



FACT SHEET

What Makes the Northwest Territories Unique?

- Indigenous and non-Indigenous Northerners learn together, work together and live together in a more integrated way than in other parts of Canada.
 - Approximately 50% of NWT residents are Indigenous and Indigenous people are the majority in 29 of the NWT's 33 communities
 - The NWT Official Languages Act gives nine Indigenous languages official status alongside English and French and is the only jurisdiction in Canada to do this.
- NWT Indigenous people participate actively in public government and decision making for the whole territory:
 - 12 of 19 Members of the current Legislative Assembly are Indigenous and every Assembly since the division of the territories in 1999 has had an Indigenous majority.
 - Since the role of government leader was formally formed in 1980, 10 of 12 NWT Premiers have been Indigenous, including Nellie Courneyea, Canada's first Indigenous female Premier.
 - In the NWT, 5 of our 7 current Cabinet Ministers, including the Premier, are Indigenous – Inuvialuit, Gwich'in and Métis.
- NWT Indigenous people participate fully in territorial economy and share in benefits of economic development activity.
 - Many Indigenous people own and operate successful businesses that serve Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents.
 - Indigenous businesses offer a wide variety of services and are active in many sectors including engineering, general contracting, transportation, and tourism and oilfield services.
- The Government of the Northwest Territories' commitment to ensuring NWT Indigenous people share in the benefits of development in the NWT is reflected in the agreement our government signed with its Indigenous government partners at the time of devolution to share up to 25 percent of revenues from the development of resources on public lands. Indigenous governments also retain their own source revenues, including resource revenues from their lands
- Settled land claims give Indigenous governments the land and financial resources necessary for economic development.
 - Currently, three regional Indigenous governments have settled land claims that recognize their rights and jurisdiction over settlement lands and things like harvesting rights in constitutionally protected agreements.



- One regional Indigenous government has a combined land claim and self-government agreement that provides similar features as the land claims, but also gives them legislative authority on a full range of matters, including education, child welfare, justice and many more.
- In September 2016, the Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę government became the first Aboriginal public community government in Canada. The Délı̨nę Got'ı̨nę Government implements the inherent right to self-government for the Sahtu Dene and Métis of Délı̨nę as well as providing services to all residents of Délı̨nę.
- Indigenous government representatives sit alongside representatives from the federal government and Government of the Northwest Territories on a variety of boards that set territorial policy and make regulatory decisions for the territory or a region, including wildlife management boards, land use planning boards, and environmental assessment and review boards.
- The strong relationship between the Government of the Northwest Territories and Indigenous governments, along with their active participation means no developments requiring land use permits or water licenses – including mines, pipelines, oil and gas operations, hydro-electric facilities or highway construction – can proceed without review and recommendations by a board that includes Indigenous governments
- Unlike services that are often provided on reserves for Indigenous people, in the Northwest Territories the same public programs and services are offered to Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents alike.
 - Indigenous and non-Indigenous people go to the same schools operated by the Government of the Northwest Territories and all students participate in Dene Kede or Inuuqatigiit integrated curricula from junior kindergarten to grade 9 which means that all students experience culturally-rooted learning opportunities that engage elders and may at times take place on the land.
 - Indigenous and non-Indigenous people receive health care at the same health centres and hospitals.
 - All NWT residents access NWT Housing Corporation programs including public housing in all communities using universal criteria.
 - Our municipal services are community-based, innovative and achieve economies of scale where geography and small population size can make that a challenge. Operators are local, often Indigenous, and are certified, through the GNWT School of Community Government. [There is only one ongoing boil-water advisory in the NWT, in Colville Lake.]
- The *National Narrative on Reconciliation Report* (<http://reconciliationcanada.ca/resources/national-narrative-report-on-reconciliation/>) showed that a higher representation of non-Indigenous Northerners felt there was a need for reconciliation than any other region in Canada, and then non-Indigenous Canadians overall.



- The GNWT continues to believe in and support ‘*Respect, Recognition, Responsibility*’ our commitment to working with Indigenous governments that articulates many of the Principles that Canada has recently articulated, and that we released initially in 2012.
- The GNWT continues to implement the relevant calls to action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and support other efforts to address social and economic gaps between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Northerners and we believe we are the first government in Canada to release updates on our work in this area to date:
 - https://www.eia.gov.nt.ca/sites/eia/files/gnwt_response_to_trc_calls_to_action.pdf
 - [https://www.eia.gov.nt.ca/sites/eia/files/an update to meeting the challenge of reconciliation on the gnwts response to the trcs calls to action.pdf](https://www.eia.gov.nt.ca/sites/eia/files/an_update_to_meeting_the_challenge_of_reconciliation_on_the_gnwts_response_to_the_trcs_calls_to_action.pdf)