



## Arctic Strategy

*A Canadian Arctic Strategy, led by northerners, to meet northern needs: The Northwest Territories is focused on encouraging opportunity, prosperity and the self-sufficiency of our people and communities, an interest we share with Yukon and Nunavut.*

- The Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) vision for a sustainable Arctic is founded on balance. Sustainability will be achieved only by strengthening communities by placing a priority on social, cultural, environmental and economic factors.
- This is an interest we share with our sister territories of Yukon and Nunavut, as expressed in the pan-territorial document, *A Northern Vision: Building a Better North*.
- It is essential that the development of an Arctic Strategy begins with the full involvement of the territorial governments, and that we remain full partners in developing, approving and implementing Arctic priorities, whether they are an aspect of domestic or foreign policy.
- We are best placed to understand the potential opportunities and impacts of any Arctic Strategy initiatives, and how they would be applied under our jurisdictional authorities.
- Collaboration is a key element of how we operate. The GNWT has a long history of working with partners like the federal government, territorial governments and Indigenous governments on a wide range of policies and initiatives that strengthen people and communities in the Northwest Territories and across the Canadian Arctic.
- Our relationships with Indigenous governments are vital to us – in the NWT we have created a unique system of government and structures that support a truly integrated system that respects aspirations for self-government and Indigenous self-determination.
- The NWT's abundant natural resources are not only key to growing and sustaining our economic future but are also essential to lowering the cost of living, as well as developing training, educational and capacity building opportunities. The GNWT has a proven track record

### **National Priority: *Shared Arctic Leadership Model***

“Canada is an Arctic nation. As the Government of Canada plans for the future of the Arctic region, it is important to ensure the many interests and uses of the Arctic are considered, particularly for those that make it their permanent home. Rooted in engagement with Arctic partners, the leadership model will be informed by the best available evidence, including scientific, traditional and local knowledge “

- of working with industry and Indigenous partners to ensure these projects are carried out in a way that respects local interests, and creates local opportunities and economic prosperity.
- Ensuring that communities have access to local economies, such as marine and freshwater fisheries, as well as tourism and traditional economies, must be balanced with the responsible and sustainable development of the NWT's non-renewable resources. The long-term sustainability and growth of the territorial mining sector will positively impact the NWT economy it will also benefit the Canadian economy both domestically and internationally.
- This is particularly true as the clean growth economy evolves. Many of the NWT's non-renewable resources are needed to fuel the innovative and transformative change envisioned by the Vancouver Declaration.