

Career Development

Career development occupies a pivotal role in schools. It links the needs of students to the community and it provides a bridge between the individual's current and past activities to his or her future.

Schools are creating and supporting a career development climate including infusion of career awareness through curricula. In Kindergarten through grade 12, the foundation for lifelong career development is established. As defined in *The Departmental Directive for Career Development Across the Lifespan (2001)*, this foundation includes:

- A career development culture in the classroom, where teachers help students connect to and value work of all kinds, and experience a range of work choices, both traditional and contemporary.
- A developmental, progressive framework with clearly identified learning outcomes.
- Exposure of students to a variety of experiences to acquire skills and explore abilities and interests.
- Providing students and staff with high-quality career, labour market and financial information.
- Building strong partnerships with families, communities and employers to strengthen support for student choices and future success.
- Ensuring students have the skills, knowledge and attitudes to successfully make transitions from the school system to further education and/or work.

The following resources have been developed by Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment to support career development in the elementary and junior secondary grades:

NWT Blueprint for Life/Work Designs: A Teacher Resource Manual (2003)

Grades 4 to 6 Career Awareness Resource (2002)

Linking Professions (2001) for Grades 7-12

Making Connections (2000) for Grades 7-9

The completion of a Career and Program Plan (CPP) is a graduation requirement, must be completed before a student enters grade 10, and is worth one compulsory credit towards graduation. The CPP enables the student to choose appropriate courses for grade 10 and is updated annually so a student can reassess his/her goals in light of the year's academic and life experiences and appropriately select courses for the upcoming year. More information on the CPP is available in the Senior Secondary School Administrators' Handbook in section 9. The template for the Career Program Plan is available on the ECE website www.ece.gov.nt.ca through the following links: Kindergarten - Grade 12/Curriculum/Senior Secondary Handbook forms checklist/Career and Program Plan (MS Word for MAC or PC)