



Respect, Recognition, Responsibility The GNWT Approach

Senate Committee on Aboriginal Peoples

September 10, 2018

Government of
Northwest Territories



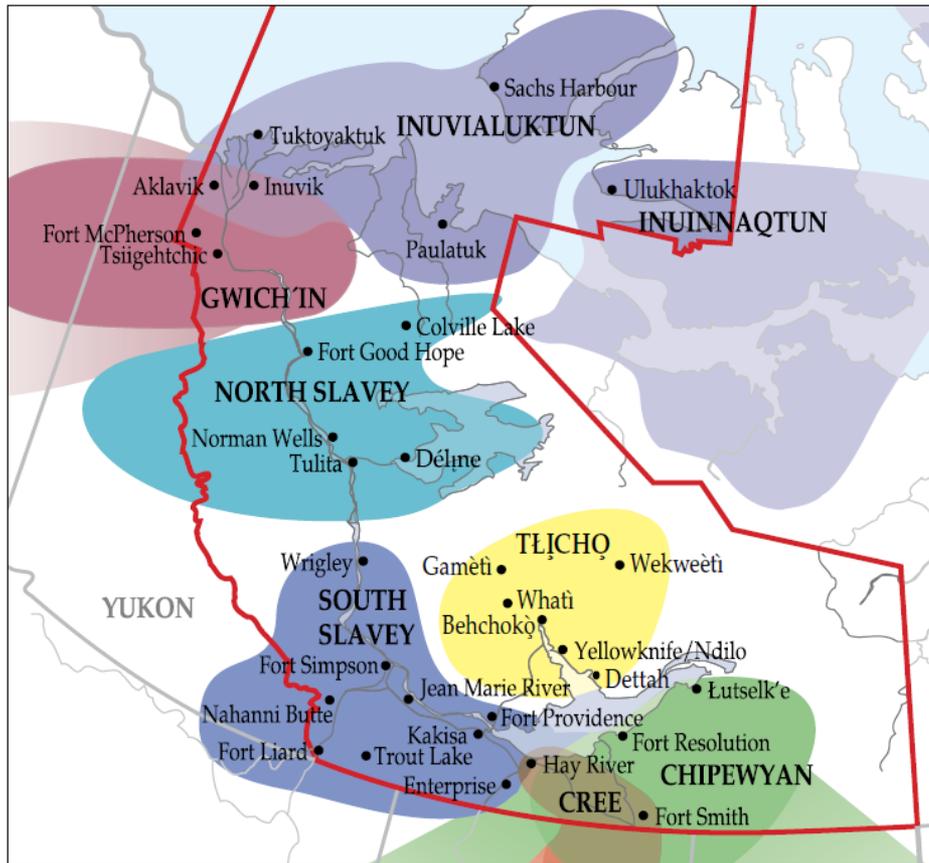
There are 33 communities in the NWT.

The smaller communities have a higher percentage of Indigenous population, in comparison to the major regional centers.

Over half the communities are accessible by all-weather roads, and all mines and most communities are accessible by winter roads.



Official Languages of the Northwest Territories



FRENCH is mostly spoken in Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik and Yellowknife.

ENGLISH is spoken throughout the Northwest Territories.

INUKTITUT is mostly spoken in Yellowknife.

There are 11 official languages, including nine Indigenous languages



- **20,834 residents in Yellowknife, close to half the population of the territory**
- **Nearly 75% of Yellowknife residents are non-Indigenous**
- **Employment rate of 78%**



- In comparison, there are 159 people in Colville Lake
- Almost 95% of residents are Indigenous
- 50% employment
- 78% of residents engage in on-the-land activities including hunting and fishing
- 46% trap
- 60% gather berries



Opportunities

The Northwest Territories remains a resource-driven economy, with significant opportunities remaining for mineral and other resource extraction.

Retail trade, tourism, arts & crafts, and harvesting continue to develop.

Public administration and infrastructure spending have a significant impact in smaller communities.



Governance



Aboriginal Rights

- **Aboriginal peoples in the NWT – the Dene, Métis and Inuvialuit – have special rights.**
- **Rights are based on the fact that Aboriginal peoples were living in North America for thousands of years.**
- **Aboriginal rights are ever-evolving, but they include the right to use and live in their traditional territory for traditional purposes.**



Indigenous Governments

- **Tłįchq̄ Government**
- **Gwich'in Tribal Council**
- **Inuvialuit Regional Corporation**
- **Northwest Territory Métis Nation**
- **Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated**
 - **Déljñę Got'jñę Self-Government**
- **Akaičho Territory Government**
- **Dehcho First Nations**
- **Kát'odeeche First Nation**
- **Salt River First Nation**
- **Acho Dene Koe First Nation and Fort Liard Métis Local #67**



Lands and Resources (Land Claim) Agreements

Brings clarity with respect to:

- The Indigenous party's settlement area
- Indigenous ownership of lands and resources
- Cash compensation and rights to royalties from resources
- Tax treatment of Indigenous lands and institutions
- Harvesting rights in the settlement area
- Rights to participate in the management of public lands in the settlement area
- Rights and benefits associated with protected areas and national parks



Self-Government Agreements

- **Self-government, or self-determination, is an Aboriginal right recognized within section 35 of the Constitution Act, 1982.**
- **Canada does not try to define self-government within the context of modern treaties, but to use modern treaties to set out how self-government may be practically implemented within the federal framework.**
- **Self-government provisions may be included in a comprehensive land, resources and self-government agreement, or may comprise a stand-alone agreement.**



Self-Government in the NWT

- Two existing Indigenous self-governments in the NWT
- Ten more under negotiation, either as stand-alone agreements or part of land and resource negotiations
- The Tłı̄chǫ Government: August 2005, a regional, self-government with citizens located in four communities
- The Délı̄nǫ Got'ı̄nǫ Government: September 2016, a community-based self-government in the Délı̄nǫ District of the Sahtu region



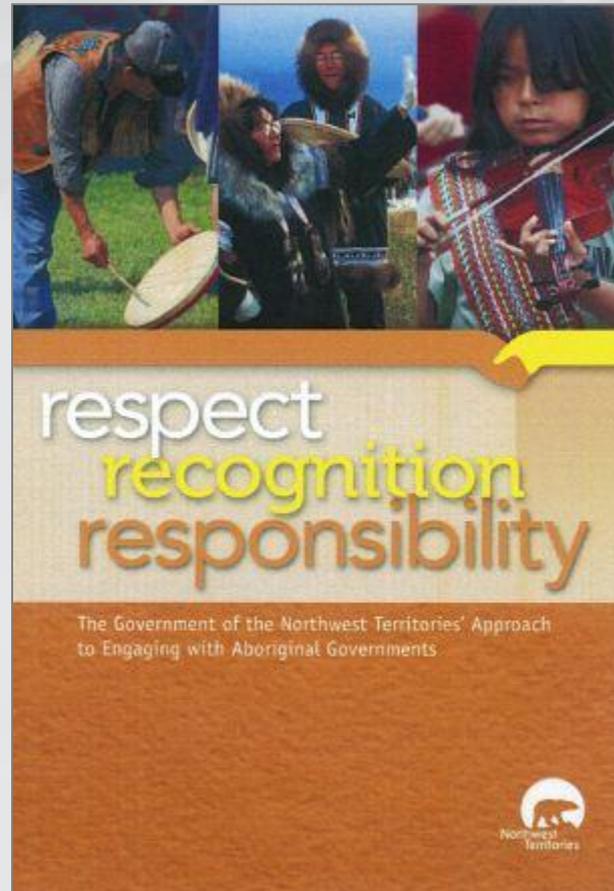
Self-Government in the NWT

- Self-government law-making powers concurrent with those of the GNWT
- Include many social program areas such as income support, social housing, education, child and family services and early childhood education
- NWT self-governments, like many in Canada, have not yet exercised their social envelope jurisdictions
- The GNWT supports self-government and is committed to working with self-governments to build capacity and transition to self-government jurisdiction, authority and responsibility



Respect, Recognition, Responsibility

- The Government of the Northwest Territories has made a formal commitment to Indigenous governments to work with them in the spirit of ‘Respect, Recognition and Responsibility’



- ***Respect, Recognition, Responsibility*** outlines commitments around positive intergovernmental relationships with Indigenous governments
- **Most Indigenous governments now have intergovernmental cooperation agreements with the Northwest Territories and meet bilaterally each year**
- **Indigenous governments were invited to participate with the Northwest Territories in the Devolution agreement with Canada around lands**
- **Devolution also create an Intergovernmental Council and introduced resource revenue sharing with Indigenous partners**



NWT Integrated Service System

- **The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) model of program and service delivery is one in which Indigenous and Non-Indigenous residents receive integrated program and service delivery through the territorial government.**
- **These include programs such as housing, health, education, income support, post-secondary support , and municipal services such as water treatment.**



GNWT self-government funding

- The GNWT provides funding where:
 - 1) local services and other municipal functions are being assumed; and/or
 - 2) social envelope jurisdictions are being exercised and program and service delivery responsibilities formerly held by the GNWT become the responsibility of the self-government
- Where at least one of the above circumstances exist, the GNWT will provide funding to an aboriginal government through a financing agreement



NWT self-government implementation challenges

- **Supporting the full and successful implementation of self-government in the NWT will challenge governments on many different levels**
- **The GNWT would like to work in partnership with Canada to address these challenges and create a positive climate for self-government implementation in the NWT**
- **To accomplish this, Canada and the GNWT will need to establish a collaborative forum for open and frank dialogue on self-government implementation, focused on moving past old positions to develop solutions based on collaboration and cooperation**

