

The GNWT's New Departmental Structure after Devolution

The signing of the *Northwest Territories Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement* on June 25, 2013, marked a major milestone in the political and economic development of the Northwest Territories. The Agreement will see responsibility for managing public land, water and resources in the NWT transfer from the Government of Canada to the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) on April 1, 2014.

After devolution, the GNWT will be responsible for delivering public programs related to land, water and resource management in the territory. These programs are currently being delivered by the federal Department of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC), both through its regional office in the NWT and in the department's Ottawa location. In keeping with the devolution agreement, staff in the NWT will be given the opportunity accept a job offer with the GNWT. Ottawa-based employees delivering programs will not be transitioning. The GNWT will create and staff new positions to undertake this work. Changes to the GNWT's departmental structure will also be required to accommodate these new program responsibilities.

Industry, Tourism, and Investment (ITI)

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) will integrate new responsibilities devolved from the federal government related to its mandate with its existing responsibilities.

After devolution, ITI responsibilities will include:

- Programs and services related to mineral and petroleum resources exploration and development
- Manage land tenure and the registration of mineral and petroleum resource rights
- Administration of mineral and petroleum resource royalties
- Economic analysis associated with petroleum and mineral resource developments
- Coordination of petroleum resource policy and planning through the Mackenzie Valley Petroleum Planning Office
- Research and advice related to geoscience through the NWT Geoscience Office
- Guidance on Aboriginal consultation requirements and the NWT regulatory system associated with mineral and petroleum rights, exploration and activities to industry and communities
- Overall energy planning and policy development
- Operating public tourism facilities, including a system of NWT parks
- Tourism marketing, training and product development
- Economic analysis in support of economic diversification
- Business advice and access to investment capital with the NWT Business Development and Investment Corporation and Community Futures Organizations
- Traditional economy programs and services, including arts and fine crafts, film, agriculture, fisheries, trapping and commercial game harvesting
- National and international trade matters for the GNWT
- Negotiation and monitoring of socio-economic agreements with resource developers

Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) will integrate new responsibilities devolved from the federal government related to its mandate with its existing responsibilities.

After devolution, ENR responsibilities will include:

- Waste Reduction and Management
- Sustainable Forest Management
- Forest Fire Management
- Conservation Lands Planning and Protected Areas
- Biodiversity Conservation
- Water Regulation
- Watershed Programs and Partnerships
- Taiga Environmental Laboratory
- Environmental Impact Assessment, Cumulative Impact and Monitoring
- Contaminated Sites and Remediation
- Environmental Protection
- Wildlife Research and Management
- Operational Policy, Legislation and Communications and Strategic Planning
- Interim Resource Management Assistance
- Traditional Knowledge
- GNWT Science Agenda
- Climate Change Programs
- Energy Alternatives
- Field Support Services, including the inspection and enforcement of leases, licenses and permits issued by the department.

Lands

A new department will be established to support, manage, protect and administer the sustainable use of public land in the NWT. The new department's responsibilities will include responsibilities for Commissioner's Lands currently delivered by MACA as well as new lands related responsibilities devolved from the Federal Government:

- Administration and management of Commissioner's Land and Territorial Lands (land inventories, leases, dispositions, valuation, survey applications, mapping)
- Land use sustainability standards, guidelines and policies
- Land use initiatives
- Major Project assessments
- Land use planning, including regional land use plans
- Land use administration, including permitting and securities
- Compliance and enforcement of land use, including inspections
- Informatics shared service centre, supporting ITI, ENR and Lands

Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA)

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) will transfer its existing responsibilities for public land management (i.e. Commissioner's Land) to the new Lands Department.

After devolution, MACA responsibilities will continue to include:

- Community Operations and Governance
- Community Governance
- School of Community Government
- Sport, Recreation, and Youth
- Emergency Measures and Emergency Management
- Office of the Fire Marshall