract qualified candidates. In response, the Legal Division and Legal Aid Commission are actively promoting the benefits of living and working in the North through their relationships with academic institutions and participating in career fairs, to attract articling students and to build interest.

Despite these challenges, the Department has achieved recruitment success in attracting northern and Indigenous candidates through the utilization of established programs. For example, the Corrections Northern Recruitment Training Program (CNRTP) provides structured pathways into correctional services across facilities in Yellowknife, Fort Smith, and Hay River. In fall 2025, 6 Indigenous recruits entered the CNRTP.

Retention Initiatives

The Department encourages long-term retention through a range of development, work-life balance, and engagement opportunities. These include internal training, acting assignments, mentorship, and leadership development programs such as the Northern Leadership Development Program and the Indigenous Management Development and Training Program.

Work-life balance is supported through flexible work hours, formal Remote Work Agreements, and the Deferred Leave Program. Engagement is encouraged through recognition initiatives such as division social events for team building and the internal Employee Recognition and Awards Program, which promotes informal recognition of peers and direct reports throughout the year. The Department is also working to enhance internal communications, specifically the flow of information from senior leadership to employees. Insights from the employee feedback platform will influence the communication strategy and support the goal of fostering a transparent and informative work environment.

Workplace Culture

The Department is committed to fostering an inclusive, respectful, and safety-focused workplace through training, shared responsibility, and continuous improvement efforts aligned with GNWT-wide priorities.

Mandatory training related to diversity, inclusion, and psychological safety is improving awareness and shaping a more respectful and informed work environment. Operational demands and a lack of backfill options reduce employees' ability to attend facilitated (non- self-paced) training, particularly in high-demand divisions such as Corrections services and Court Services. The Department continues to work with the Department of Finance to address these challenges and improve access to training opportunities. The Department is also conducting an internal audit of the training record data, requesting that supervisors assist employees in identifying discrepancies and collaborate with Finance to adjust their records accordingly, which will enhance accuracy moving forward.

Despite these challenges, the Department is witnessing marked improvements in workplace culture, due to the breadth and depth of the mandatory training courses. Employees are completing courses such as Equitable Workplace: Cultivating Attitudes of Anti-Racism and Allyship, Mitigating Unconscious Bias, 2SLGBTQIA: Inclusive Workplace Awareness, Gender-Based Analysis Plus, and Living Well Together: Indigenous Cultural Awareness and Sensitivity. These courses are contributing to a more informed and inclusive work environment that encourages respectful interactions among colleagues. The Department has expanded its definition of "supervisor" to include all employees with direct reports, resulting in approximately 50% more employees now subject to advanced diversity and respectful workplace training. This strategic shift ensures those with hiring and decision-making authority are well-equipped to foster equitable and respectful environments within their teams.

The Department has also enhanced its focus on workplace health and safety, which includes strengthening the role of the Joint Occupational Health and Safety Committee, releasing an Incident Response Plan for the Yellowknife Courthouse, mandating Incident Command System training, and coordinating first aid and AED training to improve response times in medical emergencies.

Legislative Initiatives

The Department has refocused its legislative priorities and policy development as part of an exercise undertaken midway through the 20th Legislative Assembly. Work planned to be completed in the latter half of this Assembly is shown below:

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
1	<i>Legislation Act.</i>	Repeal & Replace <i>Act</i> . This legislation will replace the <i>Statutory Instruments Act</i> with a more modern <i>Legislation Act</i> , that sets out the territorial regulatory process as well as provisions relating to the making of statutes. The <i>Public Printing Act</i> , which authorizes the publication of the Northwest Territories Gazette & provides for the appointment of the Territorial Printer, would also be subsumed by the new <i>Act</i> .	Submitted 2024-05-31.	First Reading 2025-03-11.	Assent received 2025-10-31.
2	<i>Protection Against Family Violence Act.</i>	Consideration of who is included in the definition of “applicant” under the <i>Act</i> as there have been concerns raised that not everyone is captured who should be. Further amendments also considered.	Submitted 2024-08-21.	First Reading 2025-05-27.	Assent received 2025-10-31.
3	<i>Children’s Law Act.</i>	Amendments to bring territorial legislation in line with changes brought forward by federal Bill C-78 (Divorce Act amendments).	Submitted 2024-09-24.	First Reading 2025-03-12.	Assent received 2025-10-31.

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
4	<i>Family Law Act.</i>	Amendments to bring territorial legislation in line with changes brought forward by federal Bill C-78 (Divorce Act amendments).	Submitted 2024-09-24.	First Reading 2025-03-12.	Assent received 2025-10-31.
5	<i>Partnership and Business Names Act.</i>	Section 106.1(3) of the <i>Act</i> had a drafting error which indicated that “the decision is stayed”, when it should have said “is not stayed”. This error was identified in summer 2024 due to a judicial review.	Submitted 2024-11-05.	First Reading 2025-02-07.	Assent received 2025-05-29.
6	<i>Trespass Act.</i>	Trespassing laws are intended to protect landowners from trespassers, including by deterring potentially criminal behaviour or inadvertent damages that trespassers may cause. While trespassing at night is forbidden by the Criminal Code (s. 177), most provinces have separate trespass legislation.	Submitted 2025-08-15.	First Reading 2025-10-30.	Bill with Standing Committee.
7	<i>Business Day Statutes Amendment Act.</i>	Omnibus Bill: In 2017 the <i>Interpretation Act</i> was repealed & replaced. At that time, the definition of “holiday” changed, & a Sunday is no longer a holiday under the new <i>Act</i> . Consequential amendments are required to some <i>Acts</i> to ensure Sunday is not recognized as a day when an office must be open (if it is in fact not open).	Submitted.	Submitted.	Assent received 2025-03-13.

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
8	<i>Safer Communities and Neighborhoods Act.</i>	Safer Communities & Neighbourhoods legislation generally works to allow residents to make confidential complaints to investigators where possible illegal activity is taking place. Investigators work to determine if the complaint is founded, & may issue warnings, or work with property owners to evict persons involved in illegal activities.	Submitted 2025-09-15.	Pending May 2026.	Bill development & engagement.
9	<i>Civil Forfeiture Act.</i>	Civil forfeiture is a remedial statutory device designed to recover the proceeds & instruments (property used to facilitate crime) of unlawful activity.	Submitted 2025-08-15.	Pending Feb-Mar 2026.	Bill development & engagement.
10	<i>Miscellaneous Statute Law Amendment Act, 2024.</i>	Miscellaneous bills make changes to various statutes that require minor amendments, or where errors or inconsistencies have been identified. These must not be controversial, involve the spending of public funds, prejudicially affect rights, or create a new offence or subject a new class of persons to an existing offence.	NA.	Submitted.	Assent received on 2024-11-01.

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
11	<i>Missing Persons Act.</i>	When police agencies begin a missing persons investigation, there can be difficulty obtaining a production order under the Criminal Code & may have limited ability to compel individuals or corporations to release personal information about the missing person. This can frustrate & sometimes halt missing persons investigations. Some jurisdictions have put forward legislation with a focus on access to information about the missing person.	Submitted.	Bill 2.	Assent received 2024-06-13.

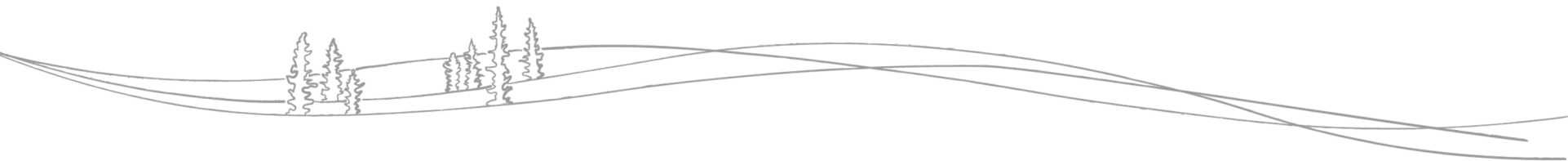
#	Regulatory initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	<i>Missing Persons Act Regulations.</i>	Regulations are required before the <i>Act</i> can be brought into force. The regulations will lay out requirements related to things such as: Procedures for officer application for a record access order or search order; Procedures for officer emergency demand & emergency demand requirements; Provision of notice to a person whose information has been accessed; & the Annual Report & Review.	Regulations were posted online for a 30-day public engagement period in the summer of 2025. Forms required under the <i>Act</i> are now being developed in order to bring the <i>Act</i> into force in the 2025-26 fiscal year.

#	Policy initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
2	<i>Residential Tenancies Act</i> Review.	A review of the <i>Residential Tenancies Act</i> , which includes sheriff authorities, will be completed & will inform the need/schedule for any legislative changes.	This project has been delayed given other urgent legislative priorities. JUS is aiming to have the review completed in early 2026.
3	<i>Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act</i> Review.	A review of the <i>Access to Information & Protection of Privacy Act</i> will be completed & will inform the need/schedule for any legislative changes.	The review of the <i>ATIPP Act</i> commenced in the spring of 2025. A contractor was hired to lead the review under the Government Renewal Initiative. JUS is targeting the winter 2026 sitting for tabling of a What We Heard Report outlining the results of the review.

Evaluation Plan

The Department is committed to work on several Evaluations, some of which are being undertaken during the 20th Legislative Assembly, as follows:

#	Program / Policy Title	Purpose of Evaluation	Trigger	Timeframe	Current Status
1	Community Safety Officer (CSO) Program Pilot.	Summative evaluation - looking at whether CSO has achieved its intended goals & objectives by assessing the overall effectiveness of a program. Determine whether this program can be expanded & if so, what is needed to do so.	FMB directed.	Evaluation to start in 2026 & be completed by the end of the 2025-26 fiscal year.	RFP was advertised & closed in October 2025. Applications will be assessed.
2	South Mackenzie Correctional Centre (SMCC) Therapeutic Community.	A monitoring & evaluation framework was developed in partnership with the Department of Finance to monitor & track the effectiveness of the SMCC Therapeutic Community to affect gradual & meaningful change for offenders & their communities.	FMB directed.	Evaluation to start in 2027.	Inmate program participation & re-contact with NWT correctional facilities data is being compiled for the anticipated program evaluation in 2027.



2026-27 BUSINESS PLAN
ANNUAL UPDATE

DEPARTMENT OF MUNICIPAL
AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS

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Departmental Highlights

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (the Department) continues to advance its mandate by strengthening support for community governments and enhancing infrastructure across the Northwest Territories. A major milestone this year was the launch of the updated Community Allocation Model (CAM) on April 1, 2025. This model, which distributes \$100 million annually in community government funding, is based on typical municipal program and service costs and is designed to ensure equitable access to resources while addressing longstanding funding disparities. The new model is being implemented over three years.

In August, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) endorsed the Canadian Sport Policy 2025–2035, a renewed national framework that emphasizes inclusion, reconciliation, and community well-being through sport. Continued investments through the GNWT's Active Living Framework will support safe sport implementation, coaching and leadership training, and Team NT participation in national and international events such as the Arctic Winter Games and North American Indigenous Games.

The GNWT launched the NWT Community Planning Framework – Where We Live, Why We Plan in September 2025. The framework highlights the important role of community governments, the Department, and professional community planners in supporting the development of the land management tools, including community plans, zoning bylaws, and land use plans.

The Department also worked with Health and Social Services (HSS) to identify barriers to urgent and emergency care in communities lacking reliable transportation to health centres. In the coming year, the departments will continue work to develop a community-based solution informed by existing local models.

The Department is also driving progress in housing and infrastructure through a \$74 million Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF) agreement signed in March 2025. In collaboration with Housing NWT, the agreement ensures that GNWT housing priorities are being advanced. It will support upgrades to critical housing infrastructure and fund community water, wastewater and solid waste projects that contribute to the development of and preservation of housing in communities. The Department continues to support community governments in delivering community infrastructure projects, which serve as economic drivers by creating jobs, supporting local contractors, and attracting investment.

Supporting the 20th Legislative Assembly

The Department advanced key priorities of the 20th Legislative Assembly, with a continued focus on collaborative governance, enhancing emergency management, and promoting safe and sustainable communities.

The Department is actively working with the Northwest Territories Council of Leaders (NWTCOL) working group, the United National Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Action Plan Committee (UNDRIP APC), Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC), and Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories (LGANT) to review the *Emergency Management Act* and develop a more effective and inclusive emergency management system model.

The GNWT released After Action Reviews (AAR) and responses for the 2022 Flood and 2023 Wildfire Seasons and an After-Action Review (AAR) for the 2024 season is underway. The GNWT is continuing to take action to improve how emergencies are planned for, communicated, and managed. In advance of the 2025 high risk season there were notable enhancements to the emergency management system including implementation of a surge capacity protocol, a 4-year training plan, and staffing of Regional Emergency Management Coordinator positions within the Department that provide dedicated support to community governments. As a result, the Emergency Management Organization (EMO) and partners were better prepared to respond when a wildfire near Whatì caused the evacuation of approximately 459 residents, and a wildfire near Fort Providence caused the evacuation of approximately 635 people. In both instances, EMO successfully provided coordinated support and implemented lessons learned from previous events. Ongoing improvements will ensure the GNWT, and community governments keep pace with the changing complexities of emergency management in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

To support safer community planning and reduce long-term risks, the GNWT is updating flood hazard maps to align with the 1:200-year mapping standards used in the updated federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements. The Department is developing a guidance document under the NWT Community Planning Framework to support the use of updated flood maps in community planning. The Department is also leading a multi-year interdepartmental project with NWT Geological Survey, the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC), Housing NWT, and the Department of Infrastructure (INF), to help Arctic communities tackle coastal erosion. Coastal communities will be supported to develop and implement their own climate change adaptation measures and planned relocation efforts. These efforts reflect the Department's commitment to collaborative governance, climate resilience, and community safety.

Mandate Commitments

Collaborative Governance

The GNWT's relationship with Indigenous governments is integral to the future prosperity of the NWT and the following commitments will guide the implementation of the Mandate across all Priorities.

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Collaborate with Indigenous governments and residents to achieve the objectives of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.	Develop a model for incorporating Indigenous governments in emergency planning, response, and recovery.	Level of implementation of a model to incorporate IGs in emergency planning, response, & recovery.	2023 AAR recommendations received in the Fall 2024.	Complete. The AAR was received May 2025 & the GNWT Response was released October 2025.
			Model developed & implemented by the end of 2025-26.	NWTCOL Emergency Management Working Group established in Feb 2025. Terms of reference developed. A LGANT-NWTAC-GNWT Emergency Management Working Group was formed in Spring 2025. Initial meeting held July 2025 & Terms of Reference developed.

To best support the delivery of programs and services to our residents and the dedicated public servants who deliver those programs, the following commitments will guide the implementation of the mandate across all Priorities:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Make programs and services more accessible and integrated through enhanced collaboration across government.	Development of common or integrated programming for the sharing of information across departments to reduce administrative burdens and benefit public clients.	% of identified common or integrated program (CIP) opportunities fulfilled in accordance with <i>ATIPP Act</i> requirements.	100% of identified programs developed as per established timelines.	1 CIP for Land Tenure, Property Assessment & Property Taxation has been developed between MACA, FIN, & ECC. 1 CIP for Senior & Disabled Tax Relief Program is being initiated.
Honour the GNWT's commitments to openness, transparency, and accountability by engaging with our partners, the public, and the public service on decisions that affect their lives.	Engage regularly with the NWT Association of Communities (NWTAC) and Local Government Administrators of the NWT (LGANT) on key community government-related issues.	# of official-level &/or elected-level meetings between MACA & NWTAC per year.	3 meetings per year.	5 meetings were held between senior & elected officials. These included the LGANT AGM, NWTAC AGM, & emergency planning workshops.

Housing

To improve the suitability, accessibility, and affordability of housing options in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Work with Indigenous, federal, and community governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to secure sustainable funding for housing now and into the future.	Support community governments through the capital planning process to identify land development needs identified in the Territorial Housing Needs Assessment to reduce barriers to housing development.	% of interested community governments supported with capital plan updates.	100% of interested community governments supported in updating capital plans.	Support provided to 100% (20 of 20) community governments that requested assistance for 2025-26 capital plans. 14 in-person sessions & 6 Teams meetings were held.
	Support community governments in accessing the Canada Housing Infrastructure Fund (CHIF) to support development and preservation of housing in communities.	# of houses enabled &/or preserved through CHIF investment.	228 housing units enabled, & 850 housing units preserved.	The Agreement was signed in March 2025. MACA is preparing an open call for applications for NWT projects.

Economy

To strengthen the economic foundation of the NWT, the GNWT will support the development of the private sector and community capacity, encourage a diversity of economic activity across sectors, and reduce the cost of doing business in the NWT. We will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Grow and enhance the northern workforce by investing in skill development and by attracting skilled workers to the NWT.	Implementation of the Community Government Learning and Development Strategic Plan.	% of strategic plan actions implemented.	100% of actions implemented by 2027-28.	Complete. MACA is funding LGANT to deliver training to community government staff.
	Creation of property assessor positions to support northern employment and ensure that properties across the NWT are accurately assessed to ensure a sustainable property tax revenue stream and support northern employment.	# of junior assessors meeting requirements for accreditation through education & experience as laid out in the GNWT performance management guidelines.	3 junior assessor positions filled by 2027-28.	Junior Assessor job descriptions have been developed & competitions are scheduled to go forward.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Develop and deliver a competency-based occupational certification program for Water Treatment Plant Operators that reduces barriers to certification.	Level of completion of occupational certification program.	Program fully developed & provided to ECE for approval by 2026.	Development of occupational standards is complete & development of other materials is in progress. The full package will be submitted to the Apprenticeship, Trades & Occupation (ATOC) Board for approval in March 2026.
Support communities to realize economic opportunities by enhancing their ability to access and manage lands within their boundaries.	Develop a Community Planning Framework and associated guides that support community governments to implement best practices and meet public needs.	% of community governments provided with approved framework & guides.	100% of community governments provided with approved framework & guides.	All community governments have been provided with approved framework & 6 guides. 2 additional guides are in development.
		% of submitted community plans reviewed during the business planning cycle.	100% of submitted community plans reviewed.	1 community plan was submitted & reviewed. Section 35 Consultation is underway at different stages for 9 other community plans. 32 communities have completed either community plan or land use plan.

Access to health care

To strengthen preventative measures, public awareness and improve access to trauma-informed, culturally appropriate health care, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Deliver equitable access to sustainable primary care in all NWT communities.	Ensure NWT 9-1-1 is meeting a sustainable standard of care.	Ongoing monitoring & evaluation of the 9-1-1 program as per the evaluation framework.	Annual report developed & tabled in the Legislative Assembly.	2024-25 annual report was tabled during the fall 2025 sitting of the Legislative Assembly.
			Implementation of the evaluation framework by the end of 2024-25.	Implemented framework January 2025 & initiated gathering of baseline data.
			Evaluation conducted by end of 2027-28.	On track.

Address the effects of trauma

To prevent, interrupt and address the effects of trauma, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Encourage community wellness and self-determination by supporting the development and delivery of community-based wellness programs to address mental wellness, prevention, early intervention, and holistic health.	Review the sport and recreation system in the context of the Active Living Framework (ALF).	Level of implementation of the ALF Action Plan & the ALF monitoring & evaluation framework.	100% of actions implemented by defined target dates as outlined in the ALF Action Plan.	The Action Plan is drafted with projected completion by April 2026.
			100% of reporting requirements met as outlined in the ALF monitoring & evaluation framework.	The monitoring & evaluation framework is in development & anticipated to be complete by January 2026.

Emergency Management

To enhance the safety of residents and communities, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that emergency management and preparedness initiatives strengthen our capacity to respond to more frequent and severe climate-driven disasters and other emergencies.	Ensure that the NWT emergency management system remains relevant and effective.	Alignment of GNWT Disaster Assistance Policy (DAP) with federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA).	GNWT DAP reviewed & updated in 2024-25 following anticipated DFAA updates in 2025.	Review of the DAP is underway. Updates are expected to be completed in 2025-26 after changes to federal DFAA are fully studied & understood.
		% of emergency events after which an AAR was conducted.	AAR conducted after 100% of emergency events.	2022 & 2023 AARs released. AAR for the 2024 Fort Good Hope evacuation is expected to be completed in winter 2025. AAR for the emergency response to 2025 wildfires in Whati & Fort Providence commenced fall 2025.
		% of recommendations from after-action reviews implemented.	100% of recommendations considered & implemented where possible.	MACA has accepted & will be implementing 37/38 recommendations of the 2022 AAR & 34/35 recommendations of the 2023 AAR.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		% of GNWT staff trained on Incident Command System (ICS) by 2027-28.	10% of GNWT staff trained on ICS by 2027-28.	As of September 2025, 511 (approximately 7.8%) GNWT staff completed ICS training, 137 staff are on the surge capacity list.
		% of community governments provided with support to develop or update emergency plans.	100% of community governments requiring updates/plans contacted annually.	All community governments were contacted & offered supports. 9 community workshops were held, & 8 tabletop exercise were facilitated by EMO.
			Increase in the # of community governments with up-to-date Local Emergency Plans.	All community governments have emergency plans. 6 community emergency plans were updated during this reporting period.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Enhance our understanding of climate change-related threats and impacts and support innovative climate change mitigation and adaptation responses.	Continue to support the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework and the 2025-29 Action Plan.	% of department led actions completed within timeframes established in the 2025-29 Action Plan.	100% of actions completed within established timeframes.	MACA completed 13 out of 14 items from the 2019-2023 Action Plan. Based on feedback on the draft 2025-30 Climate Change Action Plan & other recent public engagement, a new joint GNWT Climate Change & Energy Strategy is being developed. MACA is providing feedback to ECC on actions related to emergency planning, community planning, community infrastructure risk assessments, & community training.
	Update and deliver climate change training to community governments.	# of community government represented by participants.	10 community governments have employees participating in the course.	The course is currently under development & is anticipated to be ready for delivery by March 31, 2026.
		% of post-course surveys indicating increased awareness of climate change.	75% of those that complete the course indicate increased awareness of climate change impacts.	MACA will report progress on this measure once the course is delivered.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Strengthen regulatory frameworks for emergency management, create territorial building standards, and improve community hazard mapping and monitoring.	Support compliance with the <i>Fire Prevention Act</i> and Regulations through ensuring an efficient plan review process.	Communicate the plan review process including legislative updates.	Revised guidelines made available to public by the end of 2024-25.	Release of the revised guidelines is delayed as the Plan Review Appeal Board is not yet established. Once the board has been established with enough members; guidelines will be finalized, approved with support, & feedback from the newly established board.
		Average processing time of plan review reports (# of business days).	Plan review reports processed & issued within an average of 10 business days from submission.	In 2024, plan review reports were issued, on average, within 5 business days.
		Average # of days from hearing to decision being communicated to the applicant.	Decision communicated within an average of 30 days from the hearing.	Plan Review Board is not yet in place to issue decisions. Work to establish the Plan Review Appeal Board is ongoing & the GNWT is actively seeking membership.
	Continue supporting the implementation of the NWT Waste Resources Management Strategy through the Clean-Up/Clean Start program.	% of community governments that have removed hazardous waste stockpiles.	50% of NWT communities governments remove hazardous waste materials from their landfills by March 2028.	MACA has assisted 100% (27 of 27) of communities in removing hazardous waste. Removal of scrap metals will begin in 2026.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Support compliance with the <i>Fire Prevention Act</i> and regulations through increased regulatory activities by the Office of the Fire Marshal by increased inspections capacity.	% increase in average annual regulatory inspections as compared to the previous business planning cycle.	An overall increase of 25% regulatory inspections completed by the end of 2027-28.	MACA will establish a baseline in 2025-26 & is working with other departments to identify inspections required by their regulations.

Public Safety

To promote the safety of residents and communities in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Work with law enforcement, governments, communities and across departments to create and strengthen tools that can be used to disrupt and combat the drug trade and associated criminal activity	Assist community governments in implementing bylaws supporting public safety.	% of interested community governments provided with resources & support.	100% of interested community governments provided with resources & support by 2027-28.	MACA has provided resources related to public safety bylaws to all Regional Offices & support is provided as requested.
Focus on crime prevention through collaborative efforts at early intervention, integrated and person-centered service delivery, and community driven solutions.	Develop an NWT Youth Strategy.	Level of completion of Youth Strategy.	Publish youth programs inventory by 2026-27.	A workplan has been drafted & an interdepartmental working group has been re-established to update the youth programs inventory.

Risks and Mitigation Activities

The Department faces ongoing challenges related to disaster response and recovery, particularly as climate-related emergency events increase in frequency and scale. These events strain human resources, often diverting staff from core departmental functions and other projects. To mitigate these impacts, the Department has strengthened its preparedness and planning activities, including hiring new staff, offering Incident Command System (ICS) training to GNWT surge staff, developing community emergency plans, and conducting tabletop exercises with community governments. These efforts improve readiness and reduce operational disruptions caused by emergency events. The GNWT's DAP is being revised to align with the updated federal DFAA, and the Department is actively engaging with Public Safety Canada and Indigenous Services Canada to advocate for broader eligibility and improved alignment with the federal Emergency Management Assistance Program (EMAP). Collaboration with Indigenous governments (IGs), community governments, and emergency management partners is ongoing to implement recommendations from the 2022 and 2023 After-Action Reviews. Collectively, these actions serve to mitigate risks by strengthening emergency preparedness and improving coordination.

Despite these efforts, the financial costs of disaster recovery remain a significant risk. The increasing complexity of emergency events has placed considerable strain on departmental capacity, with millions in expenditures requiring financial oversight, accurate tracking, and reporting under both GNWT and federal programs. Without enhanced capacity, the Department faces heightened risks of financial mismanagement, reporting delays, and audit findings, which could impact operational effectiveness and future funding. Recovery files are time-consuming to complete, and the GNWT does not always receive full reimbursement from federal programs. To address this, the Department has established a temporary disaster recovery unit and is creating a Director of Finance position to strengthen financial oversight.

Additionally, the Department is navigating workforce challenges; including an aging staff demographic, staff turnover, and the need for effective knowledge transfer to maintain momentum on key initiatives. Mitigation strategies include ongoing HR initiatives focused on staff morale, succession planning, and capacity building to ensure continuity and resilience across the department.

GNWT Fiscal Strategy for the 20th Legislative Assembly

As part of its commitment to fiscal sustainability, the Department continues to take a targeted and pragmatic approach to managing rising costs, while ensuring programs and services remain effective, efficient, and responsive to community needs. The Department continues to use program reviews and evaluations to guide decisions on how best to use limited financial and human resources. This work builds on the Government Renewal Initiative (GRI) of the 19th Legislative Assembly, with a focus on ensuring programs are both impactful and fiscally sustainable.

Overhead costs for community government training have been reduced by changing the way learning and development opportunities are delivered and implementation of the Community Government Learning and Development program evaluation recommendations. A review of Sport, Recreation, and Youth (SRY) programs is underway to address impacts of declining Western Canada Lottery revenues, and the rising costs related to team selection, team sizes, and event delivery. The Department is also developing a monitoring and evaluation framework for contribution funding provided to community governments and investigating options to broaden allowable gaming activities in the NWT as a way to increase revenue.

The Department raised fees for business licences, real estate agents, and fire prevention plan reviews to adjust for inflation and support the sustainable delivery of programs and services. On January 1, 2025, the NWT 9-1-1 cost recovery fee was increased to \$3.00 per subscriber per month to better align with actual program costs. Total revenue from this fee in 2024–25 was \$1,029,980. The financial impact of the revised fee structure will be more accurately reflected in the 2025–26 Annual Report. In parallel, the Department is exploring alternative service delivery models to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of 9-1-1 services.

Increased frequency and severity of natural disasters across the NWT have placed financial strain on government resources. While federal disaster relief programs help offset response costs, reimbursement can take several years. To mitigate delays, the Department maintains active dialogue with the Government of Canada and works to secure increased advance payments—reducing borrowing pressures and helping maintain fiscal balance.

Human Resource Initiatives

To help strengthen outcomes in the Employee Engagement and Satisfaction Survey, the Department remains committed to initiatives that foster a positive work environment and support employee retention. In recognition of the dedication and valuable contribution of departmental staff, long-service award celebrations were hosted in regional offices and in Yellowknife throughout the summer of 2025.

Departmental employees identified for the GNWT's renewed Leadership Development Program (LDP) continue to participate actively. One additional employee was accepted into the LDP Level 1 Fall 2025 cohort. Staff development is further supported through acting assignments and transfer opportunities.

In early 2025, the Department finalized an internal communications plan to strengthen two-way communication across the department. As part of this plan, a quarterly Deputy Minister newsletter was launched in March 2025 to highlight staff accomplishments and share internal updates. The first departmental Town Hall, held in February 2025, saw participation from approximately 60% of the Department's staff, reflecting growing interest in open dialogue and departmental engagement. Attendance increased to 65% at the second Town Hall in May 2025, demonstrating continued momentum and staff commitment to transparent communication with senior leadership.

To enhance access to relevant information, the Department has developed a presentations calendar to bring updates directly to departmental staff. These presentations include internal department initiatives as well as updates from other GNWT departments, helping staff stay informed about broader government priorities and developments. A training calendar was also introduced and is shared regularly. These initiatives and efforts contribute to a more informed, resilient, and inclusive workforce.

In February 2025, the Department launched an anonymous employee feedback process, supported by an internal review and tracking system, to ensure timely and appropriate follow-up on feedback received.

In alignment with the GNWT's newly launched Indigenous Employment Policy, the Department continues to support Indigenous recruitment and career development through initiatives such as the Indigenous Career Gateway Program, internships, and summer student placements. These efforts reflect the Department's commitment to building a representative workforce and fostering inclusive workplace practices.

Legislative Initiatives

The Department is working on several legislative and policy projects, some of which are being undertaken during the 20th Legislative Assembly, as follows:

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
1	<i>Emergency Management Act.</i>	A review of the <i>Emergency Management Act (EMA)</i> will include the recommendations of the 2023 Wildfire After Action Review. MACA has committed to engaging IGs on a review of the EMA. A working group has been established through the NWT Council of Leaders Secretariat to establish the approach for legislative review in coordination with Indigenous Governments.	21st Assembly.	21st Assembly.	MACA has established 2 working groups to review the <i>EMA</i> : 1 with the Northwest Territories Council of Leaders & a second with the Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories & the Northwest Territories Association of Communities.

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
2	<i>Senior Citizens and Disabled Persons Property Tax Relief Act.</i>	The <i>Act</i> was enacted in 1978 & has not been comprehensively reviewed since then. Other priorities in the 19th Assembly resulted in the deferral of this legislative review until the 20th Legislative Assembly. The <i>Act</i> needs to be updated in part to address identified concerns with the application of taxation rebates.	2026-27 Q4.	To be determined.	MACA is conducting policy research to inform a discussion paper that will be used to engage with stakeholders.
3	<i>Real Estate Agents' Licensing Act.</i>	This <i>Act</i> has not been comprehensively reviewed since it came into force in 1991. MACA completed its research & engagement in 2023 & released a What We Heard Report in September 2023, which confirmed that the legislation needs updates.	2024-25 Q4.	2025-26 Q3 (Fall Session).	Bill currently being drafted.
4	<i>MACA Statutes Amendment Act (Western Canada Lottery Act, NWT 9-1-1 Act and Fire Prevention Act).</i>	The <i>Western Canada Lottery Act</i> , <i>NWT 9-1-1 Act</i> & <i>Fire Prevention Act</i> require the production or tabling of reports within timelines that are not operationally possible due to the need to validate information from external sources. As such, MACA has identified that minor amendments to the reporting timelines are required.	Completed in September 2024.	2024-25 Q4 (Winter session).	Complete.

#	Regulatory initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	<i>Fire Prevention Act</i> Plan Review Appeal Board Regulations.	MACA has completed further engagement with specific industry stakeholder organizations on the Plan Review Appeal Board, particularly with respect to composition and appointment processes.	The Regulations are ready to be registered once enough Board members have been recruited &/or appointed.
2	NWT 9-1-1 Regulations.	MACA will be seeking cabinet approval to amend the NWT 9-1-1 Regulations to increase the cost recovery fee from \$1.70 per subscriber, per month to \$3.00 per subscriber, per month.	Complete.

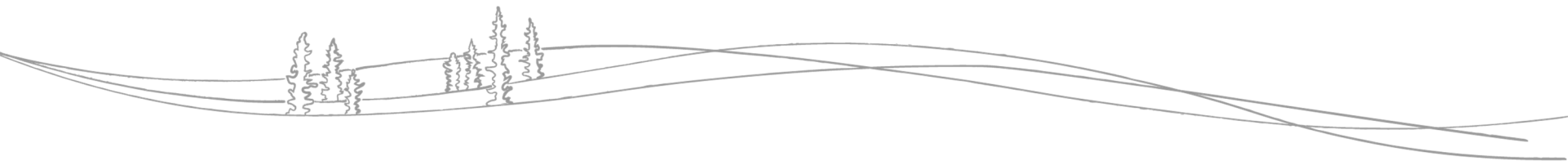
#	Policy initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	Grants-in-Lieu of Property Taxes Policy (GIL policy).	The GIL Policy allows for the payment of grants-in-lieu of property taxes to Municipal Taxation Authorities (MTAs) for GNWT-owned properties located within cities, towns, or villages. The policy has not been substantially amended since it was first implemented in 1989.	Policy review to be conducted Spring 2026 with implementation projected for 2026-27.
2	Disaster Assistance Policy /Disaster Assistance Funding Policy.	A policy review will be conducted of the Disaster Assistance Policy & the Disaster Assistance Funding Policy, with updates made as necessary to align with changes to the federal Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements.	Anticipate completing updates to the GNWT DAP by Spring 2026.
3	Community Government Funding Policies.	Revisions to the Ministerial Water & Sewer, Operations & Maintenance, & Community Public Infrastructure (CPI) policies were finalized in October 2023 to align with the 2014 community government funding review. Revisions to the Executive Council Community Government Funding Policy are underway, to ensure consistency with the 3 Ministerial Policies.	Revision of CPI policy to include staff housing – February 2026. Review conditions for water and sewer rates – February 2026. Implementation of new policies in TG on April 1, 2026.
4	Sport and Recreation policy suite review.	Review of Sport and Recreation policies to align with the Active Living Framework (ALF).	The completed review is targeted by the end of 2025-26. Implementation of new policies planned for April 1, 2027.
5	Expanding Gaming Options in the NWT.	Undertake research, engagement & consultation to inform a legislative proposal to allow for online gaming in the Northwest Territories.	Scope of work is being determined & the project will commence in April 2026.

Evaluation Plan

The Department is committed to work on several Evaluations, some of which are being undertaken during the 20th Legislative Assembly, as follows:

#	Program / Policy Title	Purpose of Evaluation	Trigger	Timeframe	Current Status
1	Office of the Fire Marshal – Program Evaluation.	Resulting recommendations from the OFM's Fire Inspection program included completing a full review & needs analysis of all OFM program areas.	Departmental Prioritization.	2025-26.	Data collection to inform full review by January 2026.
2	Community Government Funding.	To determine the efficiency and effectiveness of contribution funding provided to community governments	Policy Review Cycle.	2025-30.	Monitoring & Evaluation Framework complete by February 2026.
3	NWT 9-1-1.	To determine the efficiency & sustainability of delivering NWT 9-1-1 services.	GNWT Program Evaluation Policy.	2024-28.	Year 1 of gathering 3-year baseline data.
4	Active Living Framework.	To determine the efficiency & effectiveness of contribution funding provided to sport and recreation organizations.	GNWT Program Evaluation Policy.	2026 -31.	The monitoring and evaluation framework is in development and anticipated to be complete January 2026.

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2026-27 BUSINESS PLAN
ANNUAL UPDATE

HOUSING NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

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Departmental Highlights

Transitional Housing

New for the Northwest Territories (NWT), residents can now access safe transitional housing after completing an addictions treatment program. Housing NWT (HNWT) worked in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and the Salvation Army to launch the Transitional Housing Addiction Recovery Program (THARP) in Yellowknife to provide structured support for northerners recovering from addictions. THARP offers a safe, substance free, supportive living environment where residents can build sober relationships, rebuild daily life skills, and work towards stable, independent living within their community. This program is in the early stages of implementation and will be evaluated for effectiveness to inform future opportunities for expansion.

Strategic Renewal

HNWT has made significant progress under A Strategy for Renewal of the NWT Housing Corporation, showing our commitment to continuous improvement. Out of the 42 mandated actions, 31 were completed by Fall 2025. Significant successes include the development of HNWT's Energy Management Strategy, the release of a plain-language Tenant Handbook in English, French, and Tłıcho, as well as the development of a new Asset Management Framework and Environmental Management Program.

NWT Housing Forum Symposium

In January 2025 the NWT Housing Forum held a 2-day in person event in Yellowknife. More than 85 delegates from community groups, governments, and non-governmental organizations were in attendance. The Symposium fostered meaningful conversation, sharing of best practices, and discussion of innovative projects and ideas that address the growing need for affordable, energy-efficient housing across the NWT.

Energy Initiatives

HNWT has launched a series of energy initiatives with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions and stabilizing energy costs in response to climate change. Projects include a biomass district heating system in Fort Simpson and a new duplex in Fort Smith that will operate on an electric boiler. Of special note, the 53-unit district heating system at Sissons Court in Yellowknife was recognized as “community project of the year” by Canadian Biomass Magazine.

Supporting the 20th Legislative Assembly

HNWT's mandate aligns with the priorities of the 20th Legislative Assembly, especially to improve the suitability, accessibility, and affordability of housing options in the NWT.

The public housing program and suite of homeownership programs support improvements to the suitability, accessibility, and affordability of housing in the NWT for those most in need. The limited market housing program offered provides rent options for higher income earners in communities and expanded housing options for healthcare professionals, teachers, and other critical community workers. This is helping to strengthen preventative measures, public awareness, and improve access to trauma-informed, culturally appropriate health care.

Towards increasing the suitability, accessibility, and affordability of housing, HNWT is developing an in-depth and contemporary needs assessment and infrastructure deficit model, completing a capacity mapping study with housing partners, and climate resilient construction to assist residents, developers, and housing delivery agents in their work. Among the actions HNWT is taking to address housing availability is the construction of a new 50-plex in Yellowknife. The building will include 25 barrier-free units that are appropriate for seniors and 25 2-bedroom units designed for small families. The first floor includes office space to accommodate HNWT's North Slave District Office and a commercial service location for Yellowknife Housing Authority to promote synergy between the two partner organizations and provide client-centered services from an accessible street level location. This building will be highly efficient and implement construction techniques including mass-timber panels, which is new to the NWT. Design of this building is complete, and construction is underway.

HNWT is working to strengthen the economic foundation of the NWT, through supporting the development of the private sector and community capacity, encourage a diversity of economic activity across sectors, and reduce the cost of doing business in the NWT. HNWT's core operations, focused on maintaining, renovating, and constructing housing, has an immediate impact on the economy of the NWT and continued investments in housing will result in projects distributed across the NWT with a range of contracting opportunities for northern contractors at all scales. Sustained investments in housing maintenance, retrofits, and new construction will contribute to a strong economic foundation for the NWT. HNWT will continue to support the development of building trade apprentices through its Local Housing Organizations (LHO) and new construction projects.

Housing is recognized as a social determinant of health and wellbeing, as stable and secure housing is required to enable northerners to heal from historic and ongoing trauma. HNWT, in partnership with DHSS, has collaborated with community partners in Yellowknife and Inuvik, the Salvation Army, and Inuvialuit Regional Corporation respectively, to develop a housing model to support NWT residents recovering from addictions. The Transitional Housing Addictions Recovery Program (THARP) has a 5-bedroom home in Yellowknife in operation, with work on a further five-bedroom facility in Inuvik underway.

To prevent, interrupt, and address the effects of trauma, HNWT is also working to support transitional housing in communities other than those involved with THARP. Northern Pathways to Housing operates in Aklavik, Behchokò, Fort Good Hope, and Fort Simpson. This program offers supportive housing for single adults experiencing housing instability. HNWT works with a partner in each community that provides 4 self-contained units.

To promote the safety of residents and communities in the NWT, HNWT will continue to work with LHOs and shelters to increase the safety of residents and staff through enhanced security measures, consider security through design principles in new construction, and work with other departments to address the root-causes of increased substance abuse and criminality associated with the trade of drugs. HNWT has invested over \$1 million into security measures in public housing units. This work is ongoing and been done in conjunction with LHOs, focusing on multi-unit public housing buildings. HNWT, with the involvement of the Department of Justice (JUS), has contracted Dr. Tarah Hodgkinson, a professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, to provide SafeGrowth training for Hay River, Fort Providence, and Fort Smith. The SafeGrowth program is a neighbourhood planning program which supports communities to create empowered neighbourhoods which are resistant to crime. Dr. Hodgkinson and her team are also reviewing HNWT designs for buildings for a crime reduction perspective.

To further support the safety of residents and communities in the NWT, HNWT hosted a 1-week certification for front line workers centered around vicarious trauma. This certification included training for frontline staff working in Indigenous communities where there is a prevalence of intergenerational trauma; this certification allowed for those that attended to better serve the communities they work in. Building off the success of this initiative, the Tłıchq Government hosted their own certification program using the same model used by HNWT.

Mandate Commitments

Collaborative Governance

The GNWT's relationship with Indigenous governments is integral to the future prosperity of the NWT and the following commitments will guide the implementation of the Mandate across all Priorities.

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Strengthen government-to-government relationships with Indigenous governments and work in partnership to jointly engage the federal government to advance issues of shared interest.	Participate as requested at all negotiation tables to inform conversations around housing delivery and programming.	# of engagements with IGs.	40 engagements with IGs per year.	37 engagement sessions with IGs were held in the reporting period, including: 33 meetings with Minister, President, Associate Deputy Minister &/or Vice Presidents & IGs. 4 formal engagement meetings with IGs to discuss new construction projects, including design & location.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Housing NWT will engage on a government-to-government basis to share information on housing and prioritize and partner on projects to support housing initiatives with a long-term view to where each Indigenous government aspires to be, with their housing assets, programs, plans, and projects, and align objectives in housing.	# of collaborative agreements developed.	2 per year.	MOA with ADKFN close to being finalized. In discussions at varying stages with Métis Nation, Kátl'odeeche First Nation, K'ahsho Got'ine, & Nahanni Butte Dene Band.
	Partnership with Indigenous governments.	# of partnership agreements.	3 per year.	5 agreements with IGs signed & 3 in progress under the Community Housing Support Initiative.
	Use the NWT Housing Forum as a mechanism to discuss issues and priorities to support having Indigenous governments and GNWT approach Canada together on housing priorities for the north.	# of meetings held.	4 per year.	3 meetings were held in Oct 2024, Dec 2024, & May 2025; & a Symposium was held in Jan 2025.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Continue implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action and the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls Inquiry Calls to Justice.	Ensure training with trauma-informed, anti-racist, and a culturally safety lens that consider the recommendations of the MMIWG and UNDRIP, is available to front line program staff within Housing NWT and to contracted housing providers (i.e., LHO's) to provide services.	# of staff trained.	30 staff per year.	<p>93 staff members have completed training during the reporting period.</p> <p>HNWT's Homelessness Team partnered with CTRI to deliver trauma-informed care training to 30 staff across Hay River, Yellowknife, & Inuvik.</p> <p>In May 2025, Dene Wellness Warriors provided training to 44 LHO staff members, Managers, Tenant Relations Officers & 19 District Program Advisors.</p> <p>In August 2025, 30 front line staff attended trauma-informed care training in Inuvik.</p>

To best support the delivery of programs and services to our residents and the dedicated public servants who deliver those programs, the following commitments will guide the implementation of the mandate across all Priorities:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress to Date
Honour the GNWT's commitments to openness, transparency, and accountability by engaging with our partners, the public, and the public service on decisions that affect their lives.	Housing NWT will be conducting engagement with Indigenous governments and multiple other housing stakeholders as they complete and update of the <i>Housing NWT Act</i> in the 20th Assembly.	# of engagement opportunities.	6 engagement sessions per year. Complete engagement by June 2026.	A preliminary engagement was held at NWT Housing Symposium to assist with sharing information on renewal & scoping out potential changes to the <i>Act</i> . There were 14 IGs in attendance along with other housing partners. Engagements on the legislation will occur in late 2025-26.
	Housing NWT will use the NWT Housing forum as the mechanism for identifying and reviewing additional policy and program changes, following on the Strategic Renewal's intention for continuous quality improvement and regular timely review of policies.	# of engagements on policies.	4 per year.	HNWT met with the Housing Forum 4 times in the reporting period & brought forward several initiatives for discussion, including the smoking ban, market housing opportunities, proposed updates to Public Housing rent scales/Core Need Income Thresholds & the Territorial Housing Needs Assessment.

Housing

To improve the suitability, accessibility, and affordability of housing options in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Increase housing availability for all residents by working with partners to address gaps in the northern housing continuum including more transitional and supportive living options.	<p>Work with partners inside and outside of the GNWT to deliver a suite of programming addressing all aspects of the housing continuum.</p> <p>Examples may include collaborating with IGs, NGOs, ECE, and private sector partners to develop short- and long-term housing solutions—such as shelters, supportive and transitional housing, and market housing for teachers—to improve community well-being, support teacher retention, and ensure quality education for youth.</p>	# of agreements / partnerships.	2 agreements.	HNWT has entered into 2 construction agreements with IGs, including a negotiated contract to construct a duplex for the Fort Smith Metis Council's business-arm & 10 units awarded to Tłıchq businesses under the Tłıchq Infrastructure Cooperation Agreement.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		# of units.	10 units per year.	HNWT, in partnership with DHSS, has developed 25-bed transitional houses under THARP in Inuvik & Yellowknife. A 24 room Temporary Transitional Housing project in Yellowknife, located near the Yellowknife Airport, is advancing in partnership with EIA. An RFP for an NGO operator will be advanced to align with the timing of the building completion. Conditional funding approval has been received for a new, permanent transitional housing project in Yellowknife through CMHC's Affordable Housing Fund, Rapid Housing Sub-Stream. Conceptual design work is proceeding for a mixed-use building including 30 transitional housing suites with support spaces & 34 public housing units.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		Initiatives of community housing.	3 initiatives per year.	5 CHSI agreements signed with IGs.
	Deliver the CHB Program to support private rental affordability.	# of clients.	Maintain a 120 client base each year.	163 clients receiving funding as of August 2025. 37 new clients were added this fiscal year.
	Continue the work started by the Strategic Renewal to create process and structures that will clarify roles and responsibilities, foster partnerships, and an ability to work together to achieve long term priorities for housing. This will include the completion of the Housing Needs Assessment and an update to the <i>Housing NWT Act</i> to enable housing partnerships that consider self-government and the evolving landscape of housing in each region.	Updated legislation.	By the end of the 20th Assembly.	Legislative review underway. Legislative proposal planned for 2026-27, Quarter 1.
		Territorial Housing Needs Assessment complete.	Completed housing needs assessment by October 31, 2025.	Territorial Housing Needs Assessment scheduled for completion January 2026.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Work with Indigenous, federal, and community governments, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector to secure sustainable funding for housing now and into the future.	Provide an opportunity under the Community Housing initiative to provide seed funding to build capacity, write business plans or proposals, or otherwise provide opportunities for other housing stakeholders to achieve their goals in provision of housing services or infrastructure.	Number of CHSI partnership agreements.	Fully expended budget of CHSI.	5 agreements with IGs signed & 3 in progress. HNWT on track for expending CHSI budget this year.
	NWT Housing Forum, Federal Bilateral Working Group, other bilateral engagement with the Government of Canada as appropriate.	Total housing investment in the territory.	\$50M per year to replace & repair existing, aging infrastructure.	HNWT projects spending over \$200 million in capital housing investment over the 4-year term of the 20th Legislative Assembly. In 2025-26, HNWT has a capital plan valued at over \$142 million with planned additional investment of over \$50 million a year for 2026-27 & 2027-28.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
			Secure an additional \$75M per year to construct new, incremental housing units to address the public housing waitlist, & secure on-going annual operating funding for these new units.	Discussions with Government of Canada ongoing at the ministerial & program level.
	Develop an updated infrastructure deficit assessment for Housing NWT's owned residential assets to identify current and long-term housing needs.	# of assessments.	Complete 2 updated annual Infrastructure Deficit assessments by October 2027.	HNWT is updating the infrastructure deficit analysis for HNWT owned housing assets, in parallel with the Territorial Housing Needs Assessment. This assessment is scheduled for completion by the fall of 2025.
	Continue to work with Canada to seek a new, sustainable funding approach to replace the current 1997 Social Housing Agreement and address the declining funding for the public housing operations under that agreement.	Amount of reinstated base operating funding for the Public Housing Program.	New agreement in place by October 2027 to mitigate \$7.7 million of declining base PH operating funding over the term of the Legislative Assembly.	HNWT continues to engage the Federal Government to advance negotiations for a new bilateral agreement after the current agreement expires on March 31, 2028.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Establish an NWT Housing Resource Hub. Develop a Resource Hub to collect, distil and distribute housing designs, research, and best practices including a housing design guideline developed through stakeholder engagement to guide Housing NWT's capital delivery and support other developers and housing delivery agents.	Web page developed.	Posted by October 2027.	Scoping phase to create web portal to consolidate housing specific information including CMHC's Housing Design Catalogue, northern housing research, applicable standards, & best construction practices.
	Develop an in-depth housing needs analysis/assessment that examines current housing waiting lists, assessing demographic data, specific needs, and preferences of those on the list. This initiative will be done for the entire NWT in partnership with the Indigenous government and municipalities.	Completed housing needs assessment.	Assessment completed by January 2026.	Engagement sessions completed in September 2025 with report planned for January 2026.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Encourage private investment in housing by reducing administrative and regulatory barriers to housing development, and by implementing clear processes to increase the amount of land available for housing development in communities.	Increase the use of alternative energy systems for housing assets through direct investment and partnership opportunities.	# of housing units.	150 units.	120 units have been converted to biomass including 20 in Fort Simpson, 14 in Fort Providence, & 36 in Yellowknife with an additional 50 planned. Under the current Energy Management Strategy, HNWT continues to explore opportunities for additional biomass investments.
	Invest in Housing NWT infrastructure, including new construction and repairs.	Investment level (\$).	\$200 million over 4 years.	In 2025-26, HNWT has a capital plan valued at over \$142 million with planned additional investment of over \$50 million a year for 2026-27 & 2027-28.
	Develop and implement an integrated asset management program for Housing NWT to continuously improve decision making in areas such as capital investment, maintenance, and the management of operating costs.	Asset Management framework approved & implemented.	Asset Management Program implemented & in use by October 2027	HNWT has implemented a Director-level Asset Management Committee, approved a policy, & set a 4-year roadmap. The committee is currently refining performance measures, service levels, & the Asset Registry framework.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Expand the functionality of Housing NWT's Geographical Information System (GIS) to improve the availability of information on housing assets for planning purposes and community engagement activities.	# of system enhancements.	GIS enhancements fully implemented by October 2027.	Completed work to map land owned or leased assets. Currently advancing the addition of building asset information into the GIS.
	Design and construct housing units suitable for seniors and persons with limited mobility.	# of units.	25 units.	8 Seniors units were completed during the reporting period. An additional 25 accessible units, for seniors & persons with limited mobility, are currently under construction (50 plex in Yellowknife).

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	As part of the discontinuation of Housing NWT's homeownership entry level program (HELP) and anticipated transition of 100 of those units to market rental units, explore opportunities to support this transition including the possible utilization of the Canada Housing Benefits Program.	# of units.	100 units.	HNWT has transferred 8 HELP units during the reporting period. 5 HELP units were transferred to Market Rental units & 3 HELP units were transferred to Homeownership. HNWT is working with HELP clients to transfer their units to Public Housing or Market Housing as appropriate. It total, HNWT has transferred 77 HELP units since the start of HELP in 2007.
	Demolish Housing NWT owned surplus units that are beyond economic repair. In addition to removing derelict buildings, this action also makes land available for housing development.	# of units.	25 units by October 2027.	From October 2024 to September 2025, HNWT demolished 4 units. There are currently another 7 units approved for demolition.
	Develop a disposal strategy to guide decision making.	Complete disposal strategy.	Strategy completed by March 2027.	Development of Disposal Strategy & updated policy in progress.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Identify Housing NWT owned lots that could be made available to other housing interests in communities.	# of lots.	10 lots by October 2027.	5 lots provided to IGs since October 2023, to support housing projects.
	Work with ECC and MACA to take steps to facilitate the availability of and access to land for housing construction. These lands may be for any housing stakeholders, including Housing NWT, Indigenous governments, or NGOs.	# of meetings.	10 meetings by October 2027.	HNWT has attended 5 meetings with ECC & MACA related to making land available to support housing projects.
Support residents to gain skills and education in the trades through a range of programs and partnerships.	Determine types of training and facilitate delivery of training for housing stakeholders.	# of GNWT Approved Manufacturers.	2 Manufacturers approved by October 2027.	HNWT will continue to support the GNWT's efforts in expanding the number of northern manufacturers. To date, the GNWT has approved 2 additional modular home manufacturers.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Work with ITI to foster the development of innovative approaches to housing construction as well as expanding capacity in both the construction and the repair/ renovation sectors.	# of training sessions.	16 training sessions by October 2027.	<p>14 training sessions to date including maintenance systems, biomass operators, inventory management, & safety training for local housing organizations. HNWT will be hosting a Technical & Maintenance workshop in October 2025.</p> <p>HNWT is also piloting a hybrid method of construction in Délı̨nę in 2025-26 which will provide opportunities for skill development & training sessions. This work is being enhanced with a grant from the National Research Council. Construction is underway.</p>
	Work with partners to deliver community-based training to manage and maintain alternative energy solutions at the residential scale.	# of training sessions.	8 training sessions by October 2027.	In November 2024, HNWT & LHO staff participated in 1 biomass training session in Yellowknife & 1 session in Fort Simpson. 4 people were trained.

Economy

To strengthen the economic foundation of the NWT, the GNWT will support the development of the private sector and community capacity, encourage a diversity of economic activity across sectors, and reduce the cost of doing business in the NWT. We will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Encourage a diverse range of economic activities by promoting entrepreneurship, fostering research and innovation, building strong partnerships and leveraging opportunities in all regions.	Pilot housing projects that combine modular and stick built construction, an innovative approach that supports local modular manufacturers for key components while helping with training of local workers for the stick-built construction of the rest of the building.	# of units.	55 units.	<p>54 units completed to date.</p> <p>Proof-of-concept hybrid duplex project (2 duplexes - 4 units) which combines modular & stick-built construction is now under construction in Délı̨nę.</p> <p>HNWT is developing a mixed-use building (includes 50 housing units) in Yellowknife which combines advance manufacturing for mass-timber structural components & a panelized building envelope. This will be the first instance of this construction approach in the NWT.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Work with partner departments to identify ways to reduce barriers for people in public housing to be entrepreneurs.	Review Public Housing policies around home-based small businesses.	Complete policy review before the end of the 20th Legislative Assembly.	<p>As part of our policy review, HNWT has partnered with Queen's University to complete public housing tenants' surveys regarding barriers to entrepreneurship.</p> <p>HNWT & ITI have begun discussions on ways to reduce barriers for people in public housing to be entrepreneurs.</p>
Support communities to realize economic opportunities by enhancing their ability to access and manage lands within their boundaries.	Work with ECC and MACA to take steps to facilitate availability of and access to land for housing construction. This may include using community housing plans to support local Community Plans. These lands may be for any housing stakeholders including Housing NWT, Indigenous governments, or NGOs.	# of lots provided.	20 lots.	<p>HNWT has transferred a total of 7 lots to IGs & NGOs, including 5 lots to support IG housing projects (2 lots in Fort McPherson, 2 lots in Gamètì, & 1 in Whatì) & 2 lots to Habitat for Humanity to support 2 duplexes in Yellowknife.</p> <p>HNWT continues to have discussions with GNWT & IGs to identify additional land for housing projects.</p>

Access to health care

To strengthen preventative measures, public awareness and improve access to trauma-informed, culturally appropriate health care, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Focus on health promotion and preventative care, and disease prevention across all age groups.	Share opportunities for training of front-line staff to any housing provider including, for example, shelter providers, Indigenous governments, LHO's, and other NGO's.	# of staff trained.	30 staff per year.	A total of 93 staff have undergone training. 44 LHO employees & 19 program staff attended the Dene Wellness Warriors training in May 2025. In August 2025, 30 front line staff attended a session in Inuvik.
Train and support Indigenous and local residents to pursue careers in the health professions, while also recruiting and retaining qualified health and social services professionals to the NWT.	Support the retention of health and social services professionals by expanding market housing availability through partnerships.	# of market units through partnerships.	4 units.	In 2024-25, HNWT completed the construction of a 4 plex in Tulita to support health & social services professionals. Provided market data to IGs & the private sector. Updated data will be provided every 2 years.

Address the effects of trauma

To prevent, interrupt and address the effects of trauma, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that policies and programs are designed and renewed with a trauma-informed, anti-racist and cultural safety lens that is informed by residents.	Ensure training is available to front line program staff within Housing NWT and to contracted housing providers (i.e., LHO's) to provide services with a trauma-informed, anti-racist and cultural safety lens.	# of staff trained.	30 staff per year.	63 staff members trained during reporting period. Dene Wellness Warriors provided training during a 1-day session with 19 HNWT Program Advisors & a 2-day session with 44 LHO Managers & Tenant Relations Officers in May 2025.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Expand the number of northern pathways program participants.	# of beds.	4 beds.	<p>HNWT expanded the Northern Pathways to Housing program in Aklavik with funding from the Gender Equity Division, adding 4 additional beds to support individuals experiencing gender-based violence.</p> <p>Additionally, HNWT provided funding to the Women's Society to transform 16 bedrooms on the top floor of the shelter into Pathways Units. The YWCA also received funding to sustain 11 beds at Lynn's Place.</p>

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Enable residents to focus on healing by making programs and services easier to access through an integrated and person-centered service delivery approach and by working in collaboration with Indigenous governments, community governments and other partners.	Support the implementation of the Homelessness Strategy and the interrelationships between Housing NWT/LHO's and their regional ISD units.	# of client referrals.	20 referrals per year.	3 documented referrals from HNWT to Yellowknife Housing Authority (number does not include walk-ins which we expect are much higher than formal referrals).
		HNWT staff training.	5 staff members trained annually.	8 staff trained in South Slave regional training.
		Updating LHO manuals.	Update complete by October 2027.	Full review of LHO manual currently underway.
Encourage community wellness and self-determination by supporting the development and delivery of community-based wellness programs to address mental wellness, prevention, early intervention, and holistic health.	Work with HSS to implement an approach to eliminate smoking in public housing units including all appropriate communications and education materials to accompany the approach decided on.	Determine & implement appropriate solution.	Approach determined by March 31, 2025.	Policy approach determined in spring 2025.
			Implementation by March 31, 2026.	Policy implementation underway with smoking prohibition clauses included in all new leases.
		Social media campaign.	Campaign to begin fall 2025.	Smoking ban campaign development underway & on schedule to launch in fall 2025.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Pilot a transitional housing model for addictions recovery including appropriate supportive programming in partnership with HSS.	# of beds.	10 beds.	10 beds added during reporting period. Yellowknife 5-bed THARP now operational plus a 5-bedroom home for the THARP program is also complete in Inuvik.

Emergency Management

To enhance the safety of residents and communities, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Ensure that emergency management and preparedness initiatives strengthen our capacity to respond to more frequent and severe climate-driven disasters and other emergencies.	As part of the GNWT support to NGO's and other employers, including LHO's, shelter and other supportive housing operators to have emergency plans and Business Continuity Plans to support operations and protect vulnerable populations during emergencies.	# of plans.	10 plans by October 2027.	1 formal LHO emergency plan completed. HNWT is finalizing templates for the business continuity plans for use by LHOs. HNWT has organized an LHO Management workshop to support the implementation of their Business Continuity Plans.
Enhance our understanding of climate change-related threats and impacts, to support innovative climate change mitigation and adaptation responses.	Climate Change Vulnerability study focused on Housing NWT assets.	Completed climate change vulnerability study & guideline report.	Complete by March 2026.	An interim report has been prepared. Additional work is being completed to define risks at the community level, including field reviews by staff & professionals.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Strengthen regulatory frameworks for emergency management, create territorial building standards, and improve community hazard mapping and monitoring.	Complete a risk analysis of climate change impacts on Housing NWT assets and prepare a mitigation strategy in collaboration with other departments (ECC). Findings will be applicable to homeowners and other housing delivery agents.	Completed risk analysis and mitigation strategy.	Completed by October 2027.	Risk analysis & mitigation strategy being advanced as part of the Climate Change Vulnerability study.
	Increase climate resiliency of public housing assets through design and construction by developing a Design Guideline which would also support other developers and housing delivery agents.	Complete risk analysis & mitigation strategy.	Completed by October 2027.	In the planning phase.

Public Safety

To promote the safety of residents and communities in the NWT, we will:

Progress Update

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
Work with law enforcement, governments, communities and across departments to create and strengthen tools that can be used to disrupt and combat the drug trade and associated criminal activity	Work with GNWT departments to identify short- and long-term solutions to address illegal activities in public housing/rental units. This may include both legislative and/or policy solutions.	# of buildings with security assessments.	32 buildings.	In May 2024, HNWT completed a security & risk assessment on 35 buildings in Yellowknife.
		Investments in security measures.	\$1.0 million.	HNWT invested approximately \$1.1 million in security measures in 2024-25 to provide security monitoring services. HNWT will invest in approximately \$660k in security measures by the end of 2025-26 for security infrastructure, including an additional \$200k that has been allocated to Hay River's LHO.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
	Work with LHOs to identify appropriate security measures to implement particularly in multi-unit buildings to help protect individual tenants.	# of security enhancement related workshops with LHOs.	2 workshops by October 2027.	HNWT has contracted Wilfred Laurier University to provide SafeGrowth training for Hay River, Fort Providence, & Fort Smith. The SafeGrowth program is a neighbourhood planning program which supports communities to create empowered neighbourhoods which are resistant to crime. SafeGrowth concepts used to review HNWT housing designs to design buildings for crime prevention.
Focus on crime prevention through collaborative efforts at early intervention, integrated and person-centered service delivery, and community driven solutions.	Increase communications with public housing tenants on their rights and how to protect themselves when other tenants are not adhering to the terms of their tenancy agreements.	Increase in # of applicants completing the online tenant education modules course (Canvas).	30 tenants per year complete online modules (Canvas).	Tenant education modules currently being developed for the online education platform Canvas.
		Targeted advertising campaigns to promote tenant safety.	1 annual advertising campaign to promote tenant safety.	Targeted advertising campaign planned for spring 2026.

Mandate commitment	Actions to support the mandate commitment	Measures	Target	Progress-to-Date
		Update appeals process.	Updated process by 2027-28 .	Web content, brochure, & form for appeal process completed in May 2025. Review of appeal policy is underway & will be completed in conjunction with the review of the <i>Housing NWT Act</i> .
		Number of rental office applications for illegal activities.	As required.	60 rental applications submitted by April 1, 2025.

Risks and Mitigation Activities

The following key, high-level, strategic issues will require departmental focus in the 20th Assembly, and the years ahead. These issues involve fundamental policy questions or critical challenges affecting the government, corporations, and residents of the NWT. They are complex in scope and extend beyond the operational level, with significant risk if no action is taken.

Sustainability of Public Housing

The long-term fiscal sustainability of the NWT's public housing program continues to be at risk. A governmental strategy is required to ensure that stable and adequate operating and capital funding is in place for the long-term preservation of the public housing program. Under the Social Housing Agreement, federal operating funding for public housing continues to decline each year.

Without adequate long-term funding to support the operations, maintenance, repairs, and replacement of public housing assets these assets will continue to degrade over time and eventually need to be removed from the portfolio, reducing the number of units available for the program.

To mitigate the risks related to aging public housing infrastructure, HNWT will continue to look for opportunities with funding partners to increase the level of capital investment. Most recently, the GNWT has committed significant capital funding to HNWT that will support an annual \$50 million capital investment between 2025-26 to 2027-28. This significant investment will directly support HNWT in sustaining the public housing portfolio. HNWT is also continuing to explore possible opportunities to leverage existing capital funds with the federal government and other partners.

The funding uncertainties within the public housing program are particularly troubling in an inflationary operating environment. The NWT has a small residential construction sector which continues to recover from sectoral pressures introduced at the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, which, combined with other factors, resulted in a cumulative 68% increase in the cost of residential construction nationally since 2019. This rapid escalation was caused by reduced access to labour, supply-chain disruptions, increased energy costs, volatile construction material markets, and demand pressures. New cost pressures related to sectoral tariffs may continue this trend. These elevated costs are having the effect of reducing the impact of investments in housing and stagnant growth continues to challenge the ability to deliver construction projects. HNWT will continue to support development of the residential construction sector to ensure capacity does not restrict increased investment in housing projects, both renovation and new construction.

Climate change

Climate change has undeniably left its mark on the NWT, causing substantial repercussions for HNWT's infrastructure and operations.

Climate change weather events, including wildfire and flooding along NWT river systems, have increased over the past three years, resulting in damaged and destroyed assets, diversion of resources, and disrupted construction plans, with residents facing health risks due to compromised air quality. Mitigating and adapting to climate change risks, such as permafrost thaw, wildfire risk, and increased precipitation requires adaptation of existing infrastructure and climate resilient strategies for new construction, which can add to project cost and complexity. Not adapting to these rapidly changing conditions presents the risk of a shortened service life for HNWT assets and risk to tenant safety.

The NWT's winter road and barge systems are also becoming more vulnerable and less reliable. Recent years have seen the shortening of the winter road season and the disruption of barge schedules which has made the movement of construction material, equipment, and modular units tenuous. This has interrupted project schedules resulting in delays of up to a year or more in logistical complexity which can have the result of increasing project cost.

There is also an urgent need to adapt existing housing infrastructure to withstand climate-induced threats. Adapting now is not only a matter of safety and continuity for the communities in the NWT, but also a cost-effective strategy. The cost of proactively adapting homes and infrastructure pales in comparison to the financial, social, and emotional toll of recovering from climate-related disasters.

To mitigate these climate driven risks, HNWT is conducting a climate change vulnerability assessment and adaptation guide for housing infrastructure with funding from Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada. Additionally, HNWT is exploring hybrid and other methods of construction. To mitigate the impacts of climate change, HNWT is implementing an Energy Management Strategy to increase the energy efficiency of the portfolio and shift towards lower-carbon fuel sources such as biomass.

GNWT Fiscal Strategy for the 20th Legislative Assembly

HNWT has continued to make key investments aimed at reducing the on-going operating costs of the public housing program, such as, continued investment in alternative energy solutions for its housing stock (e.g. biomass district heating systems); continued investment in needed repairs; and renovations to achieve added energy efficiencies and to help realize the full-service life of these assets.

Also, in response to persistent increases in the cost of construction, HNWT has continued to strategically implement volume-based procurement to leverage economies of scale. HNWT is also advancing innovative building methods, including modular construction, a Northern hybrid prototype, and the introduction of mass timber and high-performance prefabricated building enclosures, new approaches in the NWT. These strategic measures not only reduce costs but also accelerate project timelines and enhance construction quality.

A significant recent fiscal development for HNWT has been the GNWT three-year capital funding commitment in the amount of \$124.8 million to be contributed to three \$41.6 million contributions between 2025-26 to 2027-28. This sizable incremental capital investment across the territory will support the delivery of 152 new public housing replacement units, 134 major modernization and improvement repair projects and an incremental investment in deferred maintenance investment of \$15 million.

HNWT is also continuing to work closely with the federal government with the aim of structuring more sustainable federal funding arrangements that will provide greater capital and operating funding certainty over the longer term to ensure the fiscal sustainability of the public housing program to continue to serve our most vulnerable residents. This work includes the renewal of the current multi-year bilateral funding agreement with Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, set to expire on March 31, 2028, and exploring opportunities to leverage existing capital funds under current and emerging federal funding programs.

Finally, HNWT will continue to work diligently with its many housing partners, such as Indigenous governments, the federal government, and community governments, to explore all opportunities to leverage additional housing investment for the NWT under the Community Housing Support Initiative Program and other partnership arrangements.

Human Resource Initiatives

As part of its Strategic Renewal, HNWT is committed to doing an organizational structure review. This will be done to ensure program and service priorities align with staff resources. Relevant staff training will also be identified to support staff in their roles during the review.

HNWT encourages all staff to participate in the range of training and development opportunities offered by the GNWT, along with specialized professional development training to maintain certifications and keep pace with national standards. Additionally, HNWT supports LHO Boards and staff with regular training opportunities. These opportunities build local capacity and help fulfill the requirements of the Community Housing Service Agreement.

Health and safety are an area of critical importance to HNWT. The Occupational Health and Safety Specialist at HNWT provides ongoing advice, support, and training to staff at HNWT as well as all 23 LHOs. When visiting a community, these training opportunities are also open to interested staff from Indigenous governments, community governments, and the private sector. The Specialist also regularly reviews HNWT's safety policies and procedures to make sure all staff have relevant, up-to-date information on safe work policies and practices.

Legislative Initiatives

The Department has refocused its legislative priorities and policy development as part of an exercise undertaken midway through the 20th Legislative Assembly. Work planned to be completed in the latter half of this Assembly is shown below:

#	Legislative initiative	Description of work	Legislative Proposal submission	Bill introduction	Current Status
1	Revision of the <i>Housing Northwest Territories Act</i> .	Review of substantive amendments to <i>Housing Northwest Territories Act</i> with participation of NWT Housing Forum.	2026-27 Q1.	2026-27 Q3.	In development.

#	Policy initiatives	Description of work	Current Status
1	Emergency Shelter Policy.	HNWT has looked internally at the funding model for emergency overnight shelters, but this work now needs to be expanded to include the broader shelter funding discussion with the homelessness unit.	Internal works continues in 2025-26 with partner departments, notably EIA.
2	Appeals Policy.	HNWT will be doing a review of the appeals policy for public housing programming and home repair programming to re-establish and better publicize existing appeals and consider the need for a legislated appeals process.	Review of the appeals policy is currently underway and will be completed in conjunction with the review of the <i>Housing NWT Act</i> .
3	Mortgage Arrears Forgiveness Policy.	HNWT will undertake consideration of new programs and policies to assist our mortgage clients and tenants in addressing their arrears to help expedite the repayment of these remaining debts or pursue forgiveness when appropriate.	In development with revised policy expected by spring 2025.
4	Smoke Free Housing Policy.	HNWT is moving forward with a smoking ban in all HNWT-owned housing units including all Public Housing and Market Rental Housing units consistent with the action item arising from HNWT renewal strategy.	Policy has been drafted and in final stages of review. Effective date of policy set for April 1, 2026.

Evaluation Plan

The Department is committed to work on several Evaluations, some of which are being undertaken during the 20th Legislative Assembly, as follows:

#	Program / Policy Title	Purpose of Evaluation	Trigger	Timeframe	Current Status
1	Emergency Repair Program.	Effectiveness and efficiency of the program.	Internal Direction.	2026-27.	RFP under development.
2	Homeownership Repair Programs.	Application of the program.	Internal Direction.	2026-27.	General application rules under review.
3	Market Rental Program.	Effectiveness of the program.	Internal Direction.	2027-28.	Initial planning stage.
4	Home Purchase Program.	Effectiveness of the program.	Internal Direction.	2028-29.	Initial planning stage.