



Government of
Northwest Territories

Northern Distance Learning (NDL)

Fact sheet

OUR VISION

Students in small communities have access to equitable academic programming enabling them to:

- ▶ STAY IN THEIR HOME COMMUNITY
- ▶ MEET THE GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS OF HIGH SCHOOL; AND
- ▶ PREPARE TO ENTER POST-SECONDARY PROGRAMS DIRECTLY FROM HIGH SCHOOL



PURPOSE

NDL aligns with the following mandates of the 19th Legislative Assembly:

- Increase student education outcomes to the same level as the rest of Canada;
- All small communities have access to distance learning.

NDL began with direction from the mandates of the 18th Legislative Assembly; these directions were foundational to commitments made in the document, *Education Renewal and Innovation (ERI) Framework: Directions for Change* and its Action Plan:

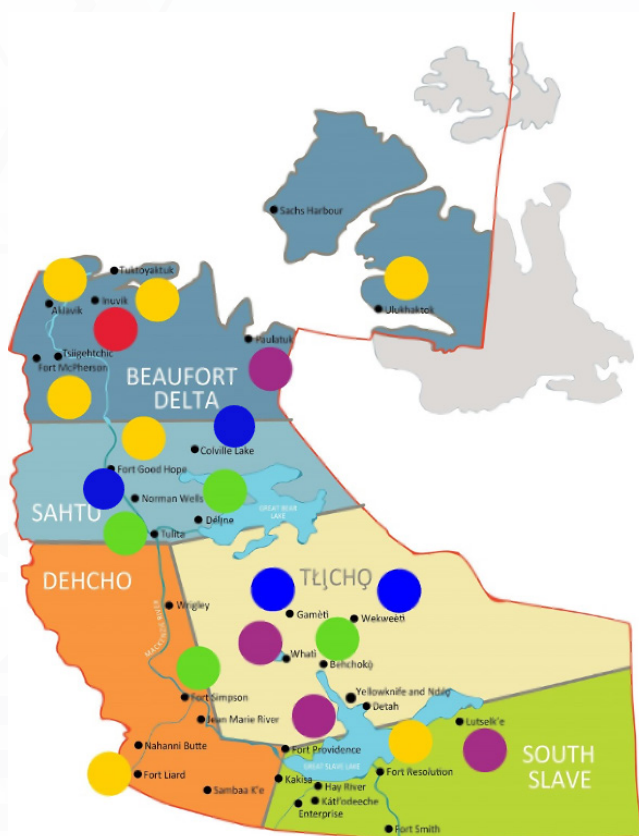
- Commitment #4: The GNWT will do its part to ensure that learners experience supported and personalized quality education; and
- Commitment #5: The GNWT will do its part to ensure that the strengths and realities of small communities are recognized and built upon in order to ensure equitable, quality education in all NWT communities.

NDL aligns with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's:

- Guiding Principle #5. Reconciliation must create a more equitable and inclusive society by closing the gaps in social, health, and economic outcomes that exist between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians;
- Call to Action #55. We call upon all levels of government to provide annual reports or current data requested by the National Council for Reconciliation so that it can report on progress towards Reconciliation
 - iii. The education and income attainments of Aboriginal peoples in Canada compared with non-Aboriginal people.

NDL aligns with the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples:

- Article 14.2. Indigenous individuals, particularly children, have the right to all levels and forms of education of the State without discrimination.



2017-2018 - Final year of Pilot

7 small communities participating:

Inuvik – Host school

- | | |
|--------------------|-------------------|
| 1. Fort Resolution | 5. Aklavik |
| 2. Fort Liard | 6. Fort Good Hope |
| 3. Fort McPherson | 7. Ulukhaktok |
| 4. Tuktoyaktuk | |

TOTAL: 7 SCHOOLS

2018-2019 - Year 1 of Expansion

4 new small communities added:

- | | |
|-------------|------------------|
| 8. Behchokò | 10. Tulita |
| 9. Délı̨ne | 11. Fort Simpson |

TOTAL : 11 SCHOOLS

2019-2020 - Year 2 of Expansion

4 new small communities added:

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------|
| 12. Fort Providence | 14. Paulatuk |
| 13. Łutselk'e | 15. Whatı̨ |

TOTAL : 15 SCHOOLS

2020-2021- Year 3 of Expansion

4 new small communities added

- | | |
|------------------|-------------------|
| 16. Wekwèetı̨ | 19. Colville Lake |
| 17. Gamètı̨ | |
| 18. Norman Wells | |

TOTAL: 19 SCHOOLS

STUDENTS AND COURSES (2014-2021)

- 299 students have registered in at least one NDL course
- 1,019 courses have been offered
- 3.40 is the average number of courses each student has registered for

ANNUAL CREDITS EARNED

SCHOOL YEAR	# OF SCHOOLS	# OF COURSES AVAILABLE	# OF STUDENTS PARTICIPATING*	# OF ENROLMENTS IN COURSES	# COURSES PASSES	CREDIT ACQUISITION RATE% **
	Total	Total	Total	Total	Total	Average
2014-2015	5	8	39	75	56	78%
2015-2016	5	8	49	101	76	78%
2016-2017	5	8	62	102	62	82%
2017-2018	7	8	83	163	89	60% †
2018-2019	11	16	62	145	114	79%
2019-2020	15	17	85	201	97	55% †
2020-2021	19	19	92	231	119	72%

* Individual students that participate in a given year; students often participate over multiple years.

** Credit acquisition rate is the number of courses passed with credit, divided by the number of courses enrolled in; the percent used here does not include registrants who dropped courses during the year.

† Anomalies. 55% represented a high number of students transitioning to NDL, often with lower scores the first year; 48% was the result of a school year impacted by COVID-19.

COURSES OFFERED

Schools with one NDL classroom can access any four of the available courses (1 course per each of the four daily blocks). Schools with two NDL classrooms can access eight courses each semester. The longer a school uses NDL programming, a greater variety of courses will be required to accommodate Grade 10, 11, and 12 course needs; eventually two NDL classrooms will be needed.

2021-2022 Course Offerings Gr. 10 Gr. 11 Gr.12

PERIODS	1 st SEMESTER				2nd SEMESTER			
	COURSE OPTIONS BY BLOCK							
1 ST 8:55 – 10:25	SS 20-1	ELA 30-1	Science 10	Art 10	SS 30-1	ELA 20-1	Math 10C	Art 10
2 ND 10:30 – 11:55	*His/Geo 20	ELA 10-1	Physics 20	Biology 20	SS 10-1	ELA 30-1	Chemistry 30	Art 20
3 RD 12:55 – 2:20	SS 10-1	Math 30-1		Art 20	ELA 10-1	Math 20-1		Biology 30
4 TH 2:25 – 3:50	ELA 20-1	Math 10C	Chemistry 20	Art 30	SS 20-1	Physics 20	Science 10	Art 30

*History & Geography 20

2022-2023 Course Offerings Gr. 10 Gr. 11 Gr.12

PERIODS	1 st SEMESTER				2nd SEMESTER			
	COURSE OPTIONS BY BLOCK							
1 ST 8:55 – 10:25	SS 20-1	ELA 30-1	Science 10	Art 10	SS 30-1	ELA 20-1	Math 10C	Art 10
2 ND 10:30 – 11:55	*His/Geo 30	ELA 10-1	Physics 30	Biology 20	SS 10-1	ELA 30-1	Chemistry 30	Art 20
3 RD 12:55 – 2:20	SS 10-1	Math 30-1		Art 20	ELA 10-1	Math 20-1		Biology 30
4 TH 2:25 – 3:50	ELA 20-1	Math 10C	Chemistry 20	Art 30	SS 20-1	Physics 20	Science 10	Art 30

*History & Geography 30

NDL TECHNICAL INFRASTRUCTURE

V-Connect. NDL uses a site-to-site virtual private network (VPN) service called “V-Connect” that provides guaranteed upload and download speeds at the individual NDL school level. V-Connect enables live classes conducted through videoconferencing and ensures uninterrupted services without streaming problems. This network does not provide general internet to the school.

Mondopad. NDL’s host school, East Three Secondary School (E3SS) in Inuvik, uses a communication and collaboration software tool called Mondopad within a large screen to connect up to nine communities simultaneously to any single NDL course. Five NDL rooms at E3SS use this technology to offer a total of 15 courses a semester. Each participating school has one or two Mondopads (one for each NDL classroom).

SIP Servers. NDL uses a “SIP server” (Session Initiation Protocol) that allows remote connections outside V-Connect so that students on the road and southern presenters can join NDL classes.

Surface Pros. NDL students use Microsoft Surface Pros as personal computer devices. A wireless display adapter connected to the Mondopad enables students to share their Surface Pro screens to increase collaboration within the class.

DSL (Digital Subscriber Line). Additional internet bandwidth is used in some schools to supplement the GNWT-provided Digital Communication Network (DCN). This enables a school to have greater bandwidth capacity. NDL students have dedicated wireless access for their class work.

OneNote software. Students use OneNote as their personal digital notebook where they create and annotate content, organize their work, and collaborate with others.

Moodle. Teachers and students use Moodle, an open source (customizable) Learning Management System (LMS). Moodle is used as a repository of course materials, resources, orientations, and teacher profiles. Students who are absent from class can find their work assignments on Moodle. Students submit assignments to the Moodle course page (PDFs, Word docs, etc.).



COURSES

Northern Distance Learning
offers 19 courses

ENGLISH LANGUAGE ARTS (10-1, 20-1, 30-1)
MATH (10C, 20-1, 30-1) • SCIENCE 10
SOCIAL STUDIES (10-1, 20-1, 30-1)
BIOLOGY (20, 30) • PHYSICS (20,30)
CHEMISTRY (20,30) • ART (10, 20, 30)

NOTE: Since the beginning of 2021-2022, NDL has been offering all 19 courses each year, eliminating the practice of only offering some courses every two or three years.

“Having our students first achieve success at home by taking and passing academic courses builds their self-esteem. It gives them a feeling of success first at home, where they are most comfortable. It shows them they are capable and can be successful. These NDL courses prepare them and give them a glimpse of what it will be like to attend post-secondary studies. They are given an opportunity to work hard, study hard and be prepared for college or university.” - School principal