Program Evaluation Policy

1. Policy Statement

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is dedicated to fostering a culture of continuous improvement through systematic program evaluation practices. These practices are designed to support informed decision-making, enhance the performance of programs and services, and promote responsible resource allocation. The GNWT aims to strengthen transparency, accountability, and the delivery of programs and services by prioritizing evaluation as an essential part of program management.

2. Principles

The GNWT will adhere to the following principles when implementing this Policy:

2.1. Foster a culture of evaluation and learning in the GNWT public service where staff value the benefits of program design, monitoring, and evaluation techniques to improve the development and delivery of programs and services.

2.2. Establish objective, reliable, and high-integrity data essential for making evidence-based decisions on both monetary and non-monetary resource allocation, incorporating best practices in program evaluation.

2.3. Ensure the consistent and systematic application of program design, monitoring, and evaluation practices across government to maximize value.

2.4. Demonstrate good governance by providing objective evidence to support transparent decision-making.

2.5. Enhance program management by clarifying the purpose, intent and goals of a program, tracking progress towards short, medium, and long-term outcomes, and identifying strengths, weaknesses, risks, and gaps to allow for improvements.

2.6. Ensure that results from program evaluations are implemented wherever possible so benefits are consistently realized and applied effectively.

3. Scope

This policy applies to all GNWT departments and Housing NWT.

4. Definitions

Deputy Head – is the Deputy Minister of a department, Superintendent of a divisional education council, Chief Executive Officer or President of a board, authority, agency or a person appointed as deputy head.

Evaluation – means the systemic assessment of the design, implementation or results of an initiative for the purposes of learning or decision making as defined by the Canadian Evaluation Society.

Logic Model – means a document describing a program and how it operates including the inputs necessary to make the program work; the actions to be taken by program staff or clients; the outputs that are the direct result of or a product of the actions, and the short, medium, and long term outcomes the program is expected to produce.

Monitoring – means a continuous and ongoing activity, described by a Program Design in combination with good program delivery practice, whereby data and information is collected regularly and consistently from and about a program in active delivery.

Monitoring and Evaluation Framework – means a program design that achieves Results-Based Evaluation. For the purposes of this Policy, an M&E Framework includes, at minimum: a logic model, a performance measurement plan, and a narrative description of the initiative including, but not limited to, the program theory, public interest or values being served, governance, objectives, operating environment, and other factors that describe what the initiative is and what it is intended to do. Other acceptable additions to this package could include: a theory of change and/or an evaluation matrix.

Performance Measurement Plan – is a document that describes what actions should be taken to make sure a program is achieving the objectives and outcomes identified in the Monitoring and Evaluation Framework.

Performance Measure – is data that is tracked to show whether a program's objectives and outcomes are being achieved. Performance Measures are typically compared against targets to determine how well a program is performing.

Program – is a government program, project, strategy, service, initiative, or activity, where financial resources have been appropriated to achieve a defined outcome.

Program Design – is a narrative description of a program including, but not limited to, the program theory, public interest or values being served, governance, objectives, operating environment, and other factors that describe what a program is and what it is intended to do combined with a Logic Model and Performance Measurement plan.

5. Authority and Accountability

This Policy is issued under the authority of the Financial Management Board (FMB), section 7 of the *Financial Administration Act*. Approval of this policy by FMB further represents a directive to implement and observe results pursuant to section 10 of the *Financial Administration Act*.

Authority and accountability is further defined as follows:

5.1. General Accountabilities

5.1.1. Ministers

GNWT Ministers are accountable for the implementation of this Policy in their Departments and Agencies.

5.1.2. Deputy Heads

GNWT Deputy Heads are accountable for the administration and implementation of this Policy in their Departments and Agencies.

5.2. Specific Responsibilities

5.2.1. Chair of FMB

- Recommend amendments to this Policy to the FMB.
- May issue further guidelines on the application and any matters concerning the operation of this Policy.

5.2.2. Secretary to FMB

- Provide support and advice on the mandate of the Policy and procedural matters.

5.2.3. Deputy Heads

- Ensure appropriate communication of the Policy and accompanying processes.
- Ensure appropriate training is provided.
- Ensure support, development, and promotion of a program evaluation culture.

6. Prerogative of the Financial Management Board

Nothing in this Policy may be construed to limit the prerogative of the Financial Management Board to make decisions or take action with respect to accommodation outside the provisions of this Policy.



Chair, Financial Management Board

September 02, 2026

Date