

Government of
Northwest Territories



2014-2015 Traditional Knowledge Annual Report



Credit: Judith Charlo

Introduction

2014-2015 Traditional Knowledge Annual Report

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is committed to ensuring traditional knowledge (TK) is considered and reflected in its decision making, and in the delivery of programs and services to NWT residents.

The 2014-2015 TK Annual Report highlights some of the programs and activities undertaken by GNWT departments to fulfill its obligations under the Traditional Knowledge Policy 53.03.

The Traditional Knowledge Policy calls upon the GNWT to incorporate traditional knowledge into government decisions and actions, where appropriate, and the GNWT TK Implementation Framework provides direction to departments and agencies for effective, respectful and appropriate incorporation of traditional knowledge into government programs and services.

Substantive work is done each year by GNWT departments to foster the implementation of TK. All GNWT departments participate in the development of the report through the Interdepartmental Traditional Knowledge Working Group.

GNWT Traditional Knowledge Policy

In 1997, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) established a government-wide Traditional Knowledge Policy, currently referred to as the Traditional Knowledge Policy 53.03.

According to this Policy:

The Government recognizes that Aboriginal traditional knowledge is a valid and essential source of information about the natural environment and its resources, the use of natural resources, and the relationship of people to the land and to each other, and will incorporate traditional knowledge into government decisions and actions, where appropriate.

The definition of traditional knowledge guiding the Policy is *knowledge and values, which have been acquired through experience, observation, from the land or from spiritual teachings, which were handed down from one generation to another.*

Traditional Knowledge Policy 53.03 and Implementation Framework is under review by the GNWT.

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Core Services





Core Services

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
CICan Indigenous Education Protocol	Aurora College	Aurora College became a signatory to the College and Institutes Canada Indigenous Education Protocol. The protocol lays out seven principles to adopt and implement to support indigenous students and education.	Ongoing
Compendium of Research in the Northwest Territories: 2003-2013 Traditional Knowledge Special Edition	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	Aurora Research Institute complied 10 years of licensed traditional knowledge scientific research license data into a publication. The report, distributed at ITA YATI: A Symposium on Traditional Knowledge, can be found on line at http://nwtresearch.com/resources/compendia-research .	April 2014 – March 2015
North Slave Scientific Showcase	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	The Scientific Showcase contained more than 45 poster from researchers working in the North Slave Region. It celebrated the diversity of research and included posters on permafrost, traditional knowledge, health and wellness, vegetation, fisheries and animal science, anthropology, hydrology, geology, environmental sciences and traditional languages.	June 2014
Inuvialuit Enrollment Database	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	Supported Inuvialuit Regional Corporation's development of an enrollment database replacement, including its specification and development process and helping parse historic documents into a usable spreadsheet format.	April 2014 – March 2015
Negotiation, Implementation and Monitoring of Land, Resources and Self-government Agreements, including Treaty Land Entitlements	DAAIR	DAAIR continues to facilitate, and lay the basis, for GNWT and Aboriginal governments to use, preserve and promote traditional knowledge through the negotiation, implementation and monitoring of Aboriginal rights agreements.	Continuing on an annual basis



Core Services

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Transboundary Water Management Agreements with Alberta and B.C.	ENR	TK is a critical part of the development of transboundary water management agreements with Alberta, British Columbia, Yukon and Saskatchewan. Consultation with Aboriginal governments and communities related to the agreements included discussions about observed changes related to water to inform the negotiation process. TK continues to be important as agreements with BC, YT and SK are completed.	2014-2015
Traditional Knowledge and Strengthening Partnerships Steering Committee	ENR	ENR champions, and chairs, the Traditional Knowledge and Strengthening Partnerships Steering Committee (TKSPC) of the Mackenzie River Basin Board. The TKSPC is currently working on ensuring meaningful inclusion of traditional knowledge in the upcoming State of the Aquatic Ecosystem Report.	Ongoing
Conservation Planning Initiatives	ENR	The PAS Steering Committee plays an active role in guiding implementation of establishing protected areas. The Committee facilitates discussions on development of a network of protected areas across the NWT and provides a forum for information exchange. Members include representatives from Aboriginal groups and governments, industry, ENGOs, Canada and the Northwest Territories.	Ongoing
Candidate Protection Area Working Groups	ENR	Candidate Protected Area Working Groups are made up of members from each community and Aboriginal regional organization with an interest in the area. Other members include the sponsoring agency administering the legislation, each organization providing funding, other stakeholders and directly affected parties. Communities play fundamental roles in each step of the planning process. Regional organizations also have important roles throughout the process, often set out in land claim agreements.	Working groups meet two to three times a year



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Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
NWT Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program (CIMP)	ENR	NWT CIMP provides support for TK monitoring and research since 1999. NWT CIMP is committed to expanding the role of TK in cumulative impact monitoring during the next five years. The program recognizes science and TK are two different ways of knowing and integration is not always required.	1999 and ongoing
NWT CIMP Proposal Guide	ENR	NWT CIMP developed a proposal template and guide for TK projects to ensure projects studying cumulative impacts to the biophysical environment follow a more holistic design, instead of addressing specific environmental components, as required by scientific proposals.	March 2015 and ongoing
NWT CIMP Traditional Knowledge Sharing Agreement Template	ENR	The sharing agreement template ensures a clear understanding of how TK will be used, stored and shared between NWT CIMP, researchers, organizations and communities.	March 2015 and ongoing
Matrix Program	HSS and Fort Smith Health and Social Services Authority (FSHSSA)	This 12-week addictions program incorporates cultural healing through the use of art therapy, smudging and healing circles. Components of the program include Individual Therapy, Relapse Prevention, Family Education and Social Support.	Ongoing
Elders' Advisory Group	HSS	The Elders' Advisory Group (EAG) provides culturally-specific guidance and advice to the Aboriginal Health and Community Wellness division as it establishes, maintains, develops and delivers programs and services. Guidance and advice includes spiritual health and healing, Aboriginal languages, traditional medicines and protocols, traditional foods, the healing power of the land, and cross-cultural awareness.	2014 and ongoing
Culturally-appropriate Guidelines for Palliative Care	HSS	The culturally-appropriate guidelines for palliative care, developed through the Dene Nation Palliative Care Project, were revisited in development of a draft Palliative Care Approach Framework for the NWT.	Ongoing



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Aboriginal Wellness Program	HSS	The Stanton Territorial Health Authority's Aboriginal Wellness Program provides interpretor services, a traditional food program throughout the hospital on Fridays, kinship visits and a weekly smudging ceremony open to all Aboriginal patients and their families. Kinship activities and cultural support are provided on an individual basis and to small groups.	Ongoing
Elders' Council	HSS	The Aboriginal Wellness Program's Elders Council at Stanton Territorial Health Authority provides input and advice to program activities.	Quarterly meetings
<i>Aboriginal Custom Adoption Recognition Act</i>	HSS	The GNWT recognizes and supports Aboriginal custom and adoption rights and practices.	Continuing on an annual basis
Community Justice Committees and Diversions	Justice	Communities may choose to undertake healing and/or crime prevention activities through Community Justice Committees or other local agencies, which promote and support the development of each community's capacity to address its own justice issues while maintaining a safe and secure environment. This work can be facilitated in Aboriginal languages.	Ongoing
Corrections	Justice	Corrections, through facility programming and probation, aims to be carried out in a manner that respects Aboriginal values and encourages offenders to successfully reintegrate into their communities.	Ongoing
Policing	Justice	Policing should be carried out in a way that respects community and Aboriginal values and encourages communities to take an active role in preventing crime. This is done in partnership with residents and leadership to build a policing service reflective of the NWT and delivered in a culturally-appropriate manner.	Ongoing



Core Services

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Community Reintegration Teams	Justice	Community Corrections (Probation) engages with community members, leaders and/or Elders in the reintegration of offenders back into their communities. Cultural processes and protocols are balanced with Corrections and judicial processes. Reintegration plans are developed for offenders on a case-by-case basis.	Ongoing
Supervision of Federal Offenders and Conducting Community Assessments	Justice	Aboriginal leaders and Elders are engaged to gather relevant historical information and recommendations for consideration by the Corrections Services Canada for case planning. Community assessments also assist the Parole Board of Canada in assessing release plans for federal offenders applying for conditional release.	Ongoing
Engagement on Court-ordered Reports	Justice	Aboriginal leaders and Elders are engaged to gather relevant historical information and recommendations for consideration by the Courts when sentencing offenders. This is done on a case-by-case basis.	Ongoing
Victims Services	Justice	The Victim Services program is run in a manner that respects Aboriginal beliefs and practices. Upon request, resources for language translation are available to clients and stakeholders in the NWT's official languages.	Ongoing
Siting of New Public Facilities	PWS	PWS consults community and Aboriginal groups to acquire TK on factors such as ground conditions, snowfall, snowmelt, flooding, wind direction and underground streams during the site selection process for all new public facilities. This best practice is outlined in the department's <i>Good Building Practices for Northern Facilities</i> .	2014-2015 and ongoing
Northern Infrastructure Standardization Initiative	PWS	PWS chairs a national committee for the Northern Infrastructure Standardization Initiative. The Committee is developing codes and standards for protecting infrastructure within a changing climate. The Committee has incorporated traditional knowledge related to snow, snow loads, drainage and permafrost into the development of the national codes and standards.	2014-2015 and ongoing



Core Services

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Resource Management	Lands	GNWT participates in resource management board processes to support inclusive and public decision-making processes that fulfill the purposes set out in land claims and legislation. Resource management boards must consider any scientific and traditional knowledge information that is made available to them, and must incorporate this knowledge into their recommendations and decisions, as appropriate. Traditional knowledge holders often participate directly in these processes to provide their information to the boards and, in some cases, are members of the boards that hear and weigh the evidence.	Ongoing
Land Use Planning	Lands	Lands coordinates and leads GNWT land use planning processes throughout the NWT. This includes input to land use planning boards and GNWT-led initiatives. Land use planning by definition incorporates the input of all parties with interest in land, which includes traditional knowledge holders.	Ongoing
Mackenzie Valley Highway	DOT	First Nation groups along the Mackenzie Valley highway corridor have been extensively engaged with respect to TK to select the route for the proposed all-weather highway. Community meetings and further TK will be required during the environmental assessment stage of the project in order to finalize the route and ensure impacts to traditional activities and areas of cultural importance from construction work are minimized.	Began in 2011 and ongoing
Tłıchǫ All-weather Road	DOT	Engagement within the Tłıchǫ communities continues in order to develop a project description report of the proposed all-weather road to Whatì, which will ensure impacts to traditional activities and areas of cultural importance from construction work are minimized.	Ongoing



Credit: T. Andrews

Core Services			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
MVH Pre-engineering: 1) Borrow Sources Investigations 2) Hydro-technical Analysis 3) Terrain Analysis 4) Topographic Survey	DOT	Traditional knowledge informs field investigations for the pre-engineering activities such as the selection of borrow sources, stream crossings and knowledge of the terrain.	Year 1 of the pre-engineering
Winter Road Maintenance	DOT	A hole in the ice appeared on Marion lake in the middle of the Tłıchǫ Winter Road in January 2015. Community members in Whatı and Behchokǫ provided local knowledge on weak and deteriorating ice on the lake to determine where to detour around the hole and when it would freeze and be drivable again.	January 2015
Airport Project Planning	DOT	Traditional knowledge is sought during the planning stages of projects taking place at airports across the NWT.	Ongoing
NWT Cultural Places Program	ECE	The Cultural Places Program (PWNHC) continues to work with communities to make traditional geographic place names official. The program has been working with the community of Łutselk'e, Trout Lake and the Tłıchǫ Government towards replacing existing names and approving additional traditional place names.	Ongoing
PWNHC Collections Program	ECE	The Collections Program hosted visits from Fort Providence Elders to examine and discuss museum objects from their region. Yellowknives Dene First Nation Elders worked with museum collections to document information and select items for a new exhibit on their history, culture and language.	April 2014 – March 2015



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Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
PWNHC Exhibits Outreach	ECE	Following the successful exhibition of the <i>Hunters of the Alpine Ice</i> exhibit at the PWNHC, an online version of the exhibit was created as well as an educational travelling exhibit for communities. The exhibit features traditional and scientific knowledge from the NWT Ice Patch Study on ice patches in the Mackenzie. http://www.pwnhc.ca/exhibits/icepatch/	June 2014
Cultural Contributions Program	ECE	Cultural projects funded in 2014-2015 include: Soaring Eagle Friendship Centre Summer Culture Program in Hay River; the Ulukhaktok Family Cultural Camp, the Dehcho Youth Ecology Camp, the K'asho Got'ine Bebia Swing project of the Sahtù Dene in Fort Good Hope, the Fort Norman Métis Land Corporation fall/winter youth camp, the Yamózha Kúé Society Cultural Immersion Camp, and the Thebacha and Wood Buffalo Astronomical Society Sky Wise project.	April 2014 – March 2015
Aboriginal Tourism Strategy	ITI	Traditional knowledge was identified as a key tool in enhancing development of Aboriginal tourism products in recommendations for the Strategy provided by the Aboriginal Tourism Champions Advisory Council.	Ongoing



Cross-cultural Awareness





Cross-cultural Awareness

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Elders' Tea and Bingo	Aurora College	Annual Elders' Tea and Bingo for Elders during Aurora College Week at Aurora campus.	Annually
Inuvialuit Elder and Musicians	Student Services	Afternoon of Elder activities and local musicians during Aurora College Week.	February 2015
Sami Reindeer Herders	Aurora College	Sami reindeer herders stayed with students in residence and held information session as part of the 70th Anniversary Reindeer Herding in the Beaufort Delta.	March 2015
Traditional Sewing Classes	Aurora College	Traditional sewing classes: Embroidery and gowak making, beading and fur mitt making.	Ongoing
Culture Room on Campus	Aurora College	A culture room is available for all students to use as a quiet place, gathering or meeting place at the Thebacha Campus. Various Elder-led cultural activities are held.	Ongoing
Christmas Feast	Aurora College	A Christmas feast, with a variety of fresh bannock prepared by a local elder and storytelling by a local Elder, was held at the Thebacha campus.	December 2014
Feeding of the Fire Ceremony	Aurora College	Led by a local Elder, Thebacha campus staff and students took part in a "Feeding of the Fire" ceremony before the orientation BBQ.	September 2014
Hand Games Demonstration	Aurora College	Thebacha campus hosts a traditional hand games demonstration every Wednesday evening.	Ongoing October – April
Beading Circle	Aurora College	Thebacha campus hosted a traditional beading circle daily during Aurora College Week.	February 2015
Traditional Games	Aurora College	Thebacha campus hosted a traditional games contest (tea boiling) during Aurora College Week.	February 2015
Culture Camp	Aurora College	Yellowknife North Slave campus students and staff participate in a one-day camp led by local Elders. Teachings and topics have included storytelling, trapping, drying fish, canoeing and bannock making.	Annually, in fall
Aboriginal Games	Aurora College	Yellowknife North Slave campus students and staff participated in a half-day event, "Karnival Kick-Off", which included Aboriginal games such as seal kick, hand pull, head pull, sticking pin and others.	March 2015



Cross-cultural Awareness

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Indigenizing Curriculum	Aurora College	Bachelor of Education staff participated in a six-week Reconciliation through Indigenous Education online course.	Winter 2015
Contextualizing Courses	Aurora College	Including culture-based educational practices around the Dene Kede and Inuuqatigiit curricula and Education Renewal Initiative.	Ongoing
Culture Camps	Aurora College	Education students and staff spend three to four days on the land learning traditional skills such as hunting, storytelling, making drymeat and bannock, under the guidance of Elders at various locations.	Annually
Classroom Learning	Aurora College	Early Childhood Development students are encouraged to engage with community Elders and resource people in completing their assignments and bring insights into class discussions.	Ongoing
Indigenizing Science	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	School of Education – Incorporating Indigenous Science, along with western science, into BEd science classes to provide a greater understanding of the natural world.	Ongoing
Classes and Coursework – BSN	Aurora College	Bachelor of Science in Nursing faculty has levelled cultural safety across all four years of the curriculum. “History of First Peoples” offered as elective course.	Ongoing
Case Studies	Aurora College	Culturally-relevant case studies are threaded throughout the Nursing program curriculum. This allows students to problem-solve health care related scenarios they may encounter in the northern Aboriginal context.	Ongoing
Classes and coursework – PSW	Aurora College	Culture is a key concept in all Personal Support Worker courses through daily discussion and interaction related to cultural diversity in both classroom and practicum settings.	Ongoing
Case Studies and Learning Activities – PSW	Aurora College	Culturally-relevant case studies are threaded throughout the Personal Support Worker curriculum. Students problem-solve health care related scenarios in a northern Aboriginal context.	Ongoing



Credit: Stefan Goodman

Cross-cultural Awareness

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Instructional Staff	Aurora College	Two of the instructors in the Personal Support Worker program are Aboriginal nurses who were born and raised in NWT. They provide input into course material and in the practicum settings, working with students and Elders.	Ongoing
Classroom and Coursework – SWD	Aurora College	Cultural Competence for Northern Social Work Practice brings in indigenous Elders from Dene, Métis and Inuit cultures. Course learning is built upon cultural safety and understanding of colonization, residential schools and ongoing settler colonization impacts.	Ongoing
Classroom Teaching, Discussions and Assignments	Aurora College	Three Social Work Diploma core courses specifically address NWT indigenous issues: History of First Peoples in the NWT, Cultural Competence for Northern Social Workers and Cultural Camp.	Ongoing
Cultural Camp	Aurora College	Cultural Camp immerses social work students in a seven-day on-the-land camp with host Elders/indigenous resource staff.	Annually, spring semester
Research Lectures	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	Aurora Research Institute hosts research lectures to communicate information on regional research projects back to community members. Many incorporate traditional knowledge and local research experts.	Ongoing
ARI Herbarium	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	A herbarium of NWT plant species is maintained at the Western Arctic Research Centre in Inuvik. A subset of specimens are listed under both their scientific and traditional names and are presented alongside information on their traditional uses.	Ongoing
Community Development Workbook – Curriculum Design	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute/HSS	Aurora Research Institute designed a workbook for frontline health care providers in all three territories. It summarizes a range of academic tools to support public health provision in the north, including a set of public health competencies adapted for the north.	2014
Traditional Artist in Residence	ECE	The Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) hosted a series of interpretive workshops for summer visitors. Aboriginal artists and artisans demonstrated caribou hide scraping, Dene drum making, caribou hair tufting and traditional plant use.	July 2014



Cross-cultural Awareness

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Walking with Our Sisters Exhibit	ECE	The PWNHC hosted the exhibit <i>Walking with Our Sisters</i> , honouring missing and murdered Aboriginal women and girls. It was a community-driven initiative with traditional ceremonies and community workshops. Many volunteers assisted with the exhibit, which received more than 1,400 visitors in two weeks.	January 2015
Education Leadership Program	ECE	ECE, in partnership with the NWTTA, offers Phase I and Phase II of the Education Leadership Program (ELP) in alternating summers. These courses together meet the requirements for NWT Principal Certification once successfully completed. Both phases are each 10 days in length and include an extensive 3.5-day cultural component, with a focus on community relationships, community assets, and the importance of culture and language. During the 3.5-day cultural component, ELP participants work with onsite Elders.	Ongoing
Experiential Science	ECE	Experiential Science 10 Terrestrial Systems (ES10), Experiential Science 20 Marine Systems (ES20) and Experiential Science 30 Freshwater Systems (ES30) are unique series traditional knowledge and field-based research experiences that provide students with an opportunity for on-the-land experiences to work with Elders and other subject matter experts to share knowledge, skills and attitudes about geology, geomorphology and the environment from a systems approach to studying the NWT.	Ongoing
Elders in Schools	ECE	Elders play a vital role in the promotion and integration of languages and culture in the school program. The Elders in Schools program was piloted during the 2013-2014 school year to ensure Elder involvement in education is increased and strengthened.	Ongoing



Cross-cultural Awareness

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Heritage Fairs	ECE	Students across the NWT from grades K-9 work with Elders and other community experts to explore stories, skills, issues and people of significance to their families, community and the north. Research and presentations done in Aboriginal languages is encouraged. In several regions these projects are pursued at all grade levels while other regions may select grades or participate only sporadically. These inquiry-based projects are often integrated as key parts of the culture-based education initiatives. Fairs happen locally and regionally. Winners attend a territorial fair in May.	Annually
Residential School Teacher In-service	ECE	In-service was provided at the territorial teachers' conference in October, 2014. All teachers in the NWT have now been in-serviced on the history and legacy of residential schools. A plan is in place to ensure that all new teachers to the NWT are in-serviced on these issues as well.	Fall 2014 and ongoing
Northern Studies 10, 20, 30	ECE	Northern Studies 10 is a mandatory course for graduation as of the 2013-2014 school year. The course includes five modules exploring identity, the history and the legacy of residential schools, the northern economy, treaties, land claims, devolution and a self-guided practicum. In the practicum, students select and work with a community mentor or Elders to develop a traditional skill or northern competency of their choice. The Wise People Committee has been brought together to discuss the development of Northern Studies 20 and 30.	Ongoing
Tundra Cultural and Science Camp	ENR/ECE/ITI	Aboriginal Elders and scientists come together to share their knowledge with high school students at GNWT's Tundra Ecosystem Research Station on Daring Lake in the Barrenlands.	Ongoing



Credit: S. Bannon

Cross-cultural Awareness

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Patrols in Dehcho Area	ENR	Patrols were done in the Ndulee (Camsell Bend), Sambaa Deh (Trout River) and Morrisey Creek areas to help reduce conflicts between local and other harvesters by providing local knowledge on culture, history and wildlife.	2014
Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training	HR	Aboriginal Cultural Awareness Training is designed to enhance Aboriginal cultural and historical understanding among government employees and reaffirm the fundamental importance the GNWT places on including Aboriginal values in program design and delivery. The training is mandatory for all employees and is accessible to the public through the Department of Human Resources website.	Ongoing training delivery
Project Lead: Dialogue and Storywork in Support of First Nations, Inuit and Métis Cancer Patients throughout Oncology and Primary Care Transition Experiences	HSS	Testimonials from Aboriginal cancer patients and survivors were recorded on video in Aklavik, Fort Good Hope and Fort Resolution. These testimonials were shared with health care providers in Inuvik, Yellowknife and Edmonton, who then responded on video. The material will be integrated into resources to support dialogue and strengthen trusting relationships between Aboriginal cancer patients and their health care providers.	2014-2017
Cultural Capabilities Pilot Training	HSS	HSS is developing cultural capabilities training for service providers. "Cultural capabilities" refers to the ability of an organization to provide care and services equitable and respectful of diverse cultures and practices. Topics covered include historic and settler colonialism, social determinants of health, racism in health care and awareness of implicit assumptions. Ongoing evaluation informs and refines subsequent training.	2014 and ongoing



Cross-cultural Awareness

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Corrections Northern Recruitment Training Program	Justice	The Corrections Northern Recruitment Training Program (CNRTP) provides successful applicants with the basic skills to provide standard qualifications for applying on entry-level jobs in the Correctional facilities or other security-related jobs. The program includes a section on cultural awareness and diversity.	Annually
Cultural Programming in Territorial Parks	ITI	A series of cultural programs at Fred Henne Park encouraged visitors to participate in activities featuring traditional hand games, foods, medicines, storytelling and fiddling. Cultural programming is being promoted for other NWT parks.	Ongoing
Traditional Arts and Crafts Workshops	ITI	Public workshops, presentations and marketing initiatives are offered by ITI to promote arts and fine crafts as part of the Aboriginal traditional way of life. E-commerce workshops teach artists how to earn a sustainable living through their art, while keeping culture and traditions alive in their family and community.	Ongoing
Marketing and Promotion of Traditional Products	ITI	Direct marketing and promotion of traditionally produced products through the NWT Arts Program and the nwtarts.com website increases economic benefits to traditional artists. This increases awareness and cultural value of NWT visual art and fine crafts locally, nationally and internationally.	Ongoing
Traditional Arts and Crafts Training	ITI	"How to Price Your Art" training workshops are offered in every community, as requested.	Ongoing
Support for Traditional Arts and Crafts	ITI	Artists and crafters from the NWT were provided with financial assistance to support their projects. Over 70 NWT artists received financial support to practice their art in 2012-2013.	Ongoing



Culture





Culture			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Student Lunch	Aurora College	A traditional reindeer soup lunch was held for students of Aurora campus.	March 2015
Drumming Workshops	Aurora College	Local drummers hold free workshops on the Thebacha campus once a week for students and the community.	Ongoing, weekly September through June, since 2010
Snowshoe Making Workshop	Aurora College	A local Elder, also an Aurora College instructor, offered traditional snowshoe making workshops to students and staff at the Thebacha campus.	Three workshop series since 2013
Youth Symposium 2014	Aurora College	As part of the activities during the Youth Symposium, Thebacha campus students took part in cultural activities.	June 2014
Traditional Arts Program	Aurora College	The Aklavik Community Learning Centre offered classes in traditional doll making, bushcraft, traditional tool making, fur tanning, willow basketry, moosehide tanning, and the History of Aboriginal Art 1, 2, 3.	2012-2015
Elder Interviews	Aurora College	Education students worked with Elders to transcribe Aboriginal legends into written stories.	October 2014
Traditional Knowledge Sharing	Aurora College	Traditional knowledge holders present to education classes throughout the year. Topics and demonstrations include fiddling, jigging, throat singing, drumming, storytelling, beading, fish scale art, Aboriginal governance, hand games, medicine wheel, and healing/talking circles.	Ongoing
Learning Activities	Aurora College	Classroom nursing learning activities are tailored to realistic northern scenarios that occur in health care, with Aboriginal people the focus of case studies. Culture is a key concept in all nursing practice, health and healing and relational practice courses.	Ongoing
Practicum	Aurora College	Personal Support Worker students come from a variety of ethnic backgrounds, including local indigenous peoples. Students learn about other cultures, beliefs, values and traditional practices throughout the academic year. Instructors invite students to share similarities and differences in their cultural practices.	Ongoing



Culture			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Classroom, Practicum, Cultural Camps	Aurora College	Culture is included in every aspect of the Social Work Diploma program.	Ongoing
50th Anniversary Celebrations	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	2014 marked 50 years of research in Inuvik. Community members active in the research community in the past five decades shared their memories and stories. Some gave public talks about the history of research in Inuvik. Many shared memories and short speeches at the community feast celebrating the anniversary.	Fall 2014
Gwich'in Social Cultural Institute Transcripts Project	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	The generation of transcripts in the GSCI standard format was automated from a database with previously limited access. Transcripts were of interviews with traditional knowledge holders, focusing on species of importance in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. The information is now in a common format and protected from being lost with future changes in technology.	December 2014 – January 2015
Petitot Mapping Project with the Sahtù Renewable Resources Board	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	A database of placenames was created by parsing a journal about northern Canada originally written in the 1800s by Father Emile Petitot. An online map was created to present the material in an accessible format. All the book entry locations were plotted on a Google map so information about them can be displayed.	September 2014 – January 2015
Ìḥàà Kati: A Traditional Knowledge Festival and TEDx – Yellowknife	ECE, HSS and DAAIR contributed funding	The PWNHC partnered with the Tḥchḡ Government and the Canadian Polar Commission to co-host the Ìḥàà Kati: A Traditional Knowledge Festival, a three-day celebration of traditional knowledge. Local and international knowledge experts discussed the importance and role of TK in today's society. A TEDx – Yellowknife event was incorporated into the event. ECE, HSS and DAAIR contributed funding.	September 2014



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Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle Awards	ECE	The 2014 Minister's Culture and Heritage Circle recognized Camilla Tutcho of Délı̄ne, the Foster Family Coalition of the NWT, René Fumoleau of Łutselk'e, Janelle Nitsiza of Whatı̄ and the Deninu K'ue First Nation for their contributions of preserving and promoting the arts, cultures and heritage in the Northwest Territories.	Continuing on an annual basis
Yellowknives Dene First Nation Exhibit	ECE	The PWNHC is partnering with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to develop an exhibit about their history, language and culture. The focus during 2014-2015 was on developing the exhibit storyline, examining objects with Elders, and gathering stories and photographs.	April 2014 – March 2015
Thunder in Our Voices Exhibit	ECE	The travelling exhibit celebrated the 40th anniversary of the Berger Inquiry in the NWT. Museum visitors learned from traditional knowledge and testimonies about how people's connection to the land influenced the decision on the 1970s pipeline proposal.	December 2014
Tłı̄chų Student Art Exhibit	ECE	A community exhibit created by students from Chief Jimmy Bruneau School in Edzo honoured women of the Tłı̄chų. It featured glass mosaic panels based on the hand-sewn art of Tłı̄chų women.	May 2014 – September 2014
Educational Materials	ENR	A new Protected Areas Strategy Grade 7 Lesson Plan and Experiential Science Teacher's Resource Manual interweaves TK with western science.	July 2014
Community Wellness Plans	HSS	HSS works with community members and leadership to create wellness plans for all NWT communities. These plans are an opportunity for communities to decide where wellness funding should be directed. The plans reflect community needs, local language, cultural resources, and often identify on-the-land and traditional healing activities.	Ongoing
Cultural Programs	HSS	Cultural programs are offered at Stanton Territorial Health Authority on an individual basis and in small groups to people who would like to celebrate their culture while hospitalized. Cultural programs were offered 1,748 times at STHA in 2014-2015.	Ongoing



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Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Kinship Visits	HSS	Kinship visits at Stanton Territorial Health Authority provide support with a cultural component to people while hospitalized. Kinship visits occurred 2,742 times at STHA in 2014-2015.	Ongoing
Cultural Sessions	Justice	The North Slave Young Offender Facility incorporates seasonal cultural camps, sharing circles, traditional cooking programs, igloo building workshop and Dene hand games into programs and services provided at each facility.	Weekly
Wilderness Program	Justice	The Wilderness Program helps renew the offender's links with the land, cultural values, practices and traditions. Activities include canoeing, plant and animal identification, counselling on the land, fleshing and cleaning moose hides, and trapping.	The Wilderness Program was suspended in early 2013-2014. After a subsequent Expression of Interest process, further changes to the design of the program were determined to be required. Discussions on the design of the program are continuing with communities and their leadership as the revised policy is developed.
Elder Visits	Justice	Visits with Elders are coordinated at all correctional facilities.	Ongoing



Culture			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Design of the Fort Smith Correctional Complex	PWS and Justice	The proposed Women's Centre at the Fort Smith Correctional Complex is designed to foster the constructive reintegration of women into their communities, recognizing the diverse cultures of the NWT. The building will facilitate healing through the prominence of a cultural room, supported by an Elder, and accessible both to the women and the community. Indoor and outdoor program areas will also be provided for traditional skills, ceremony and cultural activities, with priority given to the safety of inmates, staff and the public.	2014/15 - 2017/18
NWT Youth Ambassador Program	MACA	The NWT Youth Ambassador Program features a guided and structured volunteer experience for NWT youth at major events to develop significant life and job skills and build the confidence necessary for youth to deal with many of the complex challenges of modern society. The program includes public speaking and outreach related to Aboriginal and NWT culture, demonstrations and teachings related to traditional Aboriginal games.	Annually
Traditional Games Tours and Gatherings	MACA	Youth Ambassadors deliver traditional games workshops to youth across the NWT as part of the Traditional Games Strategy. The Strategy aims to create a passion for the culture and physical activity aspects of traditional games.	Annually
Dechinta Bush University	ECE	The Dehcho Traditional Knowledge and Ecology courses provide youth with a positive outdoor experience, giving them the opportunity to learn from the experiences of their Elders and professionals in the environmental sciences field.	Annually
2014 North American Indigenous Games	MACA	Support was provided for Team NWT participation in the 2014 North American Indigenous Games in Regina, Saskatchewan, and the NWT Youth Ambassador Program.	Assistance provided on a per Games basis



Credit: Stefan Goodman

Culture			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Taiga Adventures Girl's Camp	MACA	The camp aims to build socially aware, community-minded, resilient, adaptable, creative young women. Programming is inspired through cultural and traditional knowledge, outdoor adventure, creative expression, empowerment, esteem, and technical and physical skills. The camp is delivered in part through in-house staff and specifically recruited guests.	Annually
Walking in Both Worlds	MACA	Walking in Both Worlds promotes the mental, physical, emotional and spiritual wellness of Fort Liard youth by offering a variety of cultural, leadership and recreational programs in Fort Liard, and opportunities to attend such programs outside the community.	Annually



Language





Credit: Wendy Stephenson

Language			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Wiiliideh Language Initiative	Aurora College	Yellowknife North Slave campus is collaborating with Goyatiko Language Society to offer lessons and engage residents in N'dilo, Dettah and Yellowknife in the Dene language.	2014-2015
Elders on Campus	Aurora College	Elders lead sewing circles, sharing skills to make items such as mukluks, canvas hunting/gathering bags, V-stoles and small beaded projects on moosehide.	Ongoing
Speaking First Languages	Aurora College	Personal Support Worker students who speak Aboriginal languages are encouraged to speak with Elders in their first language when interacting and providing care during practicums.	Ongoing
Classroom Teaching, Field Practicum, Cultural Camp	Aurora College	Social Work students who speak Aboriginal languages and guest speakers bring Aboriginal languages into classroom. A senior instructor took a Wiiliideh language class to begin to integrate language skills into classroom and office. Cultural camp Elder/resource staff speak Aboriginal languages and teach oral and written skills throughout camp.	Ongoing
Inline Translation Proof of Concept and Outreach	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	Inline translation demonstration and proof of concept to translate the data.nwtresearch.com website into various Aboriginal languages at the click of a button. Proposed project would allow students to adapt existing dictionaries to inline translate webpages with word replacement and context suggestions. The project is positioned as an option for high school language class projects.	2013-2015
Logistics Support for Language Student	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	Aurora Research Institute provided logistics support for a PhD student studying Uumarmiutun and hosted public presentation of her research.	September – December 2014



Language			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Approval of Traditional Place Name in the Northwest Territories	ECE	Approval was given for 43 traditional place names in the NWT. The place names represent five different Aboriginal languages spoken in the NWT.	2014-2015
NWT Archives Oral History Preservation Program	ECE	The NWT Archives actively acquires, stores and reformats, for preservation purposes, oral history materials generated in the NWT. The Archives received a further 20 hours of digital audio recordings collected by ethnomusicologist Nicole Beaudry in the Sahtù in 2014.	Continuing on an annual basis
NWT Archives Official Languages Calendar	ECE	The NWT Archives produced a calendar of northern recipes for 2015, with a different official language for each month.	December 2014
PWNHC Birch Syrup Camp	ECE	A Yellowknives Dene language and culture instructor taught traditional methods of tree tapping and related Tłı̨chų vocabulary to students at the annual Birch Syrup Camp near Dettah.	May 2014
PWNHC Steppe Bison Exhibit	ECE	The PWNHC researched and produced <i>Ice Age Bison Discovery</i> , featuring a 13,650-year-old steppe bison skull found in Tsiigehtchic, NWT, in 2007. Worked with the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute to research and record Gwich'in stories, including the legend of the <i>Raven's Beds</i> , told in both English and Gwich'in.	March 2015
PWNHC Yellowknives Dene First Nation Exhibit	ECE	The PWNHC is partnering with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to develop an exhibit about their history, language and culture.	April 2014 – March 2015
Aboriginal Language Nests	ECE	There are 22 Aboriginal Language Nests currently operating in the NWT. Promoting children's Aboriginal language development in the early years is a priority of these programs. ECE monitors these early childhood facilities for the health and safety of children, and provides annual licencing.	Continuing on an annual basis



Language			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Aboriginal Language Acquisition	ECE	ECE, in partnership with the NWTTA, offers Aboriginal Language Acquisition Funding for GNWT educators teaching Aboriginal languages to attend the Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI) at the University of Alberta or any other available Aboriginal language summer program. Such courses provide in-depth instruction and learning in specific Aboriginal languages or methodologies for best practices in teaching Aboriginal languages.	Ongoing, each summer
Water Workshop	ENR	Interpreters attended a workshop to translate a selection of water-related terms into five of NWT's Aboriginal languages.	August 2014
Interpreter/Translator	HSS	The department coordinates the translation of materials in Aboriginal languages.	Ongoing





On-the-Land Skills





On-the-Land Skills

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
NWT On-the-Land Funder Collaborative Workshop	HSS in partnership with ENR, Tides Canada and Aboriginal Leadership Initiative	A workshop brought together partners with an interest in funding on-the-land programs. A Funders' Collaborative approach facilitates collaboration, increases access to resources and reduces competition for limited funding.	Annually, contingent on partner funding
On-the-Land Mental Health and Addictions Programming	HSS	HSS is working with Aboriginal governments to deliver on-the-land activities and traditional healing options for mental health and addictions programming in NWT communities.	Ongoing
On-the-Land Program	Justice	The Fort Smith Correctional Complex offers annual individual trapping, hunting and snaring programs. Annual winter and summer camp retreats are held to teach canoeing, water safety, survival skills, how to set nets under the ice, to smoke fish and to collect sweet grass. Individuals also work with Elders.	Seasonally
Introductory Field Camps	Aurora College	Environment and Natural Resources Technology students, staff and local Elders from Thebacha campus participate in a remote introductory field camp at Tsu Lake and learn basic field resource studies techniques and traditional wilderness travel skills. Aurora campus students and staff travel to Campbell Lake in the Mackenzie Delta to develop traditional knowledge skills in travel, using land mark navigation, terrain identification and wilderness travel techniques under the guidance of local Elders.	Annually, since 1980



On-the-Land Skills

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Trapper Education Field Camp	Aurora College	One of the key aspects of the Environment and Natural Resources Technology program is to develop clear linkages between traditional knowledge and scientific education. Instruction is shared between Elders, environmental professionals and College instructors. Students learn best practices in humane trapping and monitoring population trends. Learning takes place both in the classroom and on-the-land, and includes muskrat trapping, cleaning, skinning, stretching and drying, along with snare building, setting traps, trail navigation, shelter building and winter survival techniques.	Ongoing
Winter Field Camp (Combined)	Aurora College	Environment and Natural Resources Technology Diploma students work alongside Elders, hunters and ENR biologists to study barrenland caribou. Students learn traditional hunting skills as well as scientific skills. Graduating students have an opportunity to learn traditional hunting techniques in addition to technical skills. Meat is distributed to Elders.	Annually, since 1980
Culture Camp	Aurora College	Developmental Studies, Yellowknife North Slave, students and staff participate in a one-day camp led by local Elders. Teachings and topics have included storytelling, trapping, drying fish, canoeing and bannock making.	Annually, in fall, since 2009
Culture Camp	Aurora College	Bachelor of Education students and staff spend three to four days on the land learning traditional skills such as hunting, storytelling, and making drymeat and bannock, under the guidance of Elders at various locations.	Annually, since 2007
Culture Camp	School of Health and Human Services	Personal Support Worker students in Inuvik attended a traditional on-the-land field trip to experience traditional skills.	March 2015
CPE II	Aurora College	Nursing students attend a day-long camp on the land with Elders.	Annually, in spring
Culture Camp	Aurora College	Personal Support Worker students in Yellowknife participated in one day of on-the-land activities at B-Dene Camp in Dettah with Elders and resource people.	Fall 2014



Credit: J. Graham

On-the-Land Skills			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Culture Camp	Aurora College	A seven-day on-the-land camp, led by Elders and YKDFN resource people, is held for Social Work students. Activities include language, fish nets, trapping, snares, moose hide and identifying/processing land/water resources. Traditional skills, stories and legends are shared throughout camp.	Annually, in May
Cultural Experience Camp	Aurora College	Social Work students spend a day on the land interacting with Aboriginal Elders and resource people.	Annually, in fall
Field Camp Support	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	The ENRTP program runs on the land camps, including a muskrat trapping camp, winter/skidoo camp and marine camp. During all camps, Western Arctic Research Centre technicians accompany the students and share their traditional knowledge. Instruction includes navigation, safe practices on the land, hunting/trapping skills and survival techniques.	One or two camps per year during the ENRTP program
Researcher Support	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	ARI technicians provide on the land support for visiting researchers from southern universities and institutions. This includes traditional knowledge about regional navigation, wildlife safety, safe travel procedures, and the natural environment and seasonal cycles.	Ongoing
Cassette Islands Project	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	Aurora Research Institute, in partnership with Smith Landing First Nation, is using traditional knowledge to document impacts of climate change on food security in the Cassette Islands of the Slave River. Project incorporates intergenerational learning with two on-the-land camps where youth and Elders learn about the traditional use of the territory and document the changes.	2014-2016
Take a Kid Trapping/ Harvesting	ENR/ITI/MACA	Take-a-Kid Trapping day camps were held for students in Grades 1-6 near Fort Simpson. Traditional knowledge, such as rabbit snaring, fishing, berry picking and medicinal plant identification/gathering, was shared with the students. Students also learned about wilderness, bear and fire safety.	Spring/fall



On-the-Land Skills

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Cultural Camp	ENR	Camp is held every September on the Mackenzie River at Burnt Island in September. Local cultural instructors are hired for the camp.	Annually
Camp Connections	MACA	Camp Connections is an outdoor, residential cultural adventure camp for youth in foster care supported by Youth Corps funding. The camp promotes traditional knowledge and fosters cultural respect through Elders' teachings. Youth learn about traditional ways through sports, activities and games.	Annually
Keepers Leadership Program	MACA	Program focuses on engaging students in stewardship. The program works to encourage young people to become stewards and keepers of their land, their culture and also of themselves.	Annually
Ivvavik Field Program	MACA	High school students from East Three Secondary School in Inuvik take part in, and help lead, a trip to Ivvavik National Park. The trip includes outdoor living skills, exploring traditional Aboriginal lifestyles, and a study of the land, habitat and local ecosystems. Students receive high school credits through the program.	Annually
Canol Youth Leadership Hike	MACA	Focuses on youth leadership development, on-the-land skills development, and cultural and historical teachings.	Annually
Tłıchọ ımbè Program	MACA	Provides skills training to participants in four categories: traditional skills and language, safety, employment and healthy lifestyle choices. The Tłıchọ ımbè Program is focused on capacity building among Tłıchọ youth.	Annually
Camp Akaitcho Youth Program	MACA	The École William McDonald School Camp Akaitcho Youth Program encourages and empowers students to challenge themselves mentally as well as physically through wilderness expeditions. In addition, the program aims to impart knowledge and an appreciation of the culture and history of the Yellowknives Dene.	Annually



Credit: Stefan Goodman

Research and Monitoring





Research and Monitoring

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Local Area Monitoring Plan (LAMP)	DOT	Community members from Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson help with the accumulation of valuable bathymetric data on the Mackenzie, Arctic Red and Peel Rivers. The RRC hires a community member to undertake interviews with local fisherpersons. DOT summarizes the data and presents it back to the community, the RRCs and the Gwich'in Land and Water Board.	2010-2015
Tłıchǫ All-weather Road	DOT/Tłıchǫ Government	A traditional land use study involving community consultations was conducted by the Tłıchǫ Government on proposed all-weather road to Whatì. DOT also conducted a targeted archaeological impact assessment of the route and validated areas identified in the TK report by ground truthing in June/July 2014 with Tłıchǫ support.	2013 and ongoing
Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway (ITH) Wildlife Monitoring	DOT-ITH Contractor	The ITH project uses wildlife monitors to help mitigate potential human-wildlife interactions and minimize potential harm to all wildlife. Monitors are hired from their local communities and are typically hired at the recommendation of the local Hunter and Trappers Organization.	Life of the construction phase
Dock Installation	DOT	Traditional knowledge on low and high water levels, previous storms and damages caused by them, and the behaviour of previous docks in the community was used to determine the best footprint to install the dock.	June 2014
Airport Wildlife Manual Update	DOT	Updates to airport wildlife manuals are a regulatory requirement. The department seeks advice on the type and frequency of wildlife typically seen around NWT airports.	Ongoing
NWT Ice Patch Study	ECE	Tulita Elders and archaeologists from the PWNHC are collaborating on a long-term project to investigate ancient caribou hunting on alpine ice patches in the Mackenzie and Selwyn Mountains.	Continuing on an annual basis
Yellowknife Bay Archaeology Project	ECE	Archaeologists from the PWNHC are working with the Yellowknives Dene First Nation to record archaeological sites and other places of cultural importance in the Yellowknife Bay/Yellowknife River area.	Continuing on an annual basis



Research and Monitoring

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Climate Change Adaptation	ECE	PWNHC and the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute digitized results of a 1992 traditional land use mapping project for the Ramparts Plateau. All traditional and cultural resource data for Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) was compiled into a single dataset, providing a traditional and current land use account in the GSA. In 2014, the PWNHC and University of Victoria researchers developed a map of significant heritage use areas in the GSA at risk of being destroyed by climate change related permafrost melt.	2012-2016
Sambaa K'e Archaeology Project	ECE	Archaeologists from the PWNHC continue to work with the Sambaa K'e Dene Band to record archaeological sites and other places of cultural importance around Sambaa K'e (Trout Lake).	Continuing on an ongoing basis
Polar Bear TK Study	ENR/Wildlife Management Advisory Councils (WMAC)	ENR Inuvik region works with the Wildlife Management Advisory Councils (WMAC) to collect traditional knowledge on polar bears from TK holders in the six regional communities.	Research completed in 2012. Report published and shared March 2015.
Peary Caribou TK Study	ENR	The Peary caribou TK interview project is an ongoing initiative to collect local and traditional knowledge on Peary (and Dolphin and Union) caribou in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.	Ongoing
Species at Risk Status Reports	ENR	Species at Risk Committee Status Reports have a specific comprehensive section for the available traditional and community knowledge relevant to the species.	Ongoing



Research and Monitoring

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Tulita Winter Wildlife Track Survey Pilot Study	ENR	ENR is working with the Sahtù Renewable Resources Board on a pilot project to conduct winter wildlife track surveys with community members from Tulita. Tulita community members provided input into the study design, methodology and selection of data recording equipment. An ENR biologist trained local harvesters and youth environmental monitors to conduct the wildlife track surveys by snowmobile along different survey routes. Project provides an opportunity for on-the-land knowledge exchange about wildlife track identification, behaviour and habitat.	Year 1 of a 3-year project
Boreal Caribou Range Planning Meeting	ENR	ENR biologists are meetings with Dehcho and South Slave communities to seek assistance in identifying important areas for boreal woodland caribou based on local knowledge. Maps and information from these meetings will be used to inform the development of regional range plans outlining how critical habitat for boreal caribou can be maintained.	Ongoing
Bathurst Range Plan	ENR	ENR is working with other government departments, Aboriginal organizations, industry, and non-governmental organizations from NWT and Nunavut to develop a Range Plan for the Bathurst caribou herd. The Plan will make recommendations for the management of land disturbance, and will utilize science and traditional knowledge in developing these recommendations.	Ongoing to 2017
Bison Management Plans	ENR	ENR staff are working with South Slave and Dehcho community members to develop management plans for the Nahanni and Slave River Lowlands bison populations. Working groups comprised of Aboriginal and other organizations use scientific and traditional knowledge to draft the plans.	Ongoing to 2017
Biennial Dehcho Regional Wildlife Workshop	ENR	Delegates share local and traditional knowledge as it applies to wildlife research and monitoring activities in the Dehcho region.	October 21-22, 2014



Research and Monitoring

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Water Quality Sampling	ENR	ENR, with its water partners, coordinate and support the Community-based Monitoring Program by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • training and supporting community monitors to measure water quality using standard methods, and • analyzing the water quality data and letting the communities know the results. Currently working with 20 communities on monitoring at more than 40 sites.	Ongoing during ice-free season
Community-based Monitoring	ENR	ENR's Community-based Monitoring Program uses traditional knowledge to guide the development of research and monitoring questions, the types of indicators used to look at changes, where monitoring takes place and the collection, assessment and dissemination of information, vulnerability assessments, and priority setting exercises done by the Slave River and Delta Partnership, Sambaa K'e (Trout Lake) and K'asho Got'ine (Fort Good Hope). These reports are currently being finalized.	March 2014
TK and Community-based Monitoring	ENR	This collaborative project (ENR, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, University of Manitoba, University of Lethbridge, Environment Canada) had community fishers visually ranking traditionally harvested foods (burbot livers) in terms of perceived palatability (i.e. would they eat them or not). Those rankings were compared to biological indices of fish health and contaminant levels.	Completed by March 2014
Species at Risk Status Reports	ENR	Species at Risk Committee Status Reports have a specific comprehensive section for the available traditional and community knowledge relevant to the species.	Ongoing
Species at Risk Stewardship Program	ENR	Deninu Kue First Nations species at risk awareness workshop where Elders and land users share species information.	2014



Research and Monitoring

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Species at Risk Stewardship Program	ENR – Wildlife	The Dehcho Youth Ecology Camp taught youth ecology and western science methods along with promoting a better understanding of Dene cultural and land-based knowledge systems.	2014
Species at Risk Stewardship Program	ENR	A photo book of a trip into the Shúhtagot'ine Néné (Mackenzie Mountains) by Tulita members.	2014
Monitoring Environmental Change in the Mackenzie Delta Region: Inuvialuit Observations and Participatory-Multimedia Mapping	ENR	Research project, funded by NWT CIMP, developed an environmental monitoring program based on traditional knowledge. Also included the development and implementation of and a protocol to record traditional knowledge and local observations of environmental conditions. The protocol involves community-driven mapping of the environment and is referred to as the Participatory Multimedia Mapping (PMM). A regional atlas describing the dynamic state of the environment in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region has also been developed.	2012 and ongoing
Community Coastal-based Monitoring: A Regional Approach for the Inuvialuit Settlement	ENR	Project, funded by NWT CIMP, is developing a regional framework for monitoring beluga, fish and habitat in the ISR to establish long-term and cumulative impact monitoring programs, using local and regional ecological indicators. Local ecological indicators of beluga whale health and habitat use are being developed based on observations recorded by community members from Inuvik, Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk and Ulukhaktok, providing the opportunity for traditional and local ecological knowledge about beluga whale health to be recorded annually alongside scientific indicators.	2012 and ongoing



Research and Monitoring

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Inuvialuit Settlement Region Community-based Monitoring Program – Pilot Program	ENR	Project, funded by NWT CIMP, collects data and Inuvialuit knowledge to help understand the effects of cumulative impacts on the water, caribou and fish resources in the ISR. Community-based monitoring generates data and knowledge that provide insights into trends and changes in environmental conditions for management needs and priorities of the local resource users, co-management boards and government agencies.	2013-2016
Watershed Approach to Monitoring Cumulative Impacts of Landscape Change	ENR	Project, funded by NWT CIMP, addresses community and land management concerns related to the impacts of permafrost degradation on infrastructure, water quality and fisheries, and developed a watershed framework for tracking the cumulative impacts of disturbance on water resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Region.	2010-2015
Dene Mapping Project Repatriation and Analysis: Understanding Valued Places at the Intersection of Caribou Ecology and Harvesting	ENR	Project, funded by NWT CIMP, digitizes and catalogues the point dataset on wildlife observations from the Dene Mapping Project, repatriating baseline ecological and cultural data (gathered from hundreds of land users during the 1970s and 1980s by the Dene Mapping Project) to Sahtù communities.	2013-2016
Evaluating Diversity and Spatial Organization of Caribou in the Sahtù Region for Management and Environmental Impact Assessment	ENR	Project, funded by NWT CIMP, brings together traditional knowledge and science to understand patterns of caribou gene flow across space and between caribou ecotypes (mountain, boreal and barren-ground caribou) in the Sahtù region. Caribou fecal pellets were collected in collaboration with local community members during the winters of 2013-2016.	2013-2016



Research and Monitoring

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Tłıchọ Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Program (TAEMP)	ENR	This project was funded by NWT CIMP and is based on traditional and scientific knowledge to determine if fish health, water and sediment quality are changing over time near Tłıchọ communities. TAEMP is a community-led project that has been developed through a collaborative relationship among community members, the WRRB, WLWB, Tłıchọ Government, Fisheries and Oceans Canada and HSS-GNWT.	2012-2014
Marian Watershed Stewardship Program	ENR	This project was funded by NWT CIMP and is developing and implementing a community-based Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program in the Marian Watershed, with specific consideration of the future impacts of the licenced NICO Project and other future developments. Program monitors fish, water and sediment prior to operation of the proposed NICO mine and will continue data collection in the future in order to monitor cumulative effects of development, land disturbance and climate change in the Marian Watershed.	2014-2017
Tłıchọ Ekwo Naowa: TK-based Monitoring of the Bathurst Caribou Herd	ENR	This project was funded by NWT CIMP and is developing a detailed understanding of the cumulative impacts from natural and anthropogenic factors on the Bathurst caribou and their habitat over multiple years. Tłıchọ harvesters monitor the conditions of the Bathurst herd as they daily track, hunt, butcher and eat traditional country food. The data collected will be used to inform the decision-making process for the Bathurst caribou range.	2014-2018



Research and Monitoring

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Understanding and Predicting Fish Mercury Levels in the Dehcho Region using Models of Bio-magnification and Bio-accumulation	ENR	This project was funded by NWT CIMP and is investigating patterns of fish mercury accumulation in Dehcho lakes that differ in temporal trends and represent significant variation in fish mercury levels. Project will identify critical variables for future cumulative impact monitoring. Decision-makers will be able to use results to identify possible mitigation strategies for lakes with high fish mercury.	2013-2016
Geospatial Models and Isotope Tracers to Identify Key Fish and Animal Habitats along the Slave River	ENR	This project was funded by NWT CIMP and combines geospatial modeling and isotope tracers, with traditional and local knowledge to predict and evaluate important areas for spawning, rearing and staging for fish and other animals. Information gathered will inform understanding of cumulative impacts by providing information on historical-baseline conditions, impacts and changes over time. The community-based indicators developed will serve to inform cumulative impacts monitoring in the area.	2014-2017
Implementing Collaborative Cross-NWT Water Quality Monitoring	ENR	This project was funded by NWT CIMP and collects and analyzes baseline water quality data across the NWT and compares whole basin data to identify spatial and temporal trends, building on long-term water quality monitoring already occurring throughout the NWT. Results from the open-water sampling program are being used to address community concerns about health and safety of waters across the NWT for all the communities and to support GNWT negotiations with other jurisdictions towards trans-boundary water management agreements.	2012 and ongoing



Research and Monitoring

Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Project Partner in <i>Addressing Community Concerns about Health Risks from H. pylori Infection</i>	HSS	HSS supports a research program led by the University of Alberta that aims to develop community-driven strategies to manage <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> (<i>H. pylori</i>) infection in the Beaufort Delta.	2014-2018
Strategy for Patient-oriented Research (SPOR) Business Proposal	HSS	HSS, in partnership with two Aboriginal governments, formed an interim steering committee to access federal funding for the development of an indigenous-focused research support unit in the NWT. The unit, as a center of excellence in community participatory research and a place to learn best-practices research and program-design, will be grounded in indigenous knowledge.	2014-15
Pan-territorial Crime Prevention Research Project	Justice	The pan-territorial project “Building a Northern Evidence-based Approach to Crime Prevention” allows the territories to collaboratively collect quantitative and qualitative data for the development of best practice and evidence-based crime prevention programming. The territories will incorporate traditional knowledge to build a common understanding of causes of higher crime rates and factors that protect against crime. In the final year, each territory will incorporate the knowledge gathered into a pilot crime prevention project.	Four-year project, from 2014-2015 to 2017-2018



Traditional Healing





Credit: Tessa Macintosh

Traditional Healing			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Cancer Sharing Circles	HSS	Cancer sharing circles bring communities together to discuss the cancer journey and encourage healing. Recommendations from communities include increasing the integration of culturally-appropriate supports and resources into the NWT health system as well as strengthening linkages with traditional medicine. Activities are implemented in response to these recommendations, which have also directly informed the development of the upcoming territorial cancer strategy.	Continuing on an annual basis
Pre-treatment Healing Program	Justice	The South Mackenzie Correctional Centre (SMCC) Pre-treatment Healing Program is open to all offenders and is intended to restore dignity and integrity, and prepare offenders for the group format of other programs.	Three times per year for a period of four weeks
Sweat Lodge Ceremonies	Justice	SMCC has a Sweat Master and offers Sweat Lodge Ceremonies to inmates who complete the Pre-treatment Healing Program. NSCC also offers Sweat Lodge Ceremonies.	Three times per year
Substance Abuse Program	Justice	Traditional Addictions Counsellors at SMCC deliver a Substance Abuse Program in collaboration with the Traditional Liaison Counsellors.	Three times per year for a period of 28 days
Healing Circles and Traditional Activities	Justice	Healing circles and other traditional activities are held in designated spaces at each correctional facility in order to aid offender rehabilitation and healing.	Daily
Program for Men Who Use Violence in Intimate Relationships	Justice	The “New Day” Healing Program is a 24-week pilot program in Yellowknife with the goal of helping men to eliminate violent behaviour towards themselves, partners, children and their communities. The program combines response-based therapy with traditional healing practices and incorporates the participation of Elders in sharing circles. Men are accepted on a case-by-case basis. It will be piloted for three years.	Contract for the pilot was awarded in December 2014 and has since been ongoing



Traditional Healing			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Restorative Justice	Justice	Restorative justice is a non-adversarial, non-retributive approach to justice based on traditional values, emphasizing healing in victims, meaningful accountability of offender and the involvement of citizens in creating healthier, safer communities.	Ongoing
Traditional Knowledge Research and Collection	Aurora College	First year ENRTP students research and collect traditional knowledge as part of assignments.	Ongoing, annually
Research Field Trip	Aurora College	Students and staff met with Sami Reindeer herders from Russia and Norway and took part in a research field trip.	March 2014
Indigenizing Science Curriculum	Aurora College	Sharing circles are being held with members of the Thebacha campus learning community (students, instructors, administrators and Elders) to discuss opportunities and challenges to indigenizing science classes.	2014-2016
Readings	Aurora College	In relation to Tri-council Research policy statements and ethics, nursing students were assigned readings concerning research with Aboriginal people.	Fall 2014
Support for Visiting Researchers Working On Traditional Knowledge Projects	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	Researchers visiting the NWT are supported at three regional research centres (Inuvik, Fort Smith and Yellowknife). Research projects can be on a wide range of subjects. Most projects are not exclusively focused on traditional knowledge, but many incorporate TK to some extent.	Ongoing



Traditional Healing			
Activity	Responsible Department(s)	Description	Timing
Research Program	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute	Nurse researchers with ARI, in partnership with the NWT Seniors' Society, studied the influences on the quality of life of older adults in the NWT. The community-based participatory action research study engages with older adults in the NWT to identify current actual and potential influences upon, and threats to, their quality of life. Influences on quality of life for older adults are captured under good life, life struggles, current needs for a better life, most significant concerns, and changes over the past 30 years. A detailed report is available at http://nwtresearch.com/projects/health/influences-quality-life-older-adults .	2014
Legendary Sky Project (South Slave)	Aurora College/ Aurora Research Institute/ENR	The Legendary Sky Project is an education and outreach initiative started by Astronomy North in 2009, to collect, preserve and share knowledge and heritage about the sky in the Northwest Territories. The South Slave Research Centre hosted a regional scoping meeting with Aboriginal leaders and Elders as well other cultural heritage and educational organizations to discuss the idea of a South Slave version of the Legendary Sky Project.	2014-2015

