

**Government of the Northwest Territories Anti-Poverty Action Plan
Building on the Strengths of Northerners 2014/15 – 1015/16**

For the past several years, there has been a growing recognition in the Northwest Territories and across Canada of the need to address poverty as one of the key social determinants of health, in order to support and promote a healthy population.

Starting in 2010, there have been a number of reports and consultations in the Northwest Territories towards this end.

Shortly after the 17th Legislative Assembly took office, Premier Bob McLeod committed that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) would develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy.

During 2012-2013, the GNWT worked with stakeholders, including Aboriginal governments, community governments, non-government organizations and business, to develop a Strategic Framework towards the elimination of poverty in the NWT. *Building on the Strengths of Northerners* was published in June 2013. This Framework sets out five broad priorities for action and identifies gaps.

The GNWT's *Anti-Poverty Action Plan* outlines actions that the GNWT is taking now, or is committed to take, to address the priorities and gaps in the Framework. This is the first step towards the development of a broader, multi-stakeholder territorial action plan that will be developed over the next several months.

Attached is a summary of common recommendations from NWT consultations and reports, and an analysis of how the GNWT's *Anti-Poverty Action Plan* responds to those recommendations.

The analysis of common recommendations was prepared by the No Place for Poverty Coalition and includes recommendations drawn from the documents listed below.

Year	Item
2010	No Place for Poverty Workshop Report
2011	What we Heard from Northerners About Poverty
2013	Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework
2013	Summary - NWT Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework
2013	A Charter for Working Together Toward the Elimination of Poverty in the NWT

Government of the Northwest Territories Response to Stakeholder Recommendations

Pillar 1 - Children and family support

Recommendations (No Place for Poverty Synthesis)	GNWT's Response	Lead
Implement and fund a quality, accessible, and affordable early childhood program in every NWT community and family resource centers.	- Implement a full day, free Junior Kindergarten program for 4 year old children starting in the upcoming school year. (ECD Action Plan starting 2014/15) - the GNWT has committed to increasing integration of programs and services available to families through the expansion of the Child and Family Resource Programs and Services Model (ECD Action Plan Starting in 2013/14)	ECE
Improve pay and streamline training for early childhood workers.	- Tiered wage top-ups for Early Childhood Educators (ECD Action Plan starting in 2014/15) - A scholarship fund as an incentive and support for Northerners to complete ECEC diploma and degree programs (ECD Action Plan 2014/15) - An incentive and support system to encourage students of the Aurora College ECD certificate program to finish (ECD Action Plan – 2013/2014)	ECE
Expand prenatal/postnatal programs.	Expand Midwifery services to Hay River and the Beaufort Delta (ECD Action Plan – 2014/2015 – 2015/2016)	HSS

	- Standardize referral protocols, ensuring that expectant mothers with addictions issues have timely access to treatment (ECD Action Plan - 2014/15) - Expand the Healthy Pregnancy Program to women that live in Yellowknife, build on the strengths of the Healthy Family Program, improve programs, standards and training that support pre/postnatal nutrition and breastfeeding (ECD Action Plan – 2013/2014, 2014/15 and 2015/2016)	
Expand the number of school healthy programs (breakfast and lunch).	Proposed \$1 million in new funding towards food security initiatives - Develop and implement a Healthy Eating Strategy in the NWT (Anti-Poverty Action Plan – 2014/15) - Support for the Healthy Family Program Collective Kitchens (Anti-Poverty Action Plan - 2014/15 and ongoing) - Enhance the Healthy Food in Schools Program (Anti-Poverty Action Plan - 2014/15 and ongoing) - Support for the After School Program to provide healthy foods (Anit-Poverty Action Plan - 2014/15 and ongoing)	HSS HSS ECE

		MACA
Expand programs for youth, including mentoring.	Proposed \$500,000 in new funding to provide support and training to community organizations that deliver programming for children and youth to establish or improve services that: - o Encourage physical literacy (2014/15) - o Increase physical activity (2014/15) - o Improve mental wellness and resiliency (2014/15) - o Develop lifelong healthy choices practices (2014/15)	MACA

Pillar 2 - Healthy living and reaching our potential

Make addictions treatment aftercare and mental health support available in every community.	• Proposed \$900,000 in new funding to pilot and implement on-the-land healing programs (MHA Action Plan -2014/15) • Explore options for providing mobile treatment (MHA Action Plan – 2013/14) • Develop options for withdrawal management in small, medium and large communities (MHA Action Plan – 2014/2015) • Expand Dalhousie Global Psychiatry MHA Action Plan – 2013/14)	HSS
Make grade school education more relevant and better funded.	• Develop links between Elders in school programs and early childhood programs offered in schools (ECD Action Plan – 2013/14 and 2014/2015) • NWT Education Renewal Action Plan (under development) • Make cultural competence training available to early childhood professionals working with children (ECD Action Plan – 2013/14, 2014/15 and 2015/16)	ECE
A cohesive approach with more opportunities and partnerships for pre-employment training, life skills, and literacy development will be available throughout the NWT. Deliver life skills and financial life skills training.	In addition to numerous high school courses that teach financial literacy in the NWT, all high school students are required to take Career and Life Management (CALM). CALM is designed to enable students to make well-informed, considered decisions and choices in all aspects of their lives and to develop behaviours and attitudes that contribute to the well-being and respect of self and others, now and in the future. Within the CALM course, students are expected to learn how to make responsible decisions in the use of personal finances and other resources that reflect personal values and goals and demonstrate commitment to self and others. A new Financial Literacy course has been developed for adult learners. 11 modules addressing topics ranging from household budgeting, to banking and credit, to mortgages and retirement are currently being piloted in select ALBE	ECE

	programs and will available for piloting in all Community Learning Centres beginning in the spring of 2014. The modules include a wide variety of instructional resources that are written at different literacy levels to accommodate the needs of individual learners. This is to ensure that the modules can be utilized with learners enrolled in ALBE from the 120 to the 160 level. The Financial Literacy package will become part of the Adult Literacy and Basic Education curriculum.	
Provide more school-based prevention and awareness programs (preschool to Grade 12) on such issues as alcohol and drugs, family violence, parenting and teen pregnancy to encourage attendance and increase academic success.	• Expand the Talking About Mental Illness (TAMI) program to schools across the NWT (MHA Action Plan – 2012/13 and ongoing) • Deliver the “My Voice, My Choice:” activities to youth in at least two communities in two regional HSSAs each year (MHA Action Plan – 2012/13 and on-going)	HSS

Pillar 3 – Safe and Affordable Housing

Pilot the Housing First model for housing people who are chronically or episodically homeless.	Proposed \$680,000 in new funding to develop housing units to support “hard-to-house” residents in small communities Undertake a research project on the development of a “Housing First” model that would be appropriate for NWT market communities (NWT Housing Strategy - 2014/15)	NWTHC
Tax incentives, subsidies, and other initiatives (creation of secondary suites) will be provided to increase the stock of affordable housing and overcome barriers in the market communities.	Revise the homeownership subsidy programs to expand the number of potential homeownership clients (NWT Housing Strategy – 2013/14)	NWTHC
Community housing plans will support new uses, repairs, renovations and other ways to better use existing housing stock to meet current needs.	Change approach to repair programs to ensure low and modest income homeowners have access to support for emergency repairs, preventative maintenance and repairs to address health and safety concerns (NWT Housing Strategy – 2013/14 and 2014/15)	NWTHC
In small communities without market housing, there will be additional skills development training for local trades people, construction standards will be enforced, access to home repair programs will be easier and more understandable, funding will be available to repair and purchase existing houses.	- Make incremental investments to improve the quality of the public housing stock (NWT Housing Strategy – 2014/15 and 2015/16) - Implement an initiative to address issues associated with the “hard to house” in smaller NWT communities where emergency or transitional housing is not available (NWT Housing Strategy – 2014/15)	NWTHC
Local housing organization staff will increase support to tenants with arrears to help them get	Introduce an affordable, predictable public housing rent scale that addresses the disincentive to work (NWT Housing Strategy - 2012/13)	NWTHC

out of debt so that people remain housed.	Implement a rent supplement program for low income residents in market rentals with affordability problems (NWT Housing Strategy - 2012/13)	
Incentives will be increased to enable seniors to stay in their own homes.	Make targeted investments to increase the number of independent housing units for seniors (NWT Housing Strategy – 2014/15 and 2015/16)	NWTHC
Shelter programs and advice will be available to people 16 -19 years of age.	- Under the <i>Small Community Homelessness Fund</i> the NWT Housing Corporation shelter programs are funded to a maximum of \$40,000. - Advice for young adults or adults of any age can be found through the Local Housing Organization (LHO). The LHO functions as an agent of the NWTHC and is found in nearly every NWT community.	NWTHC
Introduce legislation to limit rent increases by unit, per year.	- Legislation (Section 47 of the current <i>Residential Tenancies Act</i>) outlines conditions and obligations on the part of landlords concerning rental increases on a rental unit occupied by tenants in the Northwest Territories. - A Rental Office and Rental Officer have been created to offer assistance, hear disputes and make judgments on issues related to the <i>Residential Tenancies Act</i> - brought forward by landlords or tenants in the NWT.	NWTHC
Educate people in need about housing options and responsibilities.	- The NWT Housing Corporation offers the <i>Solutions to Educate People (STEP)</i> program education and counseling assistance consisting of four courses designed to prepare participants for the requirements of homeownership. <i>STEP</i> aims to increase homeownership applicants' financial skills, as well as their knowledge of the home purchase process and basic home maintenance repairs.	NWTHC

Develop standards for and invest in more short-term emergency shelters.	Under the <i>Small Community Homelessness Fund</i> the NWT Housing Corporation has developed standards and allocated funding (up to \$40,000) for communities to provide emergency or transitional shelter options for adults.	NWTHC
Put 'system navigators' in place in each community to facilitate access to appropriate housing and other services.	The LHOs in the communities already serve this function and work with clients to do this.	NWTHC

Pillar 4 – Sustainable Communities

Implement a living wage specific to each NWT community.		
Address lack of employment and barriers to government jobs, especially in small, remote communities.	• Support and expand programs and public information initiatives related to promoting employment opportunities (Economic Opportunities Strategy – 2014/15) • Build on existing wellness programs with a social media campaign linking healthy lifestyles with employment and career success (Economic Opportunities Strategy – 2014/15) • Establish a program to connect NWT students directly with industry representatives and local role models to promote education and career development (Economic Opportunities Strategy – 2014/15)	ITI, ECE & HSS
NWT communities will have the capacity to produce a percentage of their food requirements.	Support for the Community Gardens Program – Economic Opportunities Strategy – 2014/15)	ITI
Socio-economic impact and benefit agreements will have 50% northern hire targets that are enforced and measured.	Continue to pursue and enforce socio-economic agreements and contracts with large project proponents that ensure employment and business and educational opportunities for NWT residents (Economic Opportunities Strategy)	ITI, ECE
Support traditional economies (harvesting, arts/crafts, tourism, and food production) through training, marketing, and supply	• Create a mentorship program for adults pursuing a return to harvesting (Economic Opportunities Strategy - 2014/15 and 2015/16) • Examine opportunities to incorporate traditional economic activities into	ITI, ECE, HSS

networks.	social wellness and healing programs (Economic Opportunities Strategy - 2014/15 and 2015/16)	
Offer supports throughout the early childhood, K-12, and postsecondary continuum to encourage attendance and success (e.g. counseling and relationship building).	Establish a program to connect NWT students directly with industry representatives and local role models to promote education and career development (Economic Opportunities Strategy – 2014/15)	ITI, ECE

Pillar 5 – Integrated Continuum of Services

Legislation will be enacted to establish a publicly accountable independent secretariat to monitor and address policy integration, gaps, and conflicting issues and report annually.	Provide support for an annual multi-stakeholder meeting to establish priorities and review the results of actions undertaken by the GNWT and other partners (GNWT Anti-Poverty Action Plan Proposed funding of \$60,000 starting in 2014/15)	HSS
Within an integrated continuum of services that best serves grassroots people, clarify what 'partnership' means and how it can work (e.g. community driven programs that are fair, transparent, and designed by/for the community and supported in policy and with funding from all orders of government)	- Enter into a 5 year (2013-18) block funding agreement with Health Canada for the delivery of community-based wellness programs which allows eligible communities to enter into multi-year agreements for wellness funding (GNWT Anti-Poverty Action Plan - 2014/15) - Establish a funding program for non-government organizations, Aboriginal organizations and community based organizations to advance priorities under the Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework (GNWT Anti-Poverty Action Plan Proposed funding of \$500,000 starting in 2014/15)	HSS HSS
Coordination, communication, and access to programs/services will be increased – “no wrong door” approach.	Develop an integrated, team-based “wrap around” service plan to support families at-risk and implement in targeted communities (GNWT Anti-Poverty Action Plan and ECD Action Plan - 2014/15)	ECE, DOJ, HSS, NWT HC
Guided by a 'systems navigator' or coordinator, pursue an integrated case management approach ('right from the start') that involves relevant and necessary agencies and the client.	Proposed \$895,000 in new funding to establish an interdepartmental collaborative case management pilot program, for common clients with mental health and addictions needs (2013/14)	DOJ, HSS, Housing
Where appropriate, amalgamate all local social and economic committees and provide core funding to NGOs on a multi-year basis.	New HSS Regional Community Wellness and Development Planners will work with community stakeholders and interagency groups to coordinate initiatives in community wellness plans. Eligible community groups will be block funded on a multi-year basis for community-based wellness work. (2014/15)	HSS

Recommendations that did not fit one of the five pillars

Create an NWT Aboriginal anti-poverty table with community tables.	• The GNWT has established an Anti-Poverty Action Plan Advisory Committee to lead the development of a Territorial Anti-Poverty Action Plan, in collaboration with stakeholders and under the direction of the Chair of the Social Envelope Committee of Cabinet. The scope of the Advisory Committee includes communication, facilitation, capacity building within the region or sector they represent, relationship building, knowledge exchange and the provision of advice and recommendations to the Minister. • The Advisory Committee, comprised primarily of representatives of Aboriginal governments and communities, as well as an NGO and GNWT representative.	HSS
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