

Government of
Northwest Territories



2019 - 2020

ANNUAL REPORT

On Official Languages

Government of the Northwest Territories

Message from the Minister



I am very pleased to release the 2019-20 Annual Report on Official Languages, which documents the development and progress of official language initiatives of public services and education in the Northwest Territories. Part I of the report describes our official languages and shared institutions, Part II celebrates substantial progress in Indigenous language education and public programs, and Part III honours the continuing strength of public services in French. This report demonstrates the ongoing assurance that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) will protect and uphold the importance of our official languages: Chipewyan, Cree, English,

French, Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, South Slavey and Tłıchǫ.

During the 2019-20 fiscal year, the GNWT continued implementing the *NWT Indigenous Languages Action Plan: A Shared Responsibility* (2018-2022). Guided by this four-year blueprint, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment brought the *Our Languages* curriculum further towards its official release, and made significant progress developing the Indigenous Languages and Education Handbook, *Our People, Our Land, Our Ways, Our Languages*, a user friendly guidebook for educators, which highlights Indigenous worldviews, cultures and languages in our schools.

Government institutions have improved their French language communications and services in various ways. In addition to the GNWT-wide Strategic Plan for French Language Communications and Services, each institution has its own Operating Plan for French Language Communications and Services with goals that relate specifically to their situation. Progress is structured and monitored around those goals.

As the 19th Legislative Assembly completes the first year of its governing mandate, it is important to acknowledge the unprecedented challenges shared by Northerners, Canadians, and indeed all of global civilization. While the COVID-19 public health pandemic has caused our interconnected world to look deeper at the structural barriers to equitable medical care, fairness in the justice system, or meaningful participation in public life, it has never been more important to maintain our ability to talk to one another in the spirit of shared responsibilities. As we continue to treat each other with kindness and empathy through these troubled times, let us also be reminded that our foundational heritage languages are the sources of culture, consensus, collaboration, cooperation and mutual care.

Mársı, kinanāskomitin, Thank you,
Merci, Hąı', Quana, Qujannamiik,
Quyanainni, Máhsı, Máhsı, Mahsi,

Honourable R.J. Simpson
*Minister of Education, Culture
and Employment*

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OFFICIAL LANGUAGES: A TERRITORIAL SHARED RESPONSIBILITY

Language and culture enrich our northern society. Through the Northwest Territories (NWT) *Official Languages Act (OLA)*, the NWT recognizes 11 official languages: English, French, and nine (9) official Indigenous languages—a point of pride to celebrate among the NWT's inter-related network of residents, colleagues and leaders across the country. The nine official Indigenous languages are: Chipewyan (Dëne Sųłíné Yatıé), Cree (nēhiyawēwin), Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey (Sahtúqt'ıne Kedé), South Slavey (Dene Zhatıé) and Tłıchų (Tłıchų Yatıı).

For the purpose of the NWT *OLA*, four NWT communities are considered to represent 'significant demand' for French language communications and services: Yellowknife, Hay River, Fort Smith and Inuvik. Indigenous languages are spoken in communities of all sizes: from Ulukhaktok and Fort Resolution to Inuvik, Fort Simpson, Behchokò, and all places in between. Francophones and speakers of all northern Indigenous languages have also called Yellowknife their home for many years.

Northern language communities extend into all provinces and territories, across international borders, and over oceans. Our official languages know no borders.

The *OLA* recognizes that preserving and enhancing the use of official languages is a shared responsibility of the Legislative Assembly, the Government of the Northwest Territories, and NWT language communities. The *OLA* establishes that three legislated bodies play a role in protecting,

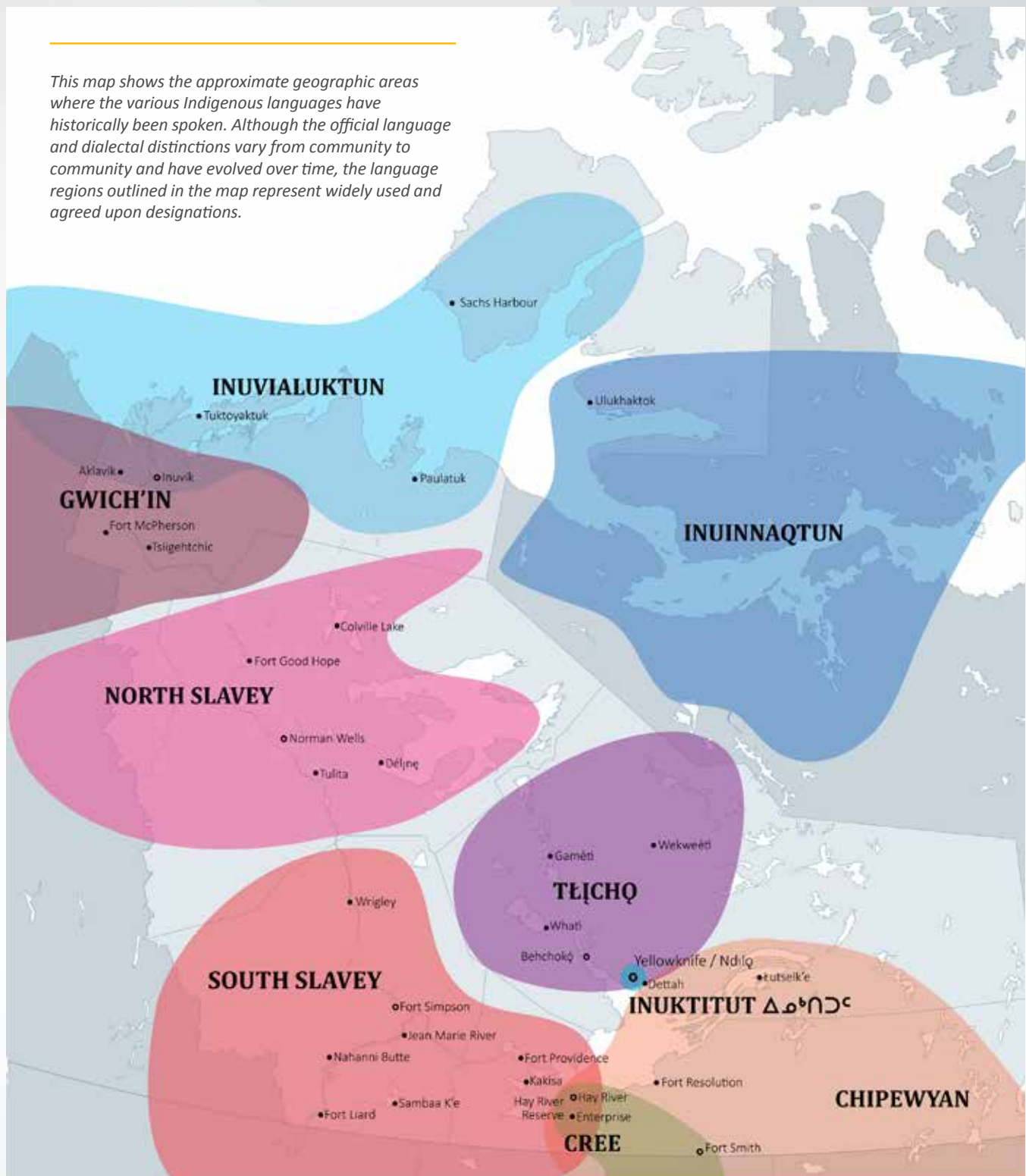


revitalizing and promoting Indigenous languages in the NWT:

- NWT Languages Commissioner;
- Minister Responsible for the *OLA*; and
- Two Ministerial advisory boards:
 - Official Languages Board; and,
 - Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board.

Guided by the leadership of the legislated bodies, the Government of Canada, regional Indigenous Governments, the Francophone Affairs Secretariat, and the Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat also work to strengthen, promote and celebrate northern languages.

This map shows the approximate geographic areas where the various Indigenous languages have historically been spoken. Although the official language and dialectal distinctions vary from community to community and have evolved over time, the language regions outlined in the map represent widely used and agreed upon designations.



FRENCH is mostly spoken in Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik, and Yellowknife.
ENGLISH is spoken throughout the Northwest Territories.

Part I: Official Languages

Legislated Roles

NWT Languages Commissioner

The Commissioner of the NWT, on the recommendation of the Legislative Assembly, appoints a Languages Commissioner to exercise the powers and perform the duties set out in the *OLA*, and hold office for up to four years. In extraordinary circumstances, an Acting Languages Commissioner or Special Languages Commissioner can be appointed temporarily.

In performing their role, the Languages Commissioner may take all actions and measures within their authority to ensure recognition of the rights, status and privileges of the Official Languages of the NWT and compliance with the *OLA* by Government institutions.

The Languages Commissioner can also investigate allegations which claim that the *OLA* has been violated.

The current Languages Commissioner, Shannon Gullberg, has served NWT residents in the role since October 2015. Although her term expired on October 31, 2019, her appointment and mandate have been temporarily extended while

the 19th Legislative Assembly undertakes the search for a new Languages Commissioner. For more information about the Office of the Languages Commissioner, including annual and special reports, visit: www.olc-nt.ca.

Minister Responsible for the *OLA*

The Minister of Education, Culture, and Employment (ECE) also performs the duties of Minister Responsible for the *OLA* as established in the *OLA*.

The Minister sets the general direction and coordination of the GNWT's official language policies and programs, considers recommendations of the advisory boards, promotes official languages education in early learning centres, schools, adult education, and literacy programs, and encourages language revitalization and maintenance. The Minister is also responsible for preparing the Annual Report on Official Languages and presenting it to the Legislative Assembly.

NWT Languages Boards

The *OLA* establishes two Ministerial advisory boards: the Official Languages Board (OLB) and the Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board (ALRB). Appointments to the OLB and ALRB are made by the Commissioner in Executive Council on the recommendation of the Minister, and on the nomination of the prescribed representative of each of the language communities. Board appointees must be NWT residents and serve two-year terms.

In 2019-20, the members of the OLB and ALRB completed the second year of their two-year terms. All of the board members' terms expired in the 2019-20 fiscal year, except for the French alternate member, whose term expires October 2020. ECE sought to receive nominations and appointments to the two boards will be made in the coming weeks.

For the past few years, members and alternate representatives of Indigenous language communities have served on both the OLB and ALRB. This consistency is in preparation for the anticipated amalgamation of the two boards. Amalgamating the two boards was a recommendation of the 2009

and 2015 Standing Committee on Government Operations' (SCOGO) reviews of the *OLA*. The amalgamation was also supported through a motion passed by the OLB and ALRB in April 2015. It is expected to be completed following the current review of the *OLA* by SCOGO, alongside additional

amendments to the *OLA* expected to be recommended.

The prescribed nominating bodies listed in the OLB and ALRB regulations for Inuktitut and English are not active. In 2019, ECE reached out to the Yellowknifemut Inuit Kattujigatigiit to nominate

a member to represent the NWT Inuktitut language community on the OLB and ALRB.

ECE has not reached out to any organization to seek out an English representative on the OLB.

Official Languages Board and Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board Representatives		
Language	Member	Alternate
Cree	Vance Sanderson	Mary Cardinal
Inuvialuktun	Vacant	Betty Elias
Inuinnaqtun	Emily Kudlak	Joshua Oliktoak
Gwich'in	Eleanor Mitchell-Firth	Karen Mitchell
Chipewyan	Angie Lantz	Mary Rose Sundberg
North Slavey	Leonard Kenny	Bella T'seleie
South Slavey	Jonas Landry	Sarah Gargan
Tłıchq	Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault	Declined to nominate alternate
French (Official Languages Board only)	Richard Létourneau	Linda Bussey
English (Official Languages Board only)	Nominating body as prescribed in <i>OLA</i> Regulations does not exist.	
Inuktitut	Nominating body as prescribed in <i>OLA</i> Regulations does not exist.	

Official Languages Board and Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board Members and Alternate Representatives (as of November 2019).



Part I: Official Languages

Canada-NWT Agreement on Languages

In May 2017, the Government of Canada (Department of Canadian Heritage) and the Government of the Northwest Territories signed a renewed Canada-NWT Agreement on French Language Services and Indigenous Languages (Agreement). The guarantee of an increased multi-year funding allocation fulfilled a mandate commitment of the 18th Legislative Assembly to strengthen culture and heritage in the NWT by working with the Government of

Canada towards an unprecedented 4-year agreement, which allowed the strengthening of existing programs and services and the development of innovative and exciting new initiatives.

2019-20 saw the final year of the four-year Agreement that provided federal funding to the GNWT to support education and public services in the nine official Indigenous languages

(\$5,900,000 in 2019-20) and for French (\$5,500,000 in 2019-20). Continued federal funding supported a range of language revitalization programming, initiatives, training opportunities, partnerships and community activities. Federal support also enabled the development and resourcing of innovative territory-wide language initiatives like the draft *Our Languages* curriculum.



Ulukhaktok (photo by Tessa Macintosh, 2011).



Part II: Indigenous Languages

NWT INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES: BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE

The NWT is unique among Canadian jurisdictions in honouring and providing provisions for the language-speaking communities of the Dene, Métis, Inuvialuit, and Cree First Peoples of the North: Chipewyan (Dëne Sųłné Yatıé), Cree (nēhiyawēwin), Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey (Sahtúqt'ıne Kedé), South Slavey (Dene Zhatıé) and Tłıchų (Tłıchų Yatıı).

Indigenous Governments

The Indigenous Governments in the NWT lead and manage their own Indigenous language revitalization initiatives developed in collaboration with community stakeholders in their government offices, schools and early learning centres. The Indigenous Governments also recommend appointments to the NWT Languages Boards.

Through positive relationships with community partners and

ECE, the Indigenous Governments support and fund a wide range of independent or collaborative projects that aim to revitalize and promote Indigenous languages. Through regular communication, consultation events, and cooperative meetings, they live their shared responsibility for language revitalization.

In 2019-20, the GNWT distributed \$4,834,000 to regional Indigenous

Governments through three-year contribution agreements. Through this guaranteed multi-year funding, regional Indigenous Governments were able to complete long-term planning, deepen their strategic outlook, and design initiatives with a broader scope. The funds support the implementation of activities and resources detailed in regional Indigenous language plans (RILPs).

Indigenous Government	Language(s) supported
Akaiicho Territory Government	Chipewyan / Cree / Tłıchų
Dehcho First Nations	South Slavey
Gwich'in Tribal Council	Gwich'in
Inuvialuit Regional Corporation	Inuinnaqtun / Inuvialuktun
Northwest Territory Métis Nation	Cree / Chipewyan
Sahtú Dene Council	North Slavey
Tłıchų Government	Tłıchų

Official Indigenous languages managed by Regional Indigenous Governments.

Highlights of Indigenous Government Programs and Initiatives



Akaiitcho Territory Government (ATG)

Vision:

That Chipewyan is recognized, respected and spoken in homes and the community.

Goals:

- Keep the Chipewyan languages alive and strong;
- Have all members and residents speaking the language as part of their everyday lives;
- Work together with partners to revitalize the language;
- Develop quality materials;
- Develop a resource centre;
- Professionalize language services and supports;
- Capacity development.

Highlights:

- During the 2019-20 fiscal year, the Akaiitcho Territory Government (ATG) administered the Regional Aboriginal Language Program and distributed most of the funding to the Akaiitcho member First Nations,

consisting of the Deninu Kųę First Nation (DKFN), the Łutselk'e Dene First Nation (LDFN), and the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN). The program consists of the four main areas within the ATG 2017-2019 Language Plan, namely Language Learning, Networking and Sharing, Promotional Items, and Staff, Administration, and Other;

- In 2019-20, the YKDFN delivered a number of language programs in Dettah, Ndilo, and Yellowknife, including: interviewing and photographing Elders; translating and transcribing Elder stories; researching old recordings; developing a collection of YKDFN history; and organizing six-weeks of language class programs (May, June, November and December 2019). Youth expressed interest in classes and to obtain language materials to pursue language learning on their own, so the YKDFN provided material for the youth to review and answer questions. Cultural activities such as hide tanning were conducted in Wıłłıdeh and Chipewyan to explain where the hide came from, the tools used, and the process of tanning from start to finish. Various Aboriginal Day and YKDFN Week activities invited youth, Elders, and community members to hear stories from Elders, participate in program networking, and share recommendations on language classes, programming,

and cultural enhancement through storytelling. Members also attended three language conferences in the south to learn new skills, gain knowledge, share resources, collect teaching materials, and learn from others about how to improve community and language development;

- During 2019-20, the LDFN offered sessions with language speakers to review language structure and vowel sounds and promote language use, learning, and development. Popular 'no English' Dene Yati Bingos were held with community members to share ideas, interact, listen, teach, and learn from each other about language development. A Dene Yati Language Immersion Camp was held on the land for youth aged 10-17 where no English was spoken during all traditional activities so youth could engage with and learn words in Denesuline. Denesuline language workbooks were also created, based on the language and traditional knowledge to be used during the immersion camp;
- Last year, the DKFN organized Elder storytelling, distributed Chipewyan-English books to schools and daycares, offered sewing classes, and hosted weekly craft nights.

Part II: Indigenous Languages



Dehcho First Nations (DFN)

Vision:

The Dene language of the Dehcho will be maintained as an important part of all social, cultural and political activities and will be the main language used for Dehcho Dene culture and values. The Dehcho Elders will assist in the planning, preserving and developing of the Dene language through traditional community consultations, in the context of healthy lifestyles.

Goals:

- Taking back our language: To preserve the traditional pronunciation and use of our language;
- Immersion in our language: To encourage the use of our language in day-to-day life;
- Community Involvement and Support: To allow all of our communities and community members to be familiar with and participate in regional

language activities and encourage widespread coordination and support for language activities;

- Guidelines: To ensure that all language activities meet minimum standards;
- Training: To ensure access to all required training and certifications.

Highlights:

- In 2019-20, the Dehcho First Nations (DFN) developed a series of six short videos interlinked with six booklet resources. The series incorporated language lessons centered on Dene protocol, on the land activities, cultural activities, medicinal plant identification, and traditional food preparation. A videographer was made available and attended the camp to take videos that corresponded with the booklets. The video and booklet series will be made available to interested language speakers and posted on the DFN website. The resources will also be distributed to the communities to use as resource to promote, preserve and revitalize the Dene Zhatie language;
- In October 2019, the DFN organized the Dehcho Dene Zhatie Sharing Gathering at the Hay River Reserve co-facilitated by Andy Norwegian and Violet Jumbo. The gathering brought together participants from the Dehcho region, including language speakers, experts, Elders, youth,

young adults, and organization staff. The goals of the event were to strengthen, promote, and support continued language development and to develop language resources.



Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC)

Vision:

In three years, the Gwich'in participants will be actively participating in, and benefiting from an active language revitalization process that has shifted from language initiatives that develop awareness of basic knowledge of the Gwich'in language to those that develop language fluency.

Goals:

- Language Resources: Increase availability and accessibility of language resources;
- Language Learning: Increase opportunities for authentic language learning in a safe and supportive environment;
- Networking & Sharing: Increase opportunities for sharing resources across regions and organizations;
- Promotional Activities: Increase the importance of Aboriginal languages in the NWT.

Highlights:

- Throughout 2019-20, the Gwich'in Tribal Council (GTC) made significant advances in Dinjii Zhuh ginjik (Gwich'in language) revitalization. With the hard work of committed Elders and community members, the GTC started two new immersion language nests, and developed learning resources for teachers, children, and adult learners. These resources include early reader storybooks and curriculum materials with text and audio in both the Teet'it and Gwichyah Gwich'in dialects;
- In the past year the GTC worked with translators to help bring language into the broader community. A two day terminology workshop was held, bringing together translators and Elders from all four of their communities. In order to strengthen existing programs, GTC worked closely with the University of Victoria to create and run immersion teacher training for Elders and early childhood teachers. In partnership with

ECE, the GTC developed materials and programs for school and community programs. One of these programs is the Mentor Apprentice Program, now entering its third year;

- *Nokhwagwitr'it gwijizii geenjit mahsi' choo nokhwahnuh!*



Part II: Indigenous Languages



Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC)

Vision:

Inuvialuktun¹ and Inuinnaqtun will be the main means of communication that connects Inuvialuit with our past, strengthens our social, emotional and spiritual well-being, and reinforces the importance of our traditions, culture, and modern way of life as follows:

- Revitalize and celebrate Inuvialuit cultural identity and values;
- Exercise stewardship over Inuvialuit lands;
- Improve the capacity and well-being of individuals, families and communities by:
 - Promoting healthier lifestyles;
 - Supporting educational development.
- Continue to assert Inuvialuit rights and benefits through

implementation of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

- Economics;
- Governance.
- Take an evidence-based decision-making approach to policy development and advocacy;
- Manage optimally the human, physical and financial resources of the Inuvialuit Corporate Group.

Goals:

- Revitalize and celebrate Inuvialuit cultural identity, values, and the revitalization of the Inuvialuktun language.

Language - Sustain the Inuvialuktun language and increase its everyday use.

- Develop Inuvialuktun curricula and curriculum resource materials, including the publication and distribution of Inuvialuktun teaching and learning resources;
- Promote the use of Inuvialuktun in Child Development Centres and in elementary and secondary school curriculum and classrooms;
- Support the development and uptake of Inuvialuktun learning programs;
- Reinforce and continue the development of written Inuvialuit drum dance songs;
- Develop and implement a long-term Inuvialuktun language plan.

Culture - Affirm the traditions and culture of Inuvialuit as an everyday part of life.

- Awareness of Culture:
 - Plan, manage, document and publicize significant events in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.
- Arts and Crafts:
 - Develop a strategy that supports expanding the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation (IRC) Craft Shop, e.g. opportunities for Inuvialuit artisans.
- Social and On the Land Activities:
 - Hold greater control over Inuvialuit culture by implementing the Inuvialuit Cultural Plan and programming working closely with the Cultural Committee, Inuvialuit Communications Society, Community Wellness Division, Community Economic Development Organization, Human Resources, Craft Shop, and the community corporations;
 - In collaboration with community corporations, develop a feasibility plan for drum dance groups, traditional Inuvialuit games, and on the land activities.

¹ Inuvialuktun is a term that describes a group of related language varieties and dialects: Sallirmiutun, Uummarmiutun, and Kangiryuarmiutun/Inuinnaqtun.

History - Showcase and celebrate Inuvialuit history.

- Digitize the archives and recordings to increase accessibility and use:
 - Committee for Original Peoples Entitlement (COPE) archives and recordings;
 - Inuvialuit Communications Society (ICS) archives and recordings.
- Develop and implement a digital photo archive strategy;
- Develop a plan to document the Elders and traditional knowledge;
- Publish more stories and legends. This will be ongoing.

Highlights:

- In 2019-20, the IRC funded community language revitalization projects throughout the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, including Siglitun language classes, kammak-making and Inuvialuktun lessons, traditional storytelling and sewing classes, and traditional atikluk-making classes;
- The Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre (ICRC) also provided financial support to early childhood development centres in Aklavik, Ulukhaktok, Tuktoyaktuk, Paulatuk, and Inuvik;
- The ICRC provided Inuvialuktun language support to language instructors in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region through language resources, translation services, language materials and sewing patterns in all three dialects;
- The ICRC continued development of various ongoing projects, including the *Shingle Point Residential School Book*, the *Bessie Quirt Diary*, the Digital Library North website, the *Remembering Schooners* and *The Long Crossing Story Books*, as well as phase two of the Inuvialuit *Living History*. The ICRC also continued to be involved in Atausiq Inuktut Titirauisq board planning.

Part II: Indigenous Languages



Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NTMN)

Vision:

To make languages visible and spoken amongst youth to Elder speakers, by strengthening culture in our communities.

Goals:

- Revitalize languages through:
 - Film production;
 - Learning materials;
 - Radio broadcasting;
 - Evening classes;
 - More signage in communities;
 - Maintaining languages office;
 - Support community events.

Highlights:

- Throughout the 2019-20 fiscal year, the Northwest Territory Métis Nation (NTMN) developed various resource materials, including a revised edition of the *miyo'pimatisiwin* ('good life') cookbook which includes both old and new traditional recipes from South Slave region communities;
- The NTMN language program also updated the popular multi-year calendar that features submissions from talented northern photographers and will be published in three languages: Cree, Chipewyan, and Michif;
- A multi-lingual, medicinal chaga guide was brought closer to publication, to be produced in a durable material for on the land learning—the guide provides photo identity and important knowledge shared by Elders on proper harvesting of the fungi that grows from birch wood. The *Trails and Overflow* family board game and language learning tool was also advanced towards release in three languages;
- In 2019-20, the NTMN continued the 'language hoodie' language challenge, distributing clothing as a high visibility promotion of language and public engagement—exchanged phrases also become part of a collaborative poster campaign;
- In 2019-20, the NTMN partnered with CKLB to continue developing a community radio station by constructing a transmission tower and broadcasting in three languages, Michif, Cree and Chipewyan;
- This past year, the NTMN also partnered with Northern and Kaeser's stores, two of the largest businesses in the South Slave, to develop store signage and QR coding for all products.



Promotional clothing item produced by the NWT Métis Nation Cree Program (photo provided by Vance Sanderson)



Sahtú Dene Council (SDC)

Vision:

The North Slavey language and culture will be strong and people will be proud. Our children will know their language and culture. There will be strong knowledge of Dene Laws for the whole community and for the youth.

Language Goals:

- Increase the number of North Slavey speakers in the Sahtú, and expand the domains in which the North Slavey language of the Sahtú are spoken.

Supporting Objective:

- Increase the number of people in the Sahtú who are able to understand, interpret and communicate in the North Slavey language.

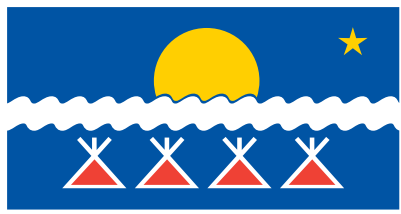
Highlights:

- Throughout 2019-20, the Sahtú Dene Council (SDC) language revitalization program funded and participated in language and culture activities in communities throughout the region. Specific language projects and traditional cultural programs have included on

the land fish and moose hide tanning camps, literacy events, phrasebook development, and story and song kits for new mothers. Summer language camps were also organized in 2019;

- In March 2020, Sahtú communities also hosted on the land events—to isolate in the bush in response to the COVID-19 outbreak, to spend time with families, to heal, and to teach our youth to practice our traditional skills and activities on the land, just as our Elders always remind us.

Part II: Indigenous Languages



Tłıchǫ Government (TG)

Vision:

It is our vision that the Tłıchǫ language be heard in all settings within the Tłıchǫ region. That all community members, Tłıchǫ and non-Tłıchǫ continue to learn and practice Tłıchǫ on a regular basis. We all need to share in the responsibility by actively promoting the language, preserving the language, celebrating the language by using the language as much as possible on a daily basis. If followed through, this will assist families to become stronger in Tłıchǫ Yatı and hopefully one day we will have Tłıchǫ Yatı as a first language again.

Goals:

It is our goal to have the language used regularly on a daily basis in all community settings; the

home, at school, in government and throughout the community. Through a variety of activities and projects geared for all ages, such as a Tłıchǫ drama group, an evening Tłıchǫ radio show, a variety night, Elder interviews, regular updates to the Tłıchǫ Dictionary and apps, etc. we will strive to increase Tłıchǫ in our region. This will ensure that everyone is assisting with language revitalization efforts to boost Tłıchǫ Yatı fluency strengthening our heritage language in this region. We must remember that success is only achieved through effort.

Highlights:

- In 2019-20, the Tłıchǫ Government (TG) distributed language learning posters in the four Tłıchǫ communities, acquired bush radios and recording equipment, and planned an on the land language course. The Tłıchǫ Government sponsored 16 students to attend the Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI) in Edmonton, hosted sewing nights, and coordinated

the pilot Mentor-Apprentice program which helped teams in our region complete 50 hours or more of immersive language learning;

- In September 2019, Tłıchǫ community members attended ECE language instructor training in Yellowknife. In November 2019, TG language program staff and community members attended the Language Keepers Gathering in Saskatoon. The first ever Tłıchǫ-only Christmas talent show was also held in Behchokǫ with a program featuring digital storytelling and 'Speak Tłıchǫ To Me' shirts and stickers;
- The Tłıchǫ radio station received a lot of help from CKLB to get the equipment and space ready for airing. The hosts received additional training and we are all looking forward to the launch of our own radio station!
- Tłıchǫ Language Services was contracted to assist the TG research and language department with translation and transcription.



Dene medicines, Samba K'e (photo by Tessa Macintosh, 2007).

Part II: Indigenous Languages



Gladys Alexie teaches Gwich'in in Fort McPherson (photo by Tessa Macintosh, 2017).

INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND EDUCATION SECRETARIAT

In 2014, ECE established the Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat (ILES) to support the preservation, promotion and revitalization of Indigenous languages throughout the NWT, and to improve access to GNWT services in Indigenous languages. Although it has been in operation for five years, ILES has been hard at work with its partners towards launching and planning Indigenous language initiatives, activities and projects geared towards strengthening Indigenous languages in the NWT. ILES provides support to regional

Indigenous Governments and Indigenous language and culture-based education programs and organizations. ILES also works with GNWT departments to support their efforts to offer Indigenous languages services to the public.

Through the shared responsibility with its partners, some of the Indigenous language and education initiatives that ILES leads include:

- The *NWT Indigenous Languages Framework and Action Plan: A Shared Responsibility (2018-2022)*;
- Indigenous Languages Month (February);
- NWT Indigenous Languages Facebook Page;
- Indigenous Languages Broadcasting;
- Community Radio Stations;
- Revitalizing Indigenous Languages in Communities Program;
- Language Training and Development Programs; and,
- Territorial Indigenous Languages Strategic Initiatives.

NWT Indigenous Languages Action Plan: A Shared Responsibility (2018-2022)

The GNWT launched the new *NWT Indigenous Languages Action Plan: A Shared Responsibility (2018-2022)* (Action Plan) in a celebration that took place at the Legislative Assembly in May 2018 with the Minister of Education, Culture and Employment and NWT Languages Board Chair announcing the groundbreaking importance of this critical blueprint for Indigenous languages and education in the NWT. The Action Plan outlines a set of clear deliverables over four years that support Indigenous language revitalization and access to language services in the NWT and builds on the overall vision of the *NWT Aboriginal Languages Framework* that was launched in the previous year.

The second year of implementing the Action Plan was 2019-20, and ECE continued to work toward achieving

the 17 action items in partnership with regional Indigenous Governments and other GNWT departments and agencies.

Revitalizing languages is a collaborative effort, which enlists the energy and commitment of Elders, learners, individuals, families, communities, public servants, volunteers, non-government organizations, and governments. The Action Plan outlines the targets that will advance initiatives to revitalize and improve services in Indigenous languages in the NWT by identifying the vision, goals and priority areas for all Northerners.

The Action Plan identifies two overarching shared goals to achieve the vision:

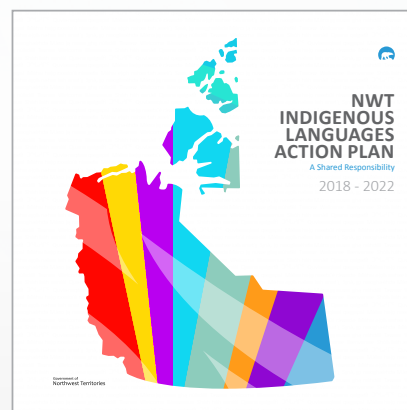
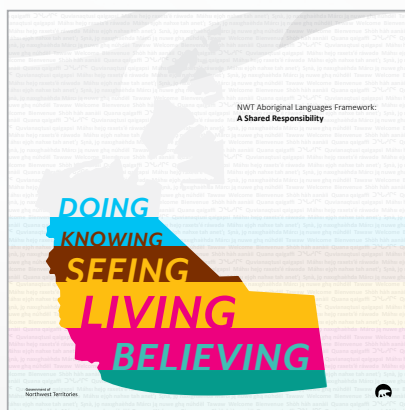
Language Revitalization: All people in the NWT maintain the strength of Indigenous languages as a means of communication and as a connection to culture.

Language Access: All people in the NWT are able to use and benefit from high-quality public services in all official Indigenous languages.

Once the two goals are combined with the three priorities of **Policy**, **Advocacy**, and **Programs and Resources**, six distinct priority areas emerge, which organize activities undertaken by the GNWT over a four-year period.

SHARED VISION

An NWT where Indigenous languages are supported, respected and thriving as languages of communication by all people.



Part II: Indigenous Languages

	Priorities	Language Revitalization	Language Access
POLICY	Policy helps explain how visions and goals can be turned into reality. Policy influences and affects the way people use languages, and can ensure that future generations have ongoing support to create an environment where people can learn, communicate and celebrate their language.	Establish a comprehensive plan to emphasize Indigenous language protection, revitalization and modernization.	Establish a comprehensive plan to address access to services in Indigenous languages.
ADVOCACY	There is an ongoing need to raise awareness across the NWT about Indigenous languages. People need accurate and up-to-date information to affect change and to promote Indigenous languages. Residents, leaders and government employees are all responsible for promoting, protecting and revitalizing Indigenous languages.	Acknowledge and affirm the importance of Indigenous languages in the NWT.	Acknowledge and uphold the legal obligations to Indigenous languages across all levels of government.
PROGRAMS & RESOURCES	The success of Indigenous languages in the NWT depends on the ability of residents to communicate and contribute in their language. Delivering programs and developing resources will equip NWT residents with the skills, knowledge and confidence to support and strengthen the NWT's Indigenous languages.	Develop community capacity in Indigenous language revitalization.	Develop the resources and capacity to deliver services in Indigenous languages.

Within the distinct priority areas, 17 actions, or broad areas of work, guide the priorities of the Action Plan. Each of these lists a number of deliverables or tasks, projects, and initiatives that ILES and partners work towards completing during the

four-year life of the Action Plan.

The Action Plan reflects the changing social and political landscape of the North over the past few decades, and captures the advice and recommendations of Elders,

speakers, advisory committees, and Indigenous Northerners. As well, the Action Plan was informed by the following seminal language reports that were written with extensive territory-wide engagement and consultation:

- *Special Committee Review of the Official Languages Act: One Land, Many Voices* (2003);
- *Standing Committee on Government Operation's Review of the Official*

Languages Act: Reality Check: Securing a Future for the Official Languages of the NWT (2009);

- *NWT Aboriginal Languages Plan: A Shared Responsibility* (2010);

- *NWT Aboriginal Languages Framework: A Shared Responsibility* (2017).

Goal 1: Language Revitalization

All people in the NWT maintain the strength of Indigenous languages as a means of communication and as a connection to culture.

POLICY:

Establish a comprehensive plan to emphasize Indigenous language protection, revitalization and modernization

ACTION 1.1

Manage Federal and Territorial funding for Indigenous languages.

ACTION 1.2

Recognize and affirm the need for language protection, revitalization and maintenance for all NWT Indigenous Languages.

ADVOCACY:

Acknowledge and affirm the importance of Indigenous languages in the NWT

ACTION 1.3

Use surveys to better understand language proficiency and people's attitudes towards Indigenous languages in the NWT.

ACTION 1.4

Launch a campaign that promotes the importance of Indigenous language use and increases respect for Indigenous languages throughout the NWT.

ACTION 1.5

Establish guidelines around the inclusion of Indigenous languages in GNWT communications.

ACTION 1.6

Recognize and celebrate outstanding leadership and contributions in Indigenous language revitalization.

PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES:

Develop community capacity in Indigenous language revitalization

ACTION 1.7

Support NWT communities and organizations to create and offer effective

Indigenous language learning and revitalization initiatives.

ACTION 1.8

Offer language revitalization training opportunities to Indigenous language partners.

ACTION 1.9

Support and host meetings and gatherings for Indigenous Language champions, advocates and partners to share promising practices, build relationships and network with each other.

ACTION 1.10

Support the production of diverse forms of Indigenous language media, including radio, web content and magazines.

Goal 2: Language Access

All people in the NWT are able to use and benefit from high-quality public services in all official Indigenous languages.

POLICY:

Establish a comprehensive plan to address access to services in Indigenous languages

ACTION 2.1

Update official languages regulations, policy and guidelines to improve access to public services in Indigenous languages.

ADVOCACY:

Acknowledge and uphold the legal obligations to Indigenous languages across all levels of government

ACTION 2.2

Educate GNWT employees on their role in providing Indigenous languages services as laid out in the *Official Languages Guidelines*.

ACTION 2.3

Develop a promotional campaign on the *Official Languages Act* and access to Indigenous language services in the NWT.

PROGRAMS AND RESOURCES:

Develop the resources and capacity to deliver services in Indigenous languages

ACTION 2.4

Support and offer training on interpretation and translation to new and existing NWT interpreters and translators.

ACTION 2.5

Support GNWT Departments to be able to offer improved public services in Indigenous languages as outlined in the *Official Languages Guidelines*.

ACTION 2.6

Expand and improve Indigenous language programs in NWT schools and early childhood programs.

ACTION 2.7

Renew the *Aboriginal Languages and Culture Based Education Directive*.

Part II: Indigenous Languages

Indigenous Languages Month

Through Indigenous Languages Month (ILM) celebrations held in February 2020, the Department of ECE honored bilingual GNWT employees, supported commemorative community events, and partnered with a community organization to promote the importance of Indigenous language use throughout the NWT.

ECE once again recognized the contributions of public servants who speak Indigenous languages through the Bilingual Employees Recognition

Initiative which featured celebratory *News/North*, *L'Aquilon*, and *BearNet* advertisements. These high-visibility advertisements honour the contribution of GNWT bilingual employees to their workplace and encourage a broader use of languages in all aspects of our lives.

Indigenous Governments were offered special event funding grants in the amount of \$1,000 to organize celebratory 'bannock and tea' socials, which doubled the grant from \$500 in previous years. These events were

also cross-promoted on the NWT Indigenous Languages and Education Facebook page.

In partnership with ECE, the NWT Literacy Council launched a social media campaign which promoted the theme 'Say It With Me' throughout February 2020. The campaign featured informational and empowering blog posts and distributed keepsake items.



Please visit the NWT Indigenous Languages and Education Facebook page: www.facebook.com/NWTIndigenousLanguagesandeducation/

NWT Indigenous Languages and Education Facebook Page

ILES administers the NWT Indigenous Languages and Education (ILE) Facebook page. The page connects many NWT residents with news and resources about Indigenous language revitalization. It also celebrates language revitalization success stories, shares promising practices, and raises the profile of Indigenous languages online. Social media is a powerful tool for telling our stories and learning from each other wherever we are in the world.

In 2019-20, numerous NWT ILE Facebook posts highlighted news, events, and resources stemming from the International Year of Indigenous Languages including coverage of local initiatives and language exemplars.

Other posts involved the NWT's Indigenous Languages Month and deadline notices for applications to the Indigenous Languages Revitalization Scholarship Program and for the second cohort to register for the *Certificate of Indigenous Language Revitalization* Program.

Participants of the Mentor-Apprentice Program were particularly active on Facebook in sharing their experiences and these short clips were reposted to the ILE Facebook page.

The ILE Facebook page also connects to the regional Indigenous Government Facebook pages and those of partner organizations, such as the NWT Literacy Council.

2019-20 Highlights	
Total posts	41
Most reached post	4,616
Total page likes by end of fiscal year	1,823

Part II: Indigenous Languages

Indigenous Language Broadcasting

Indigenous language broadcasting provides a medium for the communication and transmission of vital information and is a tool to reclaim, revitalize and promote Indigenous languages. The health of a language is linked to the number of domains in which it is used.

Radio and television are important domains of language-use that increase language vitality. These

media provide spaces where people can listen to their leaders, Elders, and other prominent language speakers.

Indigenous language radio and broadcasting societies also provide an important source of employment for Indigenous people who speak their language. Most importantly, it raises the status of the language in a time where English and French are dominant languages, visible in every

aspect of daily life.

ECE supports Indigenous language broadcasting through funding for communications societies, and the Community Broadcasting Support Program.

Funding for Communications Societies

Indigenous Broadcasting organizations produce and distribute news releases, as well as radio, film, and television programming in NWT Indigenous languages.

In 2019-20, ECE contributed a combined total of \$878,000 to the Inuvialuit Communication Society (ICS) and the Native Communications Society of the NWT (NCS).

ICS showcases the voices, people, heritage and culture of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region through broadcast media, websites, full service film production, photography, and print publications like the magazine *Tusaayaksat*.

To learn more about the ICS, visit:
<https://www.facebook.com/TheInuvialuitCommunicationsSociety/>

NCS's mission is to revitalize, strengthen and preserve Indigenous cultures through radio and television communications technology, and new media as developed. They aim to provide quality Indigenous programming to educate, inform, entertain and raise awareness of Indigenous cultures, languages, music, values, and beliefs.

To learn more about the NCS, visit:
<http://ncsnwt.com/about/>



Community Broadcasting Support Program

In 2019-20, the Community Broadcasting Support Program continued to provide funding to support community radio stations to deliver locally developed programming, and Indigenous language radio news stories. The program allows eligible community organizations to apply for multi-year contribution agreements up to a maximum of \$10,000 to offset

operational costs, equipment purchases, program development, and broadcaster training for small community radio stations in the NWT.

The following community organizations each received \$10,000 funding through the Community Broadcasting Support Program:

- Denesuline Radio Society;
- CHFP Radio Society;
- Hamlet of Aklavik;
- Fort McPherson Radio Society;
- Tulita Dene Band;
- Hay River Broadcasting Society;
- Kátł'odeeche First Nation;
- Liidlii Kue First Nation;
- Délıne Got'ıne Government;
- Hamlet of Paulatuk;
- Jean Marie River First Nation.



Part II: Indigenous Languages



Revitalizing Indigenous Languages in Communities Program

Every Indigenous language community in the NWT find themselves at different stages of language revitalization in terms of speakers, community capacity, and education. Language learning and revitalization also occurs in various forms and approaches. In recognition of this diversity, ECE has developed programs and community partnerships to offer a wide variety of training opportunities and educational programming to achieve these goals. The Revitalizing Indigenous Languages in Communities Program (RILIC) focuses on pilot programs

developed in partnership with regional Indigenous Governments, Aurora College, and the University of Victoria.

In 2019-20, the following organizations and projects were allocated funding through RILIC:

- **Aurora College Tuktoyaktuk Community Learning Centre:** project entitled *“Learning from the Past: Revitalizing the Inuvialuktun Language in Tuk”* that organized language classes twice a week from September to March;
- **NWT pilot CILR Program:** supported the Aurora College/ University of Victoria partnership to run a *Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization* program for NWT students;
- **NWT pilot Mentor-Apprentice Program:** launched in partnership with the Dehcho First Nations, the Tłıchǫ Government, and the Gwich’in Tribal Council who supported and administered over 30 mentor-apprentice pairs engaged in immersive language learning.

Language Training and Development Program

Through the Indigenous Language Training and Development fund, ECE supported training opportunities for community members engaged in language revitalization activities and programs by either sponsoring courses or offering scholarships:

- **CILLDI Program:** sponsored community members to attend linguistic courses organized through the University of Alberta's Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute;
- **Indigenous Languages Revitalization Scholarship:** awarded scholarships of \$5,000 to students pursuing post-secondary studies in the field of Indigenous Languages Revitalization.

NWT Pilot CILR Program

In 2019, ECE's ILES continued to partner with Aurora College and the University of Victoria to recruit and sponsor students to pursue a pilot NWT *Certificate in Indigenous Languages Revitalization* (CILR) at Aurora College's Yellowknife campus.

The goal of the CILR program is "to support communities in language revitalization initiatives, by strengthening understanding of the complex context and characteristics of language loss, maintenance, and recovery, and by developing knowledge of strategies and successes in language revitalization in communities. The program honours traditional knowledge and practices to reach a diverse group of learners. It provides the foundation for language activism, language

learning, community language programming, and further study in linguistics, education, and related areas" (University of Victoria, 2018).

The partnership with University of Victoria offered the added advantage of providing a graduated pathway to advanced studies up to the Bachelor of Education level with an Indigenous language focus. Some highlights of the 2019-20 pilot NWT CILR Program include:

- A second cohort began their studies in Fall 2019;
- The program was offered in the Aurora College's Continuing Education field, as the course was geared towards working professionals;
- The program was offered over a two-year period with eight courses delivered in a six-day intensive long weekend approach – December 2018 to March 2020;
- A pilot Mentor Apprentice Program (see below) was organized and offered to students as part of their Indigenous Language Mentorship coursework; and,
- All students in the CILR Program received the Indigenous Languages Scholarship to support their learning and related costs.

Part II: Indigenous Languages



Mentor-Apprentice Program pilot participants at Aurora College, Yellowknife campus (photo by Tessa Macintosh, 2019).



NWT Pilot Mentor-Apprentice Program

In the fall of 2019, ILES partnered with three Indigenous governments to pilot a Mentor-Apprentice Program (MAP) for up to 36 mentor-apprentice teams across the Northwest Territories. The three Indigenous Governments were the Dehcho First Nations, Gwich'in Tribal Council, and Tłıchǫ Government. The participating governments sent 10 to 12 teams each to a MAP

training workshop organized by ILES on September 18-19, 2019 in Yellowknife.

CILR students from University of Victoria were also able to avail themselves of the LING/IED 158 course elective which provides the academic framework for an Indigenous Language Mentorship. ILES supported this course by

providing a stipend for the mentor and organizing a second training workshop in October 2019.

In the field of Indigenous language revitalization, MAP represents an important and immersive method of language learning that centers around the preservation and revival of endangered languages.

CILLDI Program

In 2019, ECE brought Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute (CILLDI) courses to the NWT as it had done in the previous two years. The purpose of CILLDI is to support individuals at the community level by providing basic training in linguistics, Indigenous languages, second

language teaching, and other aspects of professional enhancement such as language-related research and policy making.

Community members from across the NWT were offered the opportunity to attend University of Alberta core linguistics courses

in Yellowknife that contributed to obtaining a Community Linguist Certificate.

For more information on CILLDI, visit <https://www.ualberta.ca/canadian-indigenous-languages-and-literacy-development-institute>.

Indigenous Language Revitalization Scholarship

In 2018, ECE launched the Indigenous Language Revitalization Scholarship program to help students offset the costs of attending

Indigenous languages revitalization programs offered by accredited post-secondary institutions. In 2019, nine scholarships of \$5,000 each

were awarded to those meeting the eligibility criteria.

Territorial Indigenous Languages Strategic Initiatives Program

In 2019-20 the Territorial Indigenous Languages Strategic Initiatives program continued to support NWT organizations that promoted language revitalization with a territorial scope including three or more official Indigenous languages. The following organizations were allocated a combined total of \$330,000 through the Territorial Indigenous Languages Strategic Initiatives program:

- **NWT Teachers' Association:** With this funding, the NWT Teachers' Association supports

their Indigenous languages teachers to take part in language instruction courses and improve their language skills;

- **NWT Literacy Council:** partnered with ECE on an Indigenous Languages month promotional campaign;
- **Foster Family Coalition:** supported linguistic programming for youth involved in social services attending Camp Connections;
- **Rainbow Coalition of Yellowknife:** created programming and resources

in Indigenous languages that support LGBTQ2S+ Indigenous youth;

- **Aboriginal Sports Circle of the NWT:** empowered youth by incorporating Indigenous languages in Aboriginal Sports Circle publications and traditional Indigenous sports events;
- **On the Land Collective:** contributed to a funding pool made available to communities for on the land projects.



Language revitalization is joyful work (photo by Tessa Macintosh, 2011).

Part II: Indigenous Languages



Quillwork by Lucy Ann Yakeleya (photo by Tessa Macintosh, 2011).

Indigenous Languages and Education in the NWT

ECE has the responsibility to ensure that Indigenous languages and culture are being taught in all NWT schools. In 2019-20, the GNWT continued its commitment of supporting education bodies to provide Indigenous language instruction and culture-based school programs for Junior Kindergarten (JK)-12 students.

Through the ILE Policy, ECE funds education bodies to welcome

all NWT students into learning environments that centre, respect and promote the Indigenous worldviews, cultures and languages of the community in which the school is located. In 2019-20, ECE support to the education bodies included:

- Resource and assessment tool development for the delivery of the *Our Languages* curriculum (OLC);
- Support and in-services for OLC;
- Support and in-services on the ILE

Policy and accompanying NWT JK-12 ILE Handbook—*Our People, Our Land, Our Ways, Our Languages*;

- Purchase of relevant Indigenized education resources for use throughout the whole school by all teachers;
- *Dene Kede* cross-curricular integration planning.

NWT JK-12 Indigenous Languages and Education Policy (ILE Policy)

The ILE Policy highlights ECE's commitment to reconciliation by ensuring Indigenous language instruction and culture-based school programs are adequately supported and resourced. The second year of a three-year phased in implementation plan for the ILE Policy was 2019-20. The ILE Policy replaced the Aboriginal Languages and Culture Based Education (ALCBE) Directive (2004). It delivers a more effective way to support education bodies in the delivery of Indigenous languages and education programming. It provides improved guidelines, training, funding and accountability through the NWT School Funding Framework, the NWT Education Accountability Framework (annual financial and activity reports), the ILE Procedures Manual, and the ILE Handbook.

The NWT School Funding Framework for the ILE Policy reflects five distinct categories, for more effective funding structures and accountability measures that include:

- **Regional Indigenous Languages and Education (RILE) Coordinators** - funding for positions within each education body that provide a regional leadership role;



Indigenizing education in Ulukhaktok means bringing traditional skills into the classroom (photo by Tessa Macintosh, 2011).

- **Indigenous Education Funding** - for operation and maintenance of Indigenous education programs and activities in NWT schools;
- **Indigenous Languages Instruction Funding** - for Indigenous language instructors' benefits and salaries;
- **Teaching and Learning Centre Funding** - for resource development activities to support the *Our Languages* curriculum and ILE Handbook; and
- **Community Support Funding** - to purchase on the land equipment and supplies, hire Elders and other cultural resource experts for short term projects, and professional development for cultural resource staff.

Part II: Indigenous Languages

Indigenous Languages and Education Handbook (ILE Handbook)

The *ILE Handbook* is intended for educators, including principals, teachers, Indigenous language instructors and educational assistants, so they may better understand how to put the ILE Policy into practice and to share promising practices regarding Indigenous languages and education programming in the NWT.

Each section of the *ILE Handbook* corresponds to the defined principles of the ILE Policy:

- Schools must actively implement ***Dene Kede*** and ***Inuuqatigiit*** to bring forward, in all instruction, the Indigenous worldviews, cultures and languages of the community in which the school is located;
- Schools should welcome all students within learning environments that centre, respect and promote the Indigenous worldviews, cultures and languages of the community in which the school is located, through building the school-community relationship, offering educator training and employing a whole school approach to Indigenous language use;
- Schools should work toward

Indigenizing teaching and learning practices, Indigenizing the content of curricula and programming and providing opportunities for all JK-12 students to engage in authentic and relevant key cultural experiences throughout the school year; and

- Schools that provide Indigenous language instruction must offer dedicated time for Indigenous language instruction within the regular education program and actively implement the mandated *Our Languages* curriculum.

The first draft version of the ILE Handbook was completed in August 2018 and distributed to every

educator in 2018-19. In 2019-20, ECE continues to work closely with Regional Indigenous Language and Education (RILE) Coordinators, educators and school ILE teams to receive feedback, collect input and promising practices for the second draft of the *ILE Handbook*.

Ongoing support for the implementation of the ILE Policy and the ILE Handbook are provided through ILE workshops with schools, meetings with Regional Indigenous Language and Education (RILE) Coordinators, and territorial wide conferences. 2019-20 ILE Policy & Handbook training and in-service sessions included:



Indigenizing education is like paddling a canoe—coordinated action that moves everyone forward together (photo by Tessa Macintosh, 2019).

- RILE Coordinators' meetings (monthly teleconferences and quarterly in-person);
- Education Leadership Program for principals and teachers;
- Regional orientation gatherings;

- New to the NWT Educators' Conference;
- NWT Principals' Conference;
- Inclusive Schooling in-service for Program Support Teachers;
- ILE Handbook workshops in 27

NWT schools and completion of six ILE progress workshops.

Our Languages Curriculum

The *Our Languages* curriculum (OLC) is a competency-based curriculum that promotes a whole school approach to Indigenous core language learning and is aligned with the two foundational curricula, *Dene Kede* and *Inuuqatigiit*. In 2019-20, ECE continued the territory-wide pilot of the new *Our Languages* curriculum. The OLC promotes a whole-school approach to language learning to ensure that Indigenous languages are heard and spoken throughout the schools, at assemblies, during routines and in all NWT classrooms.

The final curriculum is scheduled to be released in the fall of 2020, with full territorial implementation scheduled for the 2020-21 school year. The development and delivery of the *Our Languages* curriculum demonstrates the 19th Legislative Assembly's commitment to improving student education outcomes.

The OLC provides Indigenous language instructors with the curricular outcomes, instructional strategies and assessment tools to foster language growth in core Indigenous language classrooms. All Indigenous language instructors

have received training in the use of the curriculum and resources. As part of the monitoring and evaluation process, fluent speakers assess students who receive instruction in OLC using the Oral Proficiency Assessment. The results of the assessment are used to highlight where more supports may be needed.

ECE continues to work closely with Regional Indigenous Language Education (RILE) Coordinators, who provide ongoing support for the language instructors in each

region. During the 2020-21 school year teachers will be regionally in-serviced to continue their own professional growth.



Language immersion program in Behchokò (photo by Tessa Macintosh).

Part II: Indigenous Languages



Float base in Samba K'e (photo by Tessa Macintosh, 2007).

GOVERNMENT SERVICES IN INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

All NWT residents have a right to access high quality public services. In the NWT, the *OLA* names nine official Indigenous languages, alongside English and French. The *OLA* guarantees that any member of the public has the right to communicate with and to receive available services from regional, area and community offices of Government institutions in official Indigenous languages.

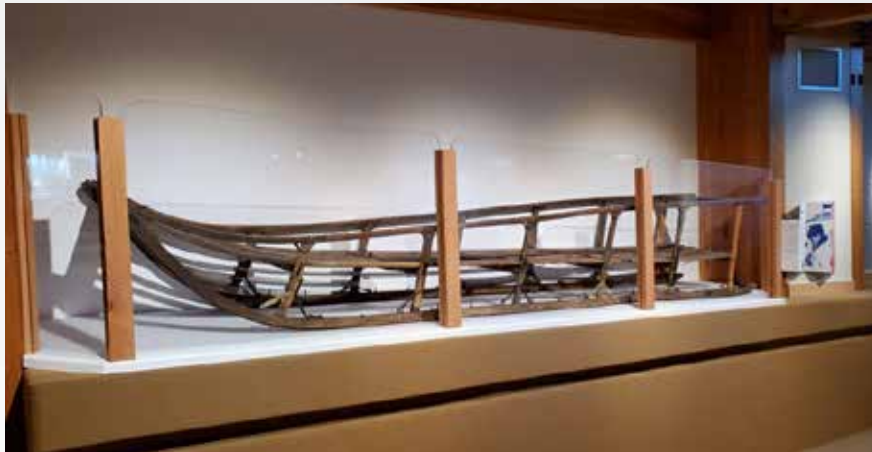
The GNWT delivers government services in Indigenous languages in a variety of ways, including:

- Government Indigenous languages programs and initiatives;
- Government news and media delivered in Indigenous languages;
- Radio and print advertising in Indigenous languages;
- Indigenous languages

interpretation and translation services;

- Government signage in Indigenous languages; and,
- Indigenous bilingual bonus & language allowance for GNWT employees.

Government Indigenous Languages Programs and Initiatives



Inuvialuktun enhances the display of the basket sled made by Bertram Pokiak, on display at the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (photo provided by Department of ECE, GNWT).



In 2019-20, GNWT departments, boards and agencies delivered a number of Indigenous language programs and initiatives, including:

- Aurora College offered two cohorts of the *Certificate in Indigenous Language Revitalization (CILR)* as a pilot project, in conjunction with ECE and the University of Victoria. In addition:
 - An ongoing project within the Early Learning and Child Care Diploma (ELCC) and Early Childhood Development Certificate (ECD) programs has been Indigenizing the curriculum to reflect the languages, cultures, traditions, and world views of local Indigenous peoples. ELCC and ECD programs are continuing to work to include more Indigenous language and literacy in those languages into the curriculum,

projects, and classroom activities. Students who speak an Indigenous language are encouraged to use it as much as possible, and to teach basic words and phrases to fellow students and the children in their practice settings;

- Aurora College has received a grant to undergo an Equity and Diversity Initiative, part of which will review and make recommendations about how to incorporate more Indigenous language, culture, and Traditional Knowledge into the curriculum and its operations, as well as examining how to properly respect, acknowledge, and include Traditional Knowledge and Knowledge Holders in research;
- Bachelor of Education students who speak Indigenous languages are encouraged to

teach others basic words and phrases and to communicate in that language with their peers, Elders, and youth during their course work and internship placements;

- Students in Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Personal Support Worker, Social Work, and Practical Nursing programs are encouraged to speak their own languages with clients during practicums and clinical practices, and to teach their fellow students and instructors basic words and phrases;
- A Bachelor of Science in Nursing student worked with the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) to create a medical travel resource book that will be translated into several Indigenous languages. A group of Bachelor of Science in Nursing

Part II: Indigenous Languages

students worked with Arctic Indigenous Wellness to create promotional materials that will be translated into Indigenous languages. Students in some Bachelor of Science in Nursing courses have used Indigenous languages in their project posters, which are displayed on campus;

- Thebacha Campus (Fort Smith) celebrated Indigenous Languages Month by encouraging students to post positive messages in Indigenous languages around the campus.
- In 2019-20, the Culture and Heritage division of the Department of ECE developed Inuvialuktun display text for a unique basket sled from the Mackenzie Delta that was made by Bertram Pokiak. In addition:
 - The Cultural Places Program contributed to a Geographical Names Board of Canada project to commemorate Indigenous geographical place names in Canada, which resulted in an interactive map called *Stories from the Land: Indigenous Place Names in Canada*. Fifty Indigenous place names from the NWT are profiled on the map;
 - Through the Heritage Centre Operating Fund, \$491,000 was awarded to support non-profit organizations that have a mandate to portray cultural or natural heritage through the acquisition, preservation,

documentation, study and exhibition of museum or archival collections significant to the heritage of the NWT—including material in various Indigenous languages;

- Indigenous Cultural organizations that have a mandate to enhance cultural identity of northern residents and run programs in different Indigenous languages were awarded \$424,000.
- NWT Arts Council: \$12,000 was provided to the Gwich'in Tribal Council's Department of Cultural Heritage to help finalize and publish a book of stories with Gwich'in Elders collected by the Committee for Original People's Entitlement which includes Gwich'in place names and stories; \$6,500 was provided to Eugene Roach to record an album of both Acadian French heritage and English songs; and \$8,000 was provided to the Tłıchǫ Drummers to support a collaborative exchange and showcase with the Kaska Dene Drummers as part of the Adaka Festival in Whitehorse;
- Support for Northern Performers: \$8000 was awarded to Digawolf, an established Tłıchǫ singer/songwriter artist to support touring all across the Territories, through our *Support to Northern Performers Grant* program in order to promote performing arts in NWT communities;

- Cultural Delegations Support: \$1000 was provided to assist bringing Dene Zhatie language singer/songwriter Johnny Landry to perform for National Indigenous Peoples Day celebrations in Fort Providence organized by the Fort Providence Hand Games Committee; \$2000 was provided to the Gwich'in Tribal Council to hold a Gwich'in cultural event that included a traditional feast and fiddle dance in Yellowknife;
- Culture and Heritage staff assisted with the Tundra Science and Cultural Camp's Tłıchǫ cultural team (part of an interdepartmental project); and,
- As part of the 40th Anniversary of the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, 'Welcome/Hello' words were displayed in all NWT official languages to get visitors to the museum's lobby orientation area.
- The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) released *The Sustainable Livelihoods Action Plan 2019-2023* which identified language as a guiding principle for program implementation. The Tundra Science and Culture Camp operated by ENR incorporates language into daily camp life, including building signs in Tłıchǫ, and a Tłıchǫ word of the day. ENR supports language initiatives through the NWT On the Land Collaborative;

- The Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs (EIA) Single Window Service Centres provides services throughout NWT communities, often in Indigenous languages;
- In 2019-20, the Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) and NTHSSA worked collaboratively to deliver cultural safety training to staff in order to advance the goals of building a culturally safe and welcoming health and social services system. With the opening of the new Stanton Territorial Hospital there were significant enhancements to the Indigenous Wellness Program such as making the Resident Elder position permanent and full-time, creating a high-visibility space for the Indigenous Wellness program at the hospital registration desk, and enabling smudging in the spiritual centre. Of particular note, Stanton Territorial Hospital launched a set of navigation kiosks that include way-finding information in every official language of the NWT;
- The Department of Infrastructure funding announcements and official openings celebrations have included Indigenous prayers and performances, namely: the funding announcement for Inuvik Mike Zubko Airport in Inuvik (June 2019), the funding announcement for the Slave Geological Province Corridor in Yellowknife (August 2019), and the Tłıchʼo All-Season Road groundbreaking in Whatı (August 2019);
- In October 2019, the Legislative Assembly of the Northwest Territories converted the booths surrounding the Chamber to have

the ability to host interpreters—since this improvement, the Legislature has offered interpretation of all 11 official languages nearly every day of the House sitting in Session. A Table Officer of the Legislative Assembly is a Tłıchʼo speaker and often reads the Orders of the Day in the House in Tłıchʼo. The Legislative Assembly logo has been translated into all official languages. In addition, Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) and their staff were given the opportunity to obtain their new business cards in any official language—12 people opted to do this using Indigenous languages;

- The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) provided funding to the *Take*

A Kid Trapping program and Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning—the curricula include traditional knowledge, languages and cultural teachings;

- In 2019-20, the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) *Young Worker* training material was developed and updated simultaneously in English, French and Inuktitut—all official languages were available on request. In addition:
 - The WSCC delivered a public survey available in multiple languages asking Northwest Territories and Nunavut residents about their opinion on workplace safety and awareness of WSCC services.



Photo identification workshop in Gamètı (photo provided by Department of ECE, GNWT).

Part II: Indigenous Languages

Government News and Media Delivered in Indigenous Languages

When possible, the GNWT endeavors to deliver news, important information, and other communications translated into Indigenous Languages. In 2019-20, highlights included:

- The Department of ENR completed the 'How we count caribou' video series in several Indigenous languages, including Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, and

Tłıchų;

- The Department of EIA translated the text of the Dłı́nų Got'ı́nų Government Memorandum of Understanding;
- The Department of HSS translated Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Resources and Cultural Safety Resources into Indigenous languages;
- The Department of Infrastructure Tłıchų All-Season Road groundbreaking was featured

on the CKLB radio Tłıchų hour in August 2019;

- The Legislative Assembly translated the Priorities of the 19th Legislative Assembly into all 11 official languages;
- The Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC) has begun updating all of its program material with the intended outcome of having this material then translated into locally appropriate Indigenous



Promotional campaigns and advertising translated into Indigenous languages encourage a wide range of stakeholders to think about safety—this benefits all Northerners (photos provided by WSCC).

languages and dialects for the Tłıchǫ Region;

- The WSCC continues to publish all website content, media releases, e-newsletters and resources in Inuktitut. The WSCC Strategic and Corporate Plan and annual report are available in both Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun. All publications can be made available in other official languages upon request.



Radio, Print and Digital Advertising in Indigenous Languages

GNWT departments regularly make announcements, run print advertisements, or coordinate promotional campaigns in Indigenous languages on local radio stations, in local newspapers, and on the internet. In 2019-20, highlights included:

- The Department of ENR ran radio ads in Indigenous languages raise awareness about *Sustainable Livelihoods Action Plan* engagement, the wolf management program, hunter education, and the delay of the fur auction due to the COVID-19 emergency;
- The Department of HSS developed a variety of Indigenous language advertising campaigns, including: the Declaration of Commitment,

the MHA Patient Right Cards, the Infant Feeding Booklet, the Oral Health Story Book, and the Syphilis Awareness Campaign;

- The Department of Infrastructure published advertisements in Tłıchǫ on CKLB and on posters for the groundbreaking of the Tłıchǫ All-Season Road in Whatı (August 2019);
- The Legislative Assembly purchases radio advertisements in a community's spoken languages whenever a committee plans to visit a community to conduct a public meeting;
- In November 2019, the Department of MACA launched the NWT 9-1-1 program in all communities utilizing radio advertising as an effective

communication medium for 9-1-1 key messaging to be distributed on a more personal level—through a community voice, and in more of the official languages of the NWT;

- The WSCC visual identity policy ensures that any public-facing material is available in Inuktitut. WSCC business cards are in English and French on one side, and Inuktitut and Inuinnaqtun on the other side. The WSCC runs radio ads for issues in the public interest on CKLB, with translation to Indigenous languages as required by region. All print and online advertising is published in English, French, Inuktitut, and Inuinnaqtun.

Part II: Indigenous Languages



Interpreters workshop (photo provided by Legislative Assembly, GNWT).

Indigenous Languages Interpretation and Translation Services

Interpretation services during meetings as well as document translation services enable the GNWT to improve NWT residents' engagement with and access to public information and content. In 2019-20, highlights included:

- The Department of ECE's Culture and Heritage division, through the NWT Archives, hired a fluent Tłıchǫ speaker to assist with photograph identifications for the Native Press project. As well, a translator was supplied by the Tłıchǫ Government to assist with photo identifications during the Annual Gathering at Gameti (July 2019);
- The Department of ENR worked with Indigenous language speakers whenever possible during engagement on the *Sustainable Livelihoods Action Plan*. In March 2020, ENR also provided Inuktitut translation of the GNWT presentation for the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board hearings on Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou;
- The Department of EIA translated the 19th *Legislative Assembly Mandate* and Premier's message into Gwich'in;
- In 2019-20, the Department of HSS offered medical interpretation in seven of the official languages of the NWT at the Stanton Territorial Hospital through the Indigenous Wellness Program, including Tłıchǫ, North Slavey, South Slavey, Chipewyan, Inuktitut, Inuinnaqtun and Inuvialuktun;
- In 2019-20, the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment

- (ITI) continued to ensure that Indigenous interpretation services are available when they visit communities to provide information on Resources and Energy Development Initiatives (REDI);
- The Department of Infrastructure made Tłıchǵo interpreters available for the groundbreaking of the Tłıchǵo All-Season Road in Whatı (August 2019), and provided a North Slavey interpreter at a public meeting in Colville Lake about the progress of the Mackenzie Valley Highway (February 2020);
 - At the Department of Justice, Indigenous language interpretation services were provided by Court Services through:
 - Contracted interpreter/translators in Tłıchǵo (13 times), South Slavey (nine times), Inuktitut (one time) and Inuvialuktun (one time);
 - Legal Aid division responded to inquiries in Tłıchǵo (10 times) and Chipewyan (two times), and also issued correspondence in Tłıchǵo (two times) and Chipewyan (two times);
 - Interpretation Services were utilized by Legal Aid in Tłıchǵo (31 times), South Slavey (10 times), Gwich'in (10 times), Chipewyan (three times) and Inuinnaqtun (two times);
 - Corporate Services division utilized translators to create signage in Chipewyan (eight times), Cree (eight times) and Tłıchǵo (one time);
 - Indigenous language interpretation services were used at the Public Trustee's Office in Tłıchǵo (two times) and Chipewyan (one time);
 - Tłıchǵo interpretation services were utilized 16 times this past year in Community Corrections.
 - In 2019-20, the Department of Lands considered Indigenous languages in all outreach and public engagement activities and ensured that Active Offer was made to receive Public Land Act related documents in Indigenous languages, including the bill summary, policy review, and frequently asked questions documents. In addition, Lands provided participants with interpreters at the Land Use Forum (May 2019), and conducted a GIS mapping workshop in Tłıchǵo;
 - The Legislative Assembly has expanded its interpretation services, offering interpretation in all 11 languages nearly every day of the House sitting in Session;
 - The Department of MACA employs three regional employees in Behchokǵ, Hay River, and Norman Wells who identify as Indigenous language speakers;
 - The NWTHC, through Local Housing Organizations (LHO), regularly provides interpretation services for individual client meetings in numerous communities across all five districts in the NWT. The LHO staff provides interpretation services in communities such as Fort Resolution, Hay River, Fort Providence, and Paulatuk. Other LHOs, such as those in Nahendeh communities, North Slave communities, Sachs Harbour, and Ulukhaktok use contracted community members to provide interpretation services;
 - In 2019-20, interpretation services were also used by NWTHC headquarters staff undertaking Community Housing Plan activities, including a community housing forum in Whatı, a goal-setting activity in Fort Liard, and focus groups in the Katł'odeeche First Nation;
 - The WSCC contracts an external provider for interpretation services, however, most direct services or facilitation in Inuktitut, North Slavey, and South Slavey are provided by bilingual staff as required.

Part II: Indigenous Languages

Government Signage in Indigenous Languages

Communities and Government departments use Indigenous languages on both permanent and temporary public signage throughout the NWT. In 2019-20, highlights included:

- Aurora College has placed external signage for the new Centre for Mine and Industry Training in Fort Smith in Chipewyan, Cree, English, and French. The Yellowknife North Slave Campus has incorporated welcome messages in local Indigenous languages, French and English into their signage at the entrance;
- The Department of ECE's Culture and Heritage division created Tłıchų signage for the Gamètì photo identification workshop (June 2019);
- The Department of ENR displays building signage in Tłıchų at the Tundra Science and Culture Camp;
- The Department of HSS developed a multi-lingual Healthy Respiratory Practices poster and translated medical terminology for signage at the Stanton Territorial Hospital;
- The Department of ITI offices in Hay River displays new way finding signage in all five

languages represented in the region;

- In the past year, the Department of Infrastructure created signage for the Inuvik High Point Wind Project in Gwich'in and Inuvialuktun and Fort Simpson Liquefied Natural Gas Power Generation in South Slavey. Several new building signs were produced using English, French, Gwich'in, and Inuvialuktun including at the Highway 8 Maintenance Camp and Beaufort-Delta Regional Repair Facility;
- The Department of Justice utilized signage as a way of providing the Active Offer to NWT residents. In 2019-20, a temporary sign in Tłıchų was used at the Yellowknife Courthouse to inform the public that jury selection had been cancelled. Justice also created permanent signage in Chipewyan and Cree for the Fort Smith Correctional Centre;
- The Department of Lands ensures all signage meets GNWT standards for all official languages;
- The Legislative Assembly posts the Rules of the Public Gallery outside the entrance in all official languages;
- The Department of MACA provides regional office signage in local

traditional languages, as well as in French and English;

- Signage in the locally appropriate Indigenous language is displayed at numerous NWT Housing Corporation and Local Housing Organization facilities. The Fort Resolution Housing Authority has developed Indigenous language signage related to COVID-19 protocols; there is Gwich'in signage at the Elders' four-plex in Tsiigehtchic, and Inuvialuktun signage is used in Paulatuk;
- The WSCC translated signage for office closures, along with any public events such as Mine Rescue and the Young Workers video contest.



Temporary signage in Tłıchų (photo provided by Department of Justice, GNWT)

Indigenous Bilingual Bonus and Language Allowance

In accordance with the *Union of Northern Workers Collective Agreement*, the GNWT provides a bilingual bonus to employees who use more than one of the Official Languages of the NWT, except for employees assigned translation and interpretation duties through their job descriptions. The bilingual bonus is offered where the ability to speak an additional official language is needed to provide adequate service to the public. A bilingual bonus may also be offered if the ability to speak a second official language is an asset to the position, for example, when an employee occasionally provides assistance in another language.

In 2019-20, 176 GNWT employees received an Indigenous language bilingual bonus.²

Department/Agency	# of Employees
Beaufort Delta District Education Authority	1
Dehcho District Education Authority	4
Education, Culture and Employment	8
Environment and Natural Resources	7
Executive and Indigenous Affairs	8
Finance	2
Hay River Health and Social Services Authority	11
Health and Social Services	1
Industry, Tourism and Investment	6
Infrastructure	2
Justice	2
Legislative Assembly	1
Municipal and Community Affairs	2
Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority	37
NWT Housing Corporation	1
Sahtú District Education Authority	4
South Slave District Education Authority	1
Tłıchq Community Services Agency - Education	21
Tłıchq Community Services Agency - Health	49
Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission	4
Total	176
Indigenous Languages Bilingual Bonus Amount Paid (Total)	\$167,205

²The total number of persons receiving the Indigenous languages bilingual bonus includes GNWT employees not counted in Department or Agency subtotals who were on a leave of absence or recently retired.

Part II: Indigenous Languages

In accordance with the *NWT Teachers' Association Collective Agreement*, the GNWT also provides an annual language allowance to teachers proficient in one or more official Indigenous languages of the NWT. Teachers who qualify receive the allowance when using the skill in the following areas:

- Actual classroom teaching;
- Individual student counseling;
- Parent teacher interviews;
- Extracurricular activities; and/or,
- School/community relations.

In 2019-20, 52 teachers received an Indigenous Language allowance.

Department/Agency	# of Employees
Beaufort-Delta District Education Authority	8
Dehcho District Education Authority	8
Sahtú District Education Authority	9
South Slave District Education Authority	11
Tłıchq Community Services Agency - Education	16
TOTAL	52
Indigenous Language Allowance Paid (Total)	\$277,619

GNWT LANGUAGE PROGRAM EXPENDITURES – INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES (2019-20)

In 2019-20, ECE spent \$8,732,000 to fund the Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat to support language programming and services across the NWT.

Of this amount, \$4,834,000 was provided directly to regional Indigenous Governments to support the implementation of their Regional Indigenous Language Plans.

Description	Actual Expenditures
Indigenous languages services and programs	\$3,898,000
Contributions to regional Indigenous Governments	\$4,834,000
TOTAL:	\$8,732,000

This amount does not include the expenditures incurred by Education Bodies to deliver Indigenous Languages and Education programming.



Tessa Macintosh, 1997

OUR APPROACH

French Language Communications and Services at the Government of the Northwest Territories

Francophone Affairs Secretariat

The Francophone Affairs Secretariat (Secretariat) offers advice, tools and support to Government institutions for the purpose of developing plans on French language communications and services and adopting or providing programs, policies and services that reflect the needs of the Francophone community. In addition, the Secretariat coordinates the provision of French Translation Services government-wide and manages Services TNO.

GNWT Standards for French Language Communications and Services

The GNWT Standards for French Language Communications and Services (Standards) assist Government institutions in the offer and delivery of French language communications and services to the public, and in receiving and responding to public feedback. They complement and work in tandem with the GNWT's Visual Identity Program and communications directives.

Strategic Plan on French Language Communications and Services

The Strategic Plan on French Language Communications and Services 2018-2023 (Strategic Plan) guides Government institutions in the development, offer and delivery of French language communications and services to the Francophone community. The 2018-2023 edition is the second Strategic Plan. The plan includes four parts, which cover all aspects of French language communications and services offer and delivery, as well as roles and responsibilities of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

French Language Services Coordinators

The French Language Services Coordinators champion and coordinate the provision of quality French language communications and services by their respective Government institution. They work with the Secretariat to develop plans and strategies for an active offer and effective delivery of French language communications and services.

Government institution means a department or ministry of the GNWT, the Office of the Legislative Assembly, and an agency, board, commission, corporation, office or other body designated in the Government Institution Regulations.



PROGRESS FOR FRENCH LANGUAGE COMMUNICATIONS AND SERVICES

During the 2019-20 fiscal year, Government institutions have improved their French language communications and services in various ways; this Annual Report on Official Languages outlines many of these improvements. In addition to the GNWT-wide Strategic Plan, each institution has its own Operating Plan for French Language Communications and Services (Operating Plan) with goals that relate more specifically to their situation. Progress is structured and monitored around those goals.

Goal 1: Leadership and Policy Direction

Government institutions have active leadership and policy direction for French language communications and services.

Following the update of the Strategic Plan in 2018-19, Government institutions, supported by the Secretariat, proceeded to the creation of their new Operating Plans. The Secretariat also began the modernization of the Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Plan in 2015 (MEA Plan 2015), which will provide guidance to Government institutions for the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018-2023.

Operating Plans 2019-20 to 2021-22

To implement the Strategic Plan, each Government institution develops their own Operating Plan that covers their communications and services in French offered to the public. Specific actions and objectives are identified on an annual basis, and a report on the Operating Plans is produced at the end of every year, indicating the results of its implementation. In 2019-20, Government institutions created their Operating Plans for 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22.

Standards

As Government institutions refine and enhance the implementation of their Operating Plans, highly nuanced

questions about the application of the Standards arise. To address these questions, the Secretariat considers the Standards to be a living document, to which periodic updates are made in an on-going manner. Dialogue among the members of the French Language Services Coordinating Committee help to clarify the advice to Government institutions regarding French language communications and services.

Public Feedback

Receiving and responding to public feedback is an important part of improving GNWT French language communications and services offer and delivery to the public. The French Language Services Coordinators work with the Secretariat to ensure appropriate follow-up on public feedback.

The Strategic Plan 2018-2023 refers to the public feedback process 'Votre avis GTNO'. Situations may arise where a member of the public is dissatisfied with the non-availability, incomplete provision or quality of a GNWT French language communication or service, or conversely, wishes to express appreciation for a communication or service that was offered or delivered. During the 2019-20 reporting period, the public used the 'Votre avis GTNO' feedback process 16 times.

- 15 feedbacks were received through 'Votre avis GTNO 1' feedback process

- One feedback was received through 'Votre avis GTNO 2' feedback process
- 12 occurrences were complaints
- Four occurrences were compliments
- One of the complaints also included positive comments

The Languages Commissioner of the Northwest Territories administers a separate and autonomous process related to official languages complaints.

Two options to provide feedback are available via 'Votre avis GTNO':

1 *Anonymous feedback that informs the Government institution of the situation, but does not require a formal response (Votre avis GTNO 1)*

2 *Feedback that informs the Government institution of the situation, and requires a formal response (Votre avis GTNO 2)*

Part III: French

GNWT Training - French Language Communications and Services

The Secretariat provided training to French Language Services Coordinators, and to participants in the Department of Finance's Management Series. Topics included French communications and services for managers, orientation for new French Language Services Coordinators, advice on monitoring and reporting, and French active offer and public feedback. Evaluations showed a high level of satisfaction with the training offered among the employees trained. French Language Services Coordinators are, in turn, responsible to meet training commitments within their respective institution, as described in their Operating Plans.

Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Plan 2020 (MEA Plan 2020)

The update of the MEA Plan 2015 began in 2019-20, and will be completed in 2020-21. The new MEA Plan 2020 will help track and assess progress and results of the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2018-2023. It contains tools that will help GNWT employees with data collection on French language communications and services, to ensure accurate monitoring,

evaluation and accountability of the Strategic Plan 2018-2023.

As the primary beneficiary of the monitoring, reporting and evaluation reports on French language communications and services, the Secretariat will compile and use the results to determine the effectiveness of Government institutions in offering and delivering French language communications and services to the public. Those reports will guide the Secretariat in allowing resources according to public need, and in supporting Government institutions when and where needed.

Francophone Community Satisfaction Survey

Community input is a useful source of information; it tells us about areas of success and provides valuable ideas for improvement.

The first annual Francophone Community Satisfaction Survey was launched during the *Mois de la Francophonie* in March 2020. This new initiative aimed to ensure that the Francophone community is aware of the GNWT's French language communications and services and is satisfied with its offer and delivery at points of public service in French. The results of the first edition of the survey also

provided some data about the public usage of GNWT French language communications and services, and about the Francophone community's priorities.

For example, being served in French when requesting a service from the GNWT, especially when it relates to health and wellness, and continuing to increase the consistency of active offer and delivery of services in French have been identified as priorities.

Partnership between the Secretariat and GNWT Corporate Communications

In 2019-20, the Secretariat has been working in partnership with Corporate Communications (Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs) on two projects: social media and a promotional recruitment video. The collaboration regarding social media aims to ensure simultaneous publication in both French and English is done according to the Standards.

The recruitment video takes common misconceptions about the North and turns the ideas around in a clever, entertaining way. The video highlights the diversity of the people in the GNWT and celebrates our official languages by including French, English and Indigenous

language speakers. There will be a French and English sub-titled version. Work is still being completed on the final shots and editing.

Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie

The Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie (MCCF) is an intergovernmental organization created in 1994; it is made up of federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for the Canadian Francophonie. The MCCF deals with various issues related to the Canadian Francophonie, provides direction for intergovernmental cooperation, and plays a unifying role.

To achieve their objectives, the members of the Conference count on the support of the Intergovernmental Network on the Canadian Francophonie. Unless indicated otherwise, the operations of the Network are identical to those of the MCCF.

This support takes various forms: the organization of the annual ministers' meeting and the subsequent follow-up; the implementation of decisions made by the ministers; the advancement of various issues and the achievement of objectives; the provision of strategic advice for ministers; communications with other government and community organizations; and the development of strategic and operational plans. The members of the network also meet to discuss issues of interest and to exchange information about practices related to services in French and support for the Canadian

Francophonie.

In 2019-2020, the then-Minister responsible for the *OLA* participated in the annual meeting of the MCCF in Iqaluit.

Pan-Canadian Terminology Committee Annual Conference

In November 2019, the Senior Translator-Terminologist of the Secretariat attended the Pan-Canadian Terminology Committee Annual Conference (Conference) in Gatineau, Québec. The Committee was set up by the federal Translation Bureau as a forum in which representatives of all federal, provincial and territorial government translation services, as well as other

organizations such as the *Office québécois de la langue française*, Canada Post, and Radio-Canada, can share best practices and discuss evolving trends in the field.

The 2019 Conference was centered on the topic of Indigenous languages terminology. Keynote speakers included a wide variety of public servants, linguists, and Indigenous scholars and language experts. Many language professionals were also in attendance.

It was also a chance for members to meet in person, the day after the Conference, for the annual in-person meeting of the Committee.



Annual Meeting of the Ministerial Conference on the Canadian Francophonie, Iqaluit, June 2019 (Left to right) Sonia LeBel (Québec), David Joanasie (Nunavut), Nadine Wilson (Saskatchewan), Mélanie Joly (Government of Canada), Caroline Cochrane (Northwest Territories), Robert Gauvin (New-Brunswick), John Streicker (Yukon)

Part III: French

Goal 2: Availability, Accessibility and Capacity

Government institutions have increased the availability and accessibility of French language communications and services, and its capacity to offer and deliver them.

The GNWT is committed to the active offer and effective delivery of French language communications and services. In 2019-20, the number of employees capable of offering and delivering services in French increased by close to 10%, and the presence in French on social media increased by almost 150%.

Bilingual Bonus

The GNWT provides a bilingual bonus to employees who use two or more of the official languages of the NWT. The bilingual bonus is offered when the ability to speak more than one official language is required to provide adequate service. A bilingual bonus may also be offered if the ability to speak a second official language is an asset to the position.

In 2019-20, a total amount of \$172,827 has been paid towards the bilingual bonus for French.

Government institutions	# of Employees 2019-20
Aurora College	1
Beaufort Delta District Education Authority	2
Business Development and Investment Corporation (BDIC)	1
Commission scolaire francophone des TNO	4
Education, Culture and Employment (ECE)	23
Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)	8
Executive and Indigenous Affairs (EIA)	2
Finance	11
Hay River Health and Social Services Authority (HRHSSA)	16
Health and Social Services (HSS)	5
Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI)	5
Infrastructure	10
Justice	22
Lands	3
Legislative Assembly (LA)	3
Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA)	6
Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA)	33
NWT Housing Corporation (NWT HC)	1
Tłıchǫ Community Services Agency – Health (TCSA)	1
Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC)	5
TOTAL	162



French Language Services Coordinators Committee Meeting, March 2020.

(Left to right) Front row: Maxime Morais, Translator/Official Languages Coordinator, Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission; Lise Theriault, Manager of Official Languages, Health and Social Services; Benoît Boutin Executive Director, Francophone Affairs Secretariat; Lorne Gushue, Planning Facilitator, Francophone Affairs Secretariat; Marie-Ève Duperré, Advisor, HR and French Language Services, Finance. Back row: Ben Fraser, Policy Analyst, NWT Housing Corporation; Savannah Jones, French Language Client Services Officer, Services TNO; Sonia Idir, French Language Communications Officer, Infrastructure; Beau Stobbs, Communications Officer, Executive and Indigenous Affairs; Tania Oosting, Senior Communication Officer, Land; Doug Rankin, Executive Director, Surface Rights Board (Lands); Shannon Graf, Coordinator/Communications Officer, Industry Tourism and Investment; Julie Lacroix, French Language Monitoring and Evaluation Advisor, Francophone Affairs Secretariat; Thierry Lavoie, Communications Officer, BDIC.

98,206

Number of words translated for social media. This represents a 149% increase from 2018-19.

6,895

Number of translation requests made to GNWT French Translation Services. This represents a 32% increase from 2018-19.

162

Number of employees that received a bilingual bonus for French. This represents a 9.5% increase from 2018-19.

834

Number of translation requests of job posters made to GNWT French Translation Services. This represents a 4% increase from 2018-19.

3

Number of applications in French that were received in 2019-20 under the NWT Nominee Program.

2,299

Number of social media posts translated by GNWT French Translations Services.

155

Number of news release translation requests made to GNWT French Translation Services. This represents a 53% increase from 2018-19.

Government News Delivered in French

Communiqués, media advisories, media statements, news releases, and public service announcements are issued in English and French to keep the Francophone community informed about a range of issues and government programs and services.

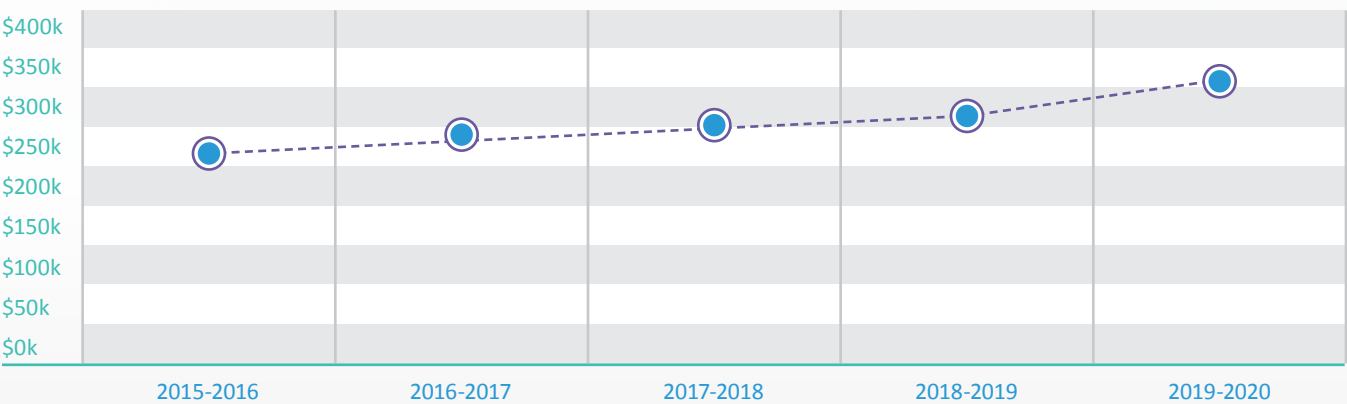
Radio and Print Advertising in French

Government institutions regularly put advertisements in newspapers such as *L'Aquilon*, the territorial weekly French newspaper, and on Radio Taïga.

Here are a few examples of 2019-20 French language advertising and promotional campaigns:

- Student Financial Assistance (SFA): advertising for Fall/Spring Deadlines all translated into French (ECE);
- International Women’s Day (EIA);
- Fur Harvesters Auction (ENR);
- Carbon Tax (Finance);
- Homeownership Program Intake (NWT Housing Corporation);
- Syphilis Awareness Campaign (HSS);
- Inuvik Airport abandoned vehicles removal notice (Infrastructure);
- Tourism Week (ITI);
- Jury Summons Cancellation Public Service Announcement was created for Radio Taiga (Justice);
- Legislative Assembly Committee Meeting Ads (LA);
- Expressions of Interest for the Surface Rights Board: Print and online social (Lands);
- NWT 9-1-1 communications campaign – printed advertisements, social media campaign and radio ads (MACA);
- Young Worker Video Contest (WSCC).

Advertising Dollars in French Language Media



Part III: French

Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

La Journée internationale de la femme

est l'occasion de contribuer à la création d'un monde où règne l'égalité des genres, de célébrer les réalisations des femmes et de sensibiliser davantage la population aux préjugés sexistes.

Cette journée permet aussi de souligner le travail inspirant des artisans du changement qui passent à l'action et militent pour l'égalité des genres.

#GrâceÀVous #JIF2020

Un message du Conseil exécutif du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest



Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

LA TAXE SUR LE CARBONE DES TNO

Une réponse du Nord à une décision du Sud

En décembre 2018, le Canada a adopté une loi qui exige un plan de tarification du carbone dans l'ensemble des provinces et des territoires. Au lieu de laisser le gouvernement fédéral décider comment taxer les émissions de carbone aux TNO, et quoi faire avec les revenus de la taxe sur le carbone, le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest a choisi de mettre en place sa propre approche.

En mettant en œuvre sa propre taxe sur le carbone, le GTNO s'assure que les décisions concernant la tarification du carbone sont prises ici et non pas à Ottawa.

Pour en savoir plus sur l'approche du GTNO concernant la tarification du carbone, consultez le : www.fin.gov.nt.ca/carbon-pricing

Vente de fourrures aux enchères de la Fur Harvesters Auction pour 2019-2020

North Bay, Ontario

CHANGEMENT À LA VENTE AUX ENCHÈRES



Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

APPEL DE DÉCLARATIONS D'INTÉRÊT

Membres de conseils d'administration

Office des droits de surface des TNO et Office des terres et des eaux des Gwich'in

Le ministère de l'Administration des terres du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) sollicite des déclarations d'intérêt auprès de personnes qualifiées qui souhaitent siéger aux conseils d'administration suivants :

Office des droits de surface des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO)

L'Office des droits de surface des TNO a été mis sur pied pour régler les affaires liées aux différends portant sur l'accès aux terres appartenant aux Gwich'in, aux Dénés du Sahtu, aux Tłı̨chǫ et aux Inuvialuits, les eaux traversant ces terres, ainsi que l'accès aux droits de surface des terres situées dans des zones non occupées. Le Conseil formera tous les nouveaux membres. Les personnes qualifiées qui ont présenté une déclaration d'intérêt peuvent pourvoir les postes suivants :

- (1) membre du conseil d'administration et (1) membre remplaçant : Résidents de la région désignée des Gwich'in
- (1) membre du conseil d'administration et (1) membre remplaçant : Résidents de la région désignée du Sahtu
- (1) membre du conseil d'administration et (1) membre remplaçant : Résidents du secteur Mowhi Gogha Dè Nı̨tlı̨
- (1) membre du conseil d'administration et (1) membre remplaçant : Résidents des TNO (non régional)

Office des terres et des eaux des Gwich'in

L'Office des terres et des eaux des Gwich'in a été établi conformément à l'Entente sur la revendication territoriale globale des Gwich'in (1992). Cet organisme a été mandaté pour élaborer et mettre en œuvre un plan d'aménagement territorial pour la région désignée des Gwich'in qui prévoit la conservation, le développement et l'utilisation des terres, de l'eau et des ressources, et se consacre à répondre aux besoins des Gwich'in tout en tenant compte des besoins de tous les Canadiens. Les personnes qualifiées qui ont présenté une déclaration d'intérêt peuvent pourvoir le poste suivant :

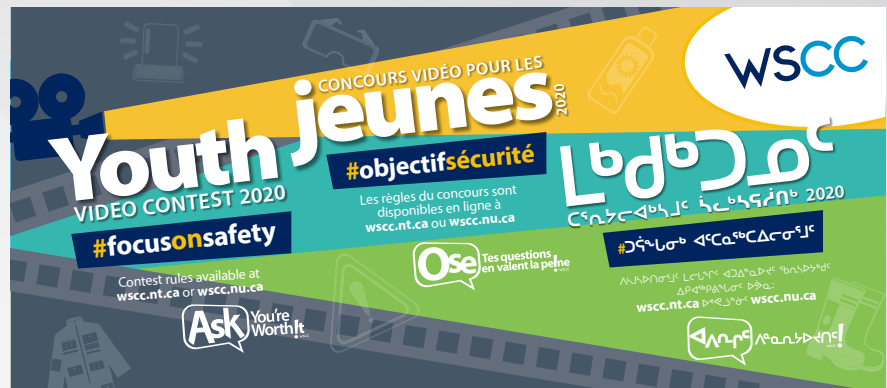
- (1) membre d'un conseil d'administration

Les candidats sont priés de présenter une copie de leur curriculum vitae et le formulaire de déclaration d'intérêt rempli, accessible sur le site Web du ministère de l'Administration des terres au <http://www.lands.gov.nt.ca/fr/conseils-de-gestion-des-terres>.

La date limite pour faire parvenir sa candidature est le **31 janvier 2020**.

Pour de plus amples renseignements :
Courriel : boardappointment_lands@gov.nt.ca
Tél. : 867-767-9182, poste 24049

www.gov.nt.ca



French Language Broadcasting Grant

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment provides funding to help pay for the operation and equipment costs of the Yellowknife community radio station, Société Radio Taïga. The maximum grant is set at \$10,000 per year.



Translation and Interpretation Services

Translation services enable Government institutions to increase the quantity of public information and content available in French, as well as translating French correspondence and documents they receive from the Francophone community.

During the 2019–20 fiscal year, a total of 2,841,051 words were translated by the GNWT

French Translation Services, the Department of Justice Legal Translation Services and the Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission. The GNWT French Translation Services itself translated 2,155,630 words for 40 Government institutions.



2019-20 GNWT Translation Services Word Counts, by Department

*With WSCC and Legal Translation

Department	Number of Words
Executive and Indigenous Affairs (EIA) ¹	116,691
Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) ²	591,253
Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) ³	172,877
Finance ⁴	238,906
Health and Social Services (HSS) ⁵	427,795
Infrastructure	99,993
Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI) ⁶	221,736
Justice ⁷	45,409
Justice - Legal Translation Services	228,987
Lands ⁸	22,625
Legislative Assembly (LA) ⁹	186,688
Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA)	20,983
NWT Housing Corporation (NWT HC)	10,674
Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC)	456,434
TOTAL	2,841,051

¹includes Public Utilities Board

²includes Education Bodies and Aurora College

³includes Inuvialuit Water Board

⁴includes Liquor Licensing Board

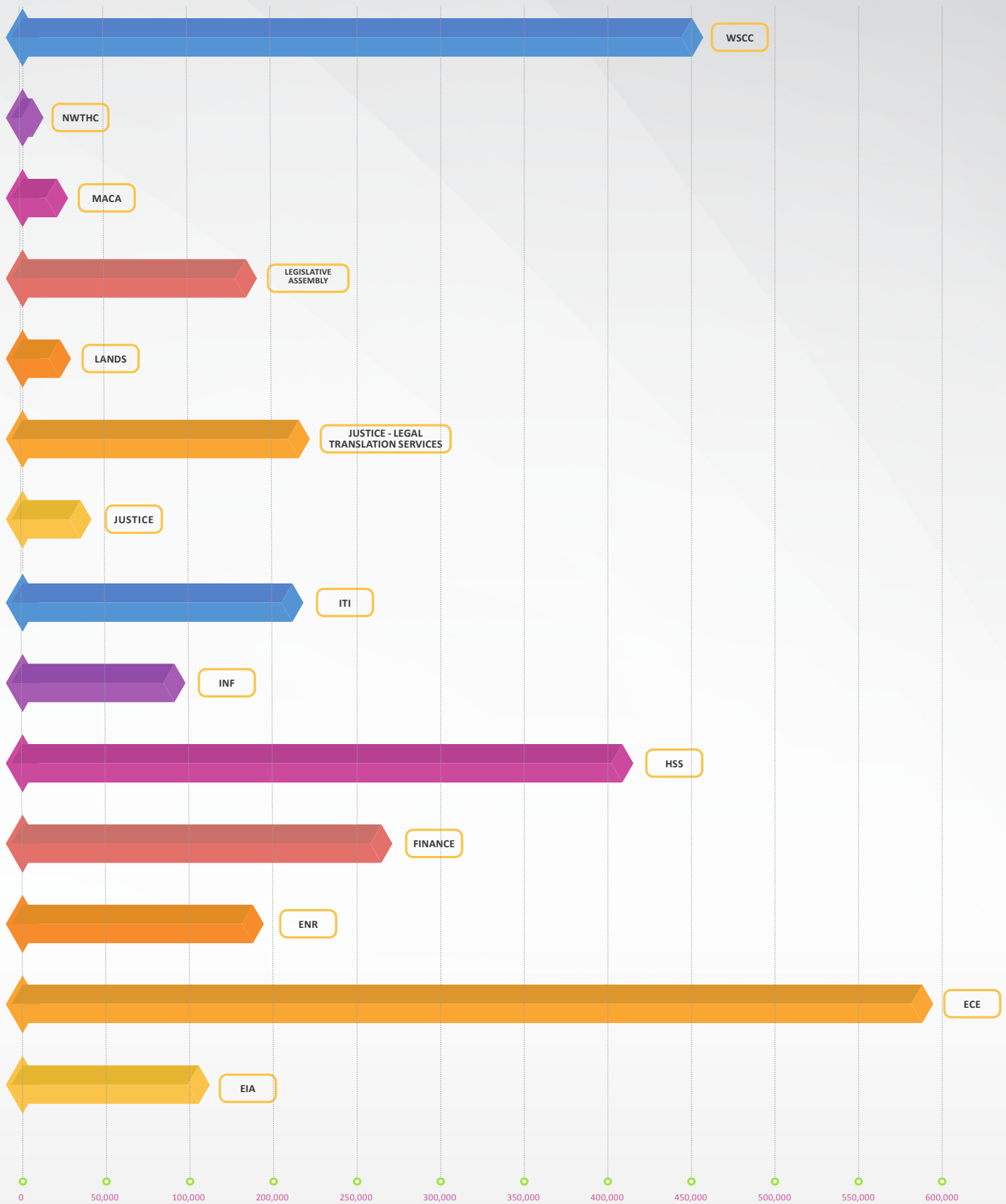
⁵includes Health Authorities

⁶includes BDIC

⁷includes Rental Officer and NWT Legal Aid Commission

⁸includes Surface Rights Board

⁹includes Chief Electoral Officer, Conflict of Interest Commissioner, NWT Human Rights Commission, Director of Human Rights, Information and Privacy Commissioner, Languages Commissioner and Office of the Ombud



Part III: French

GNWT French Translation Services Notable Translation Projects

Completed in 2019-2020

Rank	Title	# of Words
1	Job Posters and Job Descriptions	184,486
2	Social Media Posts	98,206
3	News Releases, Public and Media Advisories and Related Documents	96,655
4	ITI Blog Posts	56,528
5	COVID-19-related Documents and Website Content	55,953
6	2019 NWT Elections Documents and Website Content	44,008
7	Cancer Survivor Care Plans	41,365
8	Meeting Minutes from Various GNWT Committees and Education Bodies	36,545
9	ENR Website Content	36,434
10	Legislative Assembly Votes and Proceedings and Orders of the Day	31,537
11	Driver's Manuals – Airbrake and Motorcycle	29,000
12	Caribou-related Documents and Website Content	25,126
13	BDIC Security Documents	24,103
14	Tourism Careers Guide	22,406
15	Rules of the Legislative Assembly	13,747

New Initiatives

In 2019-20, Government institutions undertook new initiatives towards French language communications and services. Here are a few examples:

- The BDIC offered economic relief initiatives during COVID-19: deferred loan payments and working capital loans. All communications regarding these two measures were available in French, and clients can apply for these programs in French (BDIC);
- Bilingual *Teach NWT/Enseignez aux TNO* promotional USB keys were created and distributed: a bilingual memory card has been developed for use by education bodies when visiting Bachelor of Education programs or attending education job fairs. To date, 750 of the unique memory cards have been distributed to education bodies for use with prospective teachers – Education Operations and Development (ECE);
- SheCan NWT campaign (EIA);
- Bright yellow bilingual signs, reading ‘Caution – Bear in Area / Attention – Ours dans les environs’ were created and set up at entrances to the nature area popular with dog owners and bikers (ENR);
- The Advisor, Human Resources and French Language Services visited regional offices (Hay River, Inuvik and Fort Smith) to provide active offer training, facilitate information sessions on Bilingual Designation Policy to Human Resources staff and to ensure signage was installed properly according to the Standards (Finance);
- The NWT Housing Corporation (NWT HC) increased its printed advertising across the whole territory to ensure all NWT residents have up-to-date knowledge of the NWT HC’s program. It subsequently led to increased French-language advertising in the demand communities (NWT Housing Corporation);
- Two new bilingual clinic assistant positions were filled, which increased the delivery of French language services at the Yellowknife’s clinics reception (HSS);
- The Yellowknife Airport emergency exercise was filmed and a video was produced in English and French. The video will be released in 2020-21 (Infrastructure);
- The French version of a survey available to those attending the NWT/NU Geoscience Forum was created (ITI);
- The Department of Justice launched a service for business and the general public with the new Northwest Territories *Land Titles System*. The online system provides easy 24-hour-a-day access to information in English or French about any parcel of land that is registered with the Land Titles Office (Justice);
- A change has been made in the Legislature’s protocol for French interpretation services, requiring that two French interpreters be present for every day of Session (instead of one). This allows French interpreters to perform their jobs more efficiently, enabling them to alternate between each other during Session (LA);
- Bilingual door knockers advising cabin owners that an inspector came by were created (Lands);
- The bilingual 9-1-1 system for the NWT to provide lifesaving first aid instructions over the phone and improve access to local emergency services was implemented. On November 4, 2019, 9-1-1 services went live simultaneously in all 33 communities. NWT residents and visitors can now use the universally recognized number to access emergency services (MACA);
- Active recruitment drives, to increase the number of French-speaking staff and bilingual preferred employees, were added to front line service job descriptions (WSCC).

Part III: French

New publications

A number of new government publications in French were made available during the 2019-20 reporting period. Here are a few examples:

- Translation of the Early Learning Framework Handbook in French – Early Childhood, School Services (ECE);
- Mandate of the Government of the Northwest Territories 2019-2023 (EIA);
- 2019-20 NWT Summary of Hunting Regulations ‘Hunting Guide’ (ENR);
- Premier’s Award Nomination Form, Guidelines and Program (Finance);
- Oral Health Story Book (HSS);
- Mackenzie Valley Highway - Tulita and Wrigley Engagement Session Presentations (Infrastructure);
- Yes, it’s legal. Pot in the Parks handouts (ITI);
- NWT Coroner’s Service Annual Report, Funeral Director Certificates, and the Investigative Report of Coroner and Certificate regarding Inquest Forms were published in French (Justice);
- Rules of the Legislative Assembly (LA);
- Compliance and Enforcement Policy (Lands);
- Bilingual Community Mailers with information on the NWT 9-1-1 Program were produced and distributed in fall 2019 (MACA);
- Occupational Health and Safety education resources and resources for Young Workers (WSSC).

Government of
Northwest Territories

Government of
Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Yes, it's

But, the legalization of cannabis may affect our ability to be a good neighbor when camping in the NWT. Above all, pay attention to your surroundings and respect the environment. Please be aware and others, regardless of their view.

For more information on the rules and regulations concerning cannabis in the Northwest Territories, visit the site:

gov.nt.ca/cannabis

Acceptable Areas	Not Acceptable
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Your campsite • Another campsite with the consent of the person who the campsite is registered to. • Trails 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play areas • Boats • Water • Shores • Any such areas • Any other areas

Oui, c'est légal.

Mais, la légalisation du cannabis ne devrait pas nous empêcher d'être un bon voisin quand nous campons aux TNO. Lorsque vous consommez du cannabis, la sécurité doit demeurer votre priorité et vous devez faire attention à votre environnement. Soyez conscient des autres et montrez-vous respectueux, quel que soit leur point de vue sur le sujet.

Pour de plus amples renseignements sur les règles et règlements concernant le cannabis aux Territoires du Nord-Ouest, visitez le site :

gov.nt.ca/cannabis

Eendroits acceptables	Eendroits non acceptables
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Votre terrain de camping • Un autre terrain de camping avec le consentement de la personne qui l'a loué. • Les sentiers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Les terrains de jeux • Les rampes de mise à l'eau • Les salles de toilette et de douche • Tout espace public partagé tel que la plage • Tout endroit où se trouvent des enfants

Part III: French

Websites and Web content

Government institutions maintain a range of websites that provide pertinent information to the public. Public website translation has become more consistent, in phases and based on priorities identified in the institutions' Operating Plan. A number of activities related to website renewal and web content development took place in 2019-20. Here are a few examples:

- Economic relief measures during COVID-19 were posted in English and French on the homepage of the BDIC's website (BDIC);
- All sections of the www.immigratenwt.ca website have been translated in French – Labour Development and Standards (ECE);
- Campaign School for Women webpage is now available in French (EIA);
- All info about animals, available in the 'Wildlife and nature' section of the website, has been translated into French (ENR);
- Careers website has been updated and revised and all temporary notifications were translated into French (Finance);
- The NWTHC's website underwent significant changes in 2019-20. As part of these changes, a French section was established and is currently under construction (NWT Housing Corporation);
- In 2019-20, the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority focused on ensuring their public website was available in both French and English, as updates were implemented throughout the year (HSS);
- Numerous projects sections have been translated into French, such as the Inuvik Airport Terminal Replacement Project, the Tẖcẖq̱ All-Season Road Project, the Canyon Creek All-Season Access Road Project, the Deh Cho Bridge Project, the Inuvik Tuktoyaktuk Highway Project, the New Government Building in Yellowknife, the Bulk Fuel Storage Facility and the Trout River Bridge Rehabilitation (Infrastructure);
- In 2019-20, ITI published approximately 168 blogs in French. Each blog was then promoted on social media in French through ITI's French social media channels (ITI);
- The Department of Justice's French website is updated regularly. Some examples of content updated in 2019-20 include the Access and Privacy Office updates to the Access and Privacy Directory/Coordinator Listing, the dates of the Parenting After Separation workshops (promoted on the website and on Facebook), the Family Law Mediation program materials and the *Divorce*





Services TNO providing service in French to a citizen.

Guide which has been updated and posted online (Justice);

- Social media post-election coverage were made in French and English both on Facebook and Twitter (LA);
- New and updated contents have been published on the Lands' website, such as the *Public Land Act* materials, the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* workshops and the Agricultural Land Use information (Lands);
- Web content for the 2019 Fire Prevention Week campaign was updated and posted online in French and English (MACA);
- Any update to the website is released simultaneously in English and French (i.e. policies, forms and resource pages) and the online Claims Cost Summary has been added to WSCC Connect (WSCC).

Part III: French

Milestones



French language presence on social media with simultaneous bilingual publications posting continued to improve



The French Jury List for the NWT was updated after the panel reviewed a list of 14,831 names for consideration. Francophone accused persons have the right to be tried by a judge and jury who speak French

Implementation and employees training was made on the Bilingual Designation Policy



The French Medical Interpreter started her position, and the medical interpretation program was launched



Government institutions' Operating Plans 2019-20 to 2021-22 have been created



The 9-1-1 Program is fully bilingual in French and English and staffed by five bilingual operators; French interpretation is available 24 hours a day

The Legislature held an Interpreters Workshop, which brought together all interpreters who do work in the 11 Official Languages for the Assembly



The BDIC has moved to a new storefront location and has a new bilingual signage



Services TNO

Services TNO is the French language service center of the GNWT. It brings together a variety of information and services to simplify administrative steps and facilitate access to services in French for citizens. Moreover, Services TNO assists Government institutions for language facilitation, either in person or over the phone.

From April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020, Services TNO processed a total of 894 requests, from which 289 of them were made in French. The use of Notary Public still remains the most popular service provided. The table below shows the five most popular services requested in French for 2019-20.

Services TNO employees also served as judges in the Regional Learning Fair held at William McDonald School where some projects were presented in French, and also facilitated communication between the Career and Education Advisors and the French-speaking students of École Boréale in Hay River.



*Regional Learning Fair, William McDonald School, April 2019.
Patrice Lapointe, French Language Client Services Officer, Services TNO and Sydney Bell, student at William McDonald School*

Services	# of Requests
Notary Public (Justice)	587
Health Insurance Cards (HSS)	96
Fishing Permits (ENR)	56
Information provided over the phone (ECE + ITI)	44
Hunting Permits (ENR)	32

Part III: French

Goal 3: Community Engagement

Government institutions inform and consult with the Francophone community about French language communications and services.

They encourage the participation of the Francophone community in the development of government policies with a view to improve the offer and delivery of French language communications and services. The government works with the Francophone community to build relationships, gather input, and work towards common goals. This includes structured engagements, working partnerships and public feedback.



Partnerships and Community Engagement

Government institutions work in partnership with francophone organizations to have a better understanding of the Francophone community needs. In 2019-20, new partnerships were created, and ongoing partnerships were maintained. Government institutions worked with the Réseau TNO Santé en français, the Conseil de développement économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (CDÉTNO), the Fédération franco-ténoise (FFT) and the Collège nordique francophone (CNF).

The GNWT is also an observer member of the Réseau en immigration francophone des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (RIFTNO-NWT Francophone Immigration Network) and works closely with the members on areas of immigration. The Department of Education, Culture and Employment and the Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment support the members of RIFTNO, which include the Association franco-culturelle de Yellowknife, the CDÉTNO, the Centre d'accueil francophone, the CNF and the FFT.



François Afane, Executive Director, CDÉTNO and Benoît Boutin, Executive Director, Francophone Affairs Secretariat.



Launch of the Welcome to the NWT guide/Bienvenue aux TNO during the Francophone Immigration Week, November 3-9, 2019.

(Left to right) Front row: Malini Sengupta, Coordinator of the YIP (Yellowknife Immigration Partnership); Carine Ouedraogo, Communications and Marketing Officer, CDÉTNO; Yvonne Careen, Superintendant, Commission scolaire francophone des TNO; Émilie Tourangeau, Communications Officer, Collège nordique francophone. Back row: Sami Abdullah, LINC program Coordinator, Collège nordique francophone; Traoré Zakaria, SWIS Program Coordinator, CDÉTNO; Aleksandar Kovacevic, Immigration, Recruitment and Career Officer, CDÉTNO; François Afane, Executive Director, CDÉTNO; Isidore Guy Makaya, Immigration Services Coordinator, FFT; Antoine Gagnon, Manager, Labour Market Programs, ECE; Annik Théberge, Réseau en immigration francophone, FFT; Jean-Marie Mariez, Supervisor of Instruction - French Programs, YK1.

Moreover, Government institutions consulted with the French speaking public in various ways in 2019–20, for example through public engagement opportunities and surveys. Below are a few examples of community engagement opportunities in 2019-20:

- The BDIC participated in the Employment Café and a networking activity event, both organized by CDÉTNO. Those events were attended by several members of the Francophone community (BDIC);
- The NWT Post-Secondary Education Visioning Survey was available in English and French for the duration of the survey, from late February until late April 2020 – Aurora College Transformation (ECE);
- French facilitation was available at the Public Engagement on Sustainable Livelihoods Action Plan, and some materials in French was available (ENR);
- In 2019-20, the Advisor, HR and French Language Services, participated in the FFT open-house networking event and attended the Annual General Meeting of the CNF. Management and Recruitment services attended two Employment Café organized by CDÉTNO (Finance);
- The Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority worked closely with Réseau TNO Santé en français on the Needs Study on French Mental Health Services in NWT and on the Training in Active Offer French Services Sector. From those studies, Actions Plans are being developed to improve French Mental Health and Active Offer training (HSS);
- The Department of Infrastructure had two booths at the YK Chamber of Commerce Tradeshow to provide information to the public on Energy, Strategic Infrastructure and Cannabis Awareness. A bilingual employee and the French Language Services Coordinator were available to answer questions in French, and material, including a quiz that was created for the event to engage with the booth visitors, was available in French (Infrastructure);
- The French Language Services Coordinator attended public engagement sessions and lead events such as the Extended Stay Draw, to provide French interpretation as needed (ITI);
- French invitations were sent out for the opening of the Fort Smith Correctional Complex – Women's Unit and a French speaker was on hand to answer any questions at the Opening Ceremony (Justice);
- A Public Survey, asking members in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut about their opinion on workplace safety and awareness of the WSCC services, was available in the respondent's language of choice (WSCC).

Part III: French

Education and French

In 2019-20, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment signed a new four-year agreement with the Federal government to provide funding for French Minority Language Education and French as a Second-Language Instruction (Core French, Intensive and Post-Intensive

French, and Immersion programs). In 2019-20, the Canada-NWT Agreement offered funding divided by linguistic objectives. In both cases, projects fall under five areas of intervention:

- Student Participation;
- Provision of Programs;
- Enriched School Environment;
- Support of Educational Staff;
- Access to Post-Secondary Education.

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment regularly engages with CNF to discuss its plans for continued growth and development and considers CNF to be a valued post-secondary education organization partner in the NWT. During the fiscal year 2019-20, CNF received \$761,000 from the Department of Education, Culture and Employment.

GNWT LANGUAGE PROGRAM EXPENDITURES – FRENCH (2019-20)

In 2019-20, the GNWT spent \$5,500,000 for French Language Services. In the same fiscal year, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment spent an additional \$3,490,403 for French Language Education programming.

Description	Actual Expenditures
French Language Services	\$5,500,000
French Language Education (note 1)	\$3,490,403
Total	\$8,990,403

Note 1: This amount does not include the expenditures incurred by Education Bodies to deliver French Language Education programming.

LOOKING FORWARD



The 2020-21 Fishing Guide will be the first bilingual edition of this popular publication

A new Canada - NWT Agreement on Languages will be negotiated

HSS System will move to the implementation phase of both the Active Offer Enhancement project and Mental Health Navigator project, in partnership with the Réseau TNO Santé en français

The Yellowknife Courthouse will be unveiling the J.H Sissons carving collection, depicting trials heard before the first judge of the Northwest Territories between 1956 and his retirement in 1966. There will be signage in all 11 official languages of the NWT that explains the significance of this collection

The Monitoring, Evaluation and Accountability Plan 2020, linked to the GNWT French Language Communications and Services, will be completed and implemented

Bilingual platforms for educator certification and for professional learning for educators will be launched

New Driver's License and General Identification Card will be released in Fall 2020, meeting all the requirements regarding French Language

More bilingual road signs are anticipated to be produced

Si vous voulez ces informations dans une autre langue officielle, contactez-nous.
French

Tł chq̄ yatı k'èè. Dı wegodi newq̄ dè, gots'o gonede.
Tł chq̄

Edı gondı dehgáh got'le zhatié k'éé edat'éh enahddhę nıde naxets'é edahí.
South Slavey

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijahch'uu zhit yinothan jì, diits'àt ginohkhì.
Gwich'in

ᑕᔨᐃ ᓂᓂᖅᐃᑦ ᐱᒻᒪᑭᐃᓯᑦ ᐃᓄᓂᑲᑐᑦᓴᑳᑳᓂᖅ, ᐅᑦᑦᓂᓄᑦ ᐅᖁᑦᑕᓴᓄᖅᑲᓂᓂᑦ.

Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.
Inuinnaqtun

