



## **Backgrounder – GNWT 50**

### ***What is GNWT 50?***

2017 is an important milestone in the history of the Northwest Territories: it marks fifty years since the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) was moved from Ottawa to Yellowknife.

This move not only brought the government significantly closer to the people it was meant to serve, it also changed the way the people of the NWT interacted with their government. It allowed them to participate in their own governance and shape it to their needs and realities... a process that continues to this day.

GNWT 50 is an opportunity to celebrate this ongoing evolution and reflect on what has been accomplished in a relatively short period of time.

### ***Looking back over 50 years***

Over the last fifty years, the GNWT has taken its place nationally and internationally and demonstrated its ability to adapt, innovate, and implement solutions by Northerners, for Northerners.

During this time, the government has taken on numerous new jurisdictions and authorities, adapted to changing political realities, expanded into all regions of the territory, assumed responsibility for delivering a wide range of public programs and services, modernized service delivery, created northern institutions, and achieved many political and public service “firsts”.

This has all been accomplished in the context of a unique form of consensus-style government that relies on collaboration among elected representatives, rather than party politics to set the government’s priorities.

### ***How the GNWT is marking this anniversary***

The GNWT is marking this anniversary year with a series of projects:

- A GNWT 50 website;
- A GNWT 50 Facebook page where current and former residents have been sharing memories and stories;
- A digital commemorative project to celebrate some of the moments, milestones and people that have helped to shape the Government of the Northwest Territories;
- A project to renew its approach to employee recognition through the Premier’s Awards for Excellence and Collaboration, including an employee feedback process; and
- A special web-based exhibit of facts, documents, and photos associated with the GNWT 50 by the NWT Archives.