

Strategic Objectives of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment

Based upon consultations during the development of *PEOPLE: OUR FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE, A Strategy to 2010*, the following strategic objectives were developed for the Department of Education, Culture and Employment:

1. **To improve support to communities to achieve their culture, heritage and language goals.** People told us communities should set priorities for culture, heritage and language activities. Our overall approach will be to ensure that they have the flexibility to do so.
2. **To provide people in all communities with access to public information networks.** Our overall approach will be to work with other government departments and the private sector to establish information networks and use them to support personal development, learning and innovative approaches to program delivery.
3. **To build a comprehensive early childhood learning system.** *Our overall approach will be to integrate childcare and early childhood education to create a comprehensive early childhood learning system.*
4. **To improve student achievement.** *People told us they want the NWT school system to be the best it can be and they want to be sure students leave school with the skills they need for the future. Overall, we will focus on those areas that will significantly improve student achievement.*
5. **To improve access for adults to learning and work.** *People told us that, given the current education levels, basic skill programs for adults are essential, but they must be effective. Overall, our approach is to improve existing programs and make them an integral part of lifelong learning.*
6. **To develop a flexible, comprehensive NWT system of post-secondary learning.** *People told us we need to offer a comprehensive range of high quality post-secondary programs in the north. Our overall approach will be to continue to build a northern post-secondary system of learning.*
7. **To ensure a lasting impact from learning and human resource development.** *Our overall response will be to respond to the needs of individuals, employers and communities in ways that ensure the development of a skilled northern workforce.*

(from *PEOPLE: OUR FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE, A Strategy to 2010*)