

Government of
Northwest Territories

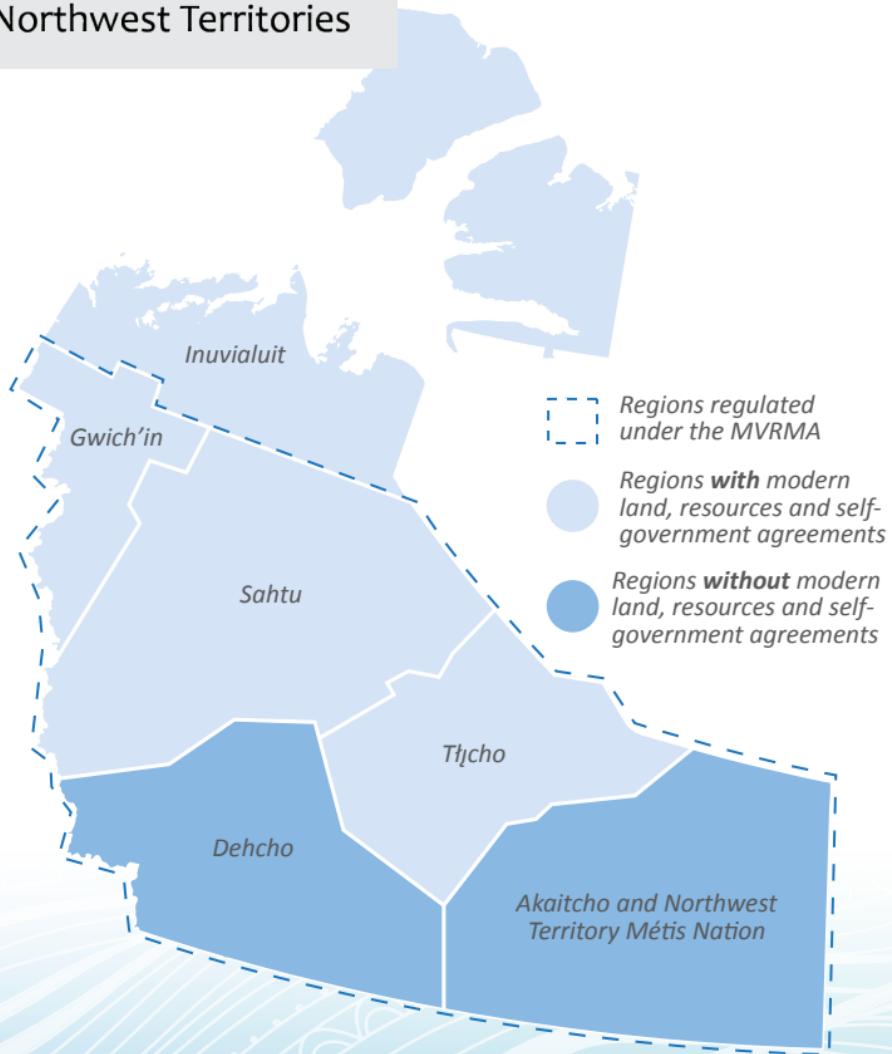


POCKET GUIDE

NWT Land Use Planning Frequently Asked Questions



Government of Northwest Territories



What is a land use plan?

An approved land use plan is a legal document that provides direction around what types of land uses are permitted or prohibited within a given area. Land use planning is linked to comprehensive land claim agreements and can be produced before or after completion of the claim. The completed land use plan is presented in the form of a written report and accompanying maps.

What do land use plans do?

Land use plans:

- ensure that public and Indigenous governments and regulators are held accountable to enforce the rules set out in the plan and holds industry accountable to respect the rules in the plan
- take a balanced approach to managing lands, protecting and conserving environmental and culturally important areas and allowing resource development in other areas
- allow the GNWT to better and more effectively manage public lands and resources

What is the history of land use planning in the NWT?

In 1983 the Basis of Agreement on Land Use Planning was signed by the Dene Nation, the Métis Association of the Northwest Territories, the Tunngavik Federation of Nunavut, and the NWT and federal governments. This agreement shaped all future land use planning legislation and focused on the social and cultural well-being of residents and the direct involvement of communities in the land use planning process.

In 1998, the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) established an integrated system of land and water management, licensing and permitting, land use planning, and environmental assessment for the Mackenzie Valley region of the NWT. Land use planning, its purpose, goals and approval process, is set out under Part 2 of the MVRMA.

Why are land use plans important?

Land use plans act as the gatekeeper to the regulatory system, giving guidance to proponents and regulatory authorities about what can and cannot occur in a specific area. This provides regulatory certainty for development and ensures that community values are understood early and respected. In the absence of land use plans, communities' interests and values are advanced directly through the regulatory system on a project by project basis, resulting in conflict and regulatory uncertainty.

What are the goals of land use planning?

Land use planning builds understanding among Indigenous, territorial and federal governments about the socio-economic and cultural goals of communities. Land use plans help partners reach a consensus on the specific rules for land use to help them meet these goals.

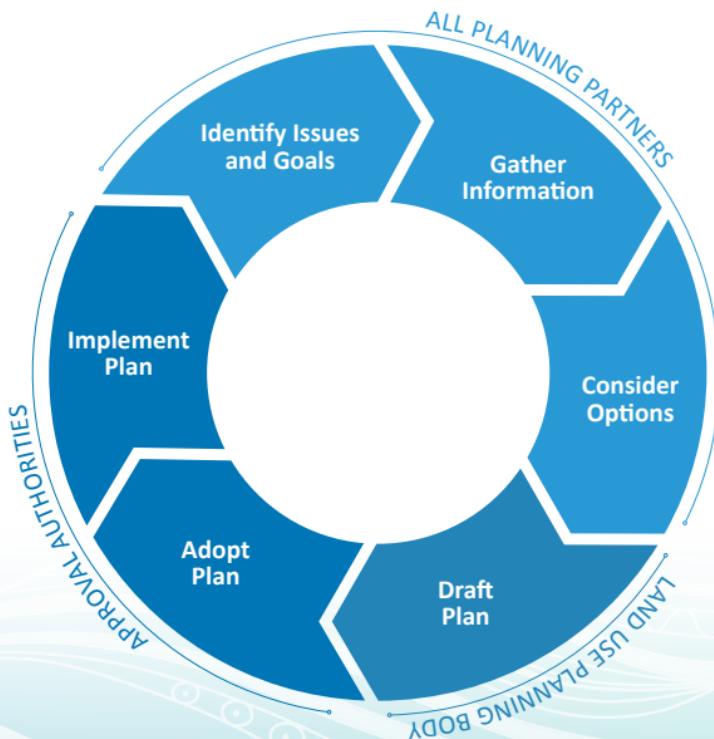
How does the land use planning process work?

Planning typically involves six main steps:

- 1) **Develop a vision and goals** for the planning region.
This will include identifying land use values and any potential issues
- 2) **Gather relevant information** and data related to the values, issues, or vision and goals
- 3) **Develop and consider** different options to achieve the vision and goals
- 4) **Draft** the land use plan, and revise until completed
- 5) **Approve and adopt** the plan
- 6) **Implement and monitor** the plan. The planning process is meant to be iterative so that implementation and monitoring can feed into refining and updating the land use plan regularly

Who does land use planning?

There are various partners who contribute to the land use planning process such as Indigenous governments, the GNWT and the federal government. They work together with the land use planning board to prepare and implement land use plans. These partners have different roles at different times during the process.



What is the GNWT's role in land use planning?

The GNWT has many roles, each with associated responsibilities.

- As a **planning partner**, the GNWT provides input during the information gathering stage
- As an **approval authority**, along with the federal government and the regional Indigenous government, the GNWT reviews and approves the draft plan completed by the land use planning board
- As a **regulator**, the GNWT ensures that all licenses, permits and other authorizations approved by any department conform with the land use plan
- As a **proponent**, the GNWT ensures that all applications for licenses, permits, and other authorizations conform with the land use plan
- As a **coordinator**, the GNWT's Department of Lands facilitates the GNWT's participation in land use planning processes throughout the NWT

Where can I find existing land use plans?

To view existing land use plans and learn more about regional planning bodies in the NWT, please visit:

GWICH'IN LAND USE PLAN

www.gwichinplanning.nt.ca

SAHTU LAND USE PLAN

www.sahtulanduseplan.org

TŁJCHQ LAND USE PLAN

www.tlicho.ca

For more information

You can find out more about the Department of Lands role and approach to land use planning at the links below:

GENERAL OVERVIEW

www.lands.gov.nt.ca/services/land-use-planning-nwt

REGIONAL LAND USE PLANNING GUIDELINES

www.lands.gov.nt.ca/en/regional-lup-guidelines

LAND USE AND SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK

www.lands.gov.nt.ca/en/lus-framework

WEK'EEZHÌI MANAGEMENT AREA

www.lands.gov.nt.ca/en/services/lup-wekeezhii