



# 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGES



# Table of Contents

PART I: THE *OFFICIAL LANGUAGES ACT* 1

Minister Responsible for Official Languages	1
Languages Commissioner	1
Language Boards	1
Canada-NWT Language Agreements	3

## PART II: INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES 4

Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat	4
Goal 1: Language Revitalization	4
Goal 2: Language Access	6
Human Resources and Funding	11

## PART III: FRENCH 13

Francophone Affairs Secretariat	13
French Language Services Coordinators	13
Strategic Plan	13
GNWT Standards	13
Communications	14
COVID-19	15
Services	15
Human Resources	17
Funding	17
Collaborations and Engagement	19
Looking Forward	20

If you would like this information in another official language, call us.

English

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

French

Kīspin ki nitawihtīn ē nīhīyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.

Cree

Tijcho yatı k'èè. Dı wegodı newo dè, gots'o gonede.

Tłicho

ʔerihlʔis Dēne Sułiné yatı t'a huts'elkēr xa beyáyatı theʔa ʔat'e, nuwe ts'ēn yóltı.

Chipewyan

Edi gondı dehgáh got'je zhatié k'éé edat'éh enahddhe nide naxets'é edahíí.

## South Slavey

K'áhshó got'jné xədə k'é hederı ɬedjhtl'é yerınıwə nídé dúle.

North Slavey

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijahch'uu zhit yinothtan jì', diits'àt ginohkhìi.

Gwich'in

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, guquagluta.

Inuvialuktun

$C^b d \triangleleft n n^{a,b} \Delta^c \wedge \ell L J \Delta^c \Delta_m^b n \supset c^{a,b} \ell L \supset n^b, \supset \mathcal{E}^c n^a \supset \supset \mathcal{E}^b c \ell^a \mathcal{E}^a \supset n^c.$

Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.

Inuinnaqtun

## Indigenous Languages

867 767-9346 Ext. 71037

indigenous\_languages@gov.nt.ca

## French Language

867 767-9348

866 561-1664 (toll free)

## Message from the Minister



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

It is my pleasure to release the 2020-21 Annual Report on Official Languages, which celebrates language initiatives in public service and education. This report showcases the commitment of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) to maintain the cultural centrality of our official languages: Chipewyan (Dëne Sųłíné Yaté), Cree (nēhiyawēwin), English, French (le français), Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey (Sahtúqt'ıne Kedé), South Slavey (Dene Zhaté), and Tłıchq.

In 2020-21, the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) expanded the Mentor-Apprentice Program in partnership with six Indigenous governments. Almost 40 teacher-learner pairs have improved their language skills through intensive one-on-one immersion learning. Many participants also shared inspiring stories about awakening their sleeping languages and reconnecting

their families to culture. This year, the Department also officially launched the Our Languages curriculum territory-wide, a competency-based curriculum for JK-12 that promotes a whole school approach to language learning.

In February 2021, the GNWT and Canada signed a three-year French Language Services Agreement. The Agreement provides \$16,932,000 over three years to support the planning and delivery of quality French language communication and service, ensuring stability and continuity in the delivery of GNWT services in French to residents of the Northwest Territories.

Language is at the core of cultural expression and providing services, communication and learning opportunities for our citizens to express themselves in their chosen language is critical to building a vibrant, expressive, and culturally safe society.

# Part I: The *Official Languages Act*

The Northwest Territories' (NWT) *Official Languages Act* guarantees that official languages have equality of status, equal rights and privileges in all government institutions. It also requires that the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) submit an Annual Report on Official Languages to the Legislative Assembly. Our territory recognizes eleven official languages: English, French, and nine Indigenous languages—Chipewyan (Dëne Sųłiné Yatıé), Cree (nēhiyawēwin), Gwich'in, Inuinnaqtun, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey (Sahtúqt'ıne Kedé), South Slavey (Dene Zhaté) and Tłıchq (Tłıchq Yatı).

For the purpose of the *Act*, 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 Aklavik and Łutselk'e to Déline, Wrigley, Whatı, Fort Resolution, and all points between.

## **MINISTER RESPONSIBLE FOR OFFICIAL LANGUAGES**

The Honourable Minister R.J. Simpson currently serves as the Minister Responsible for Official Languages. The Minister directs and coordinates the language policies and programs offered by the GNWT, including promotion of language education, use of languages in public services, and revitalization of Indigenous languages.

## **LANGUAGES COMMISSIONER**

In January 2021, Ms. Brenda Gauthier was appointed as Languages Commissioner of the NWT. The Languages Commissioner is appointed to a four-year term as an officer of the Legislative Assembly, responsible for ensuring recognition of the rights, status and privileges of each of the Official Languages and compliance in the provision of territorial public services in official languages.

## **OFFICIAL LANGUAGES BOARD AND ABORIGINAL LANGUAGES REVITALIZATION BOARD**

The Official Languages Board (OLB) and Aboriginal Languages Revitalization Board (ALRB) members and alternates represent the NWT language communities on two-year terms by providing advice to the Minister on the promotion of language rights, use of language in public services, and revitalization of Indigenous languages. Indigenous governments and community organizations of the NWT recommend language board appointments to the Minister. Since 2020, most members serve jointly on both boards.

# Part I: The *Official Languages Act*

Due to COVID-19 public health restrictions, the language boards met virtually on November 9, 2020 to discuss the working conditions of Indigenous language instructors during the COVID-19 pandemic and supporting Indigenous populations in regional isolation centres. The boards met again on February 15, 2021 to discuss the departmental distribution of responsibility for GNWT languages services, as well as the translation and design of the GNWT wordmark being developed by the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs.



Official Languages Boards Virtual Meeting  
November 9, 2020

## OLB AND ALRB REPRESENTATIVES 2020-21

Official Language	Representative
Chipewyan	Ms. Mary Rose Sundberg (Member)
Cree	Mr. Vance Sanderson (Member and Vice Chair)
Cree	Ms. Mary Cardinal (Alternate)
French	Mr. Richard Létourneau (Member, OLB only)
French	Ms. Linda Bussey (Alternate, OLB only)
Gwich'in	Ms. Renie Koe (Member)
Gwich'in	Ms. Jacey Firth-Hagen (Alternate)
Inuinnaqtun	Ms. Emily Kudlak (Member)
Inuinnaqtun	Mr. Joshua Oliktoak (Alternate)
Inuktitut	Ms. Alice Chambers (Member)
Inuvialuktun	Ms. Betty Elias (Member)
Inuvialuktun	Ms. Holly Carpenter (Alternate)
North Slavey	Ms. Cathy Mackeinzo (Member)
North Slavey	Ms. Betty Grandjambe (Alternate)
South Slavey	Mr. Andy Norwegian (Member)
South Slavey	Ms. Violet Jumbo (Alternate)
Tłıchǫ	Ms. Tammy Steinwand-Deschambeault (Member and Chair)
Tłıchǫ	Ms. Julia Naedzo (Alternate)

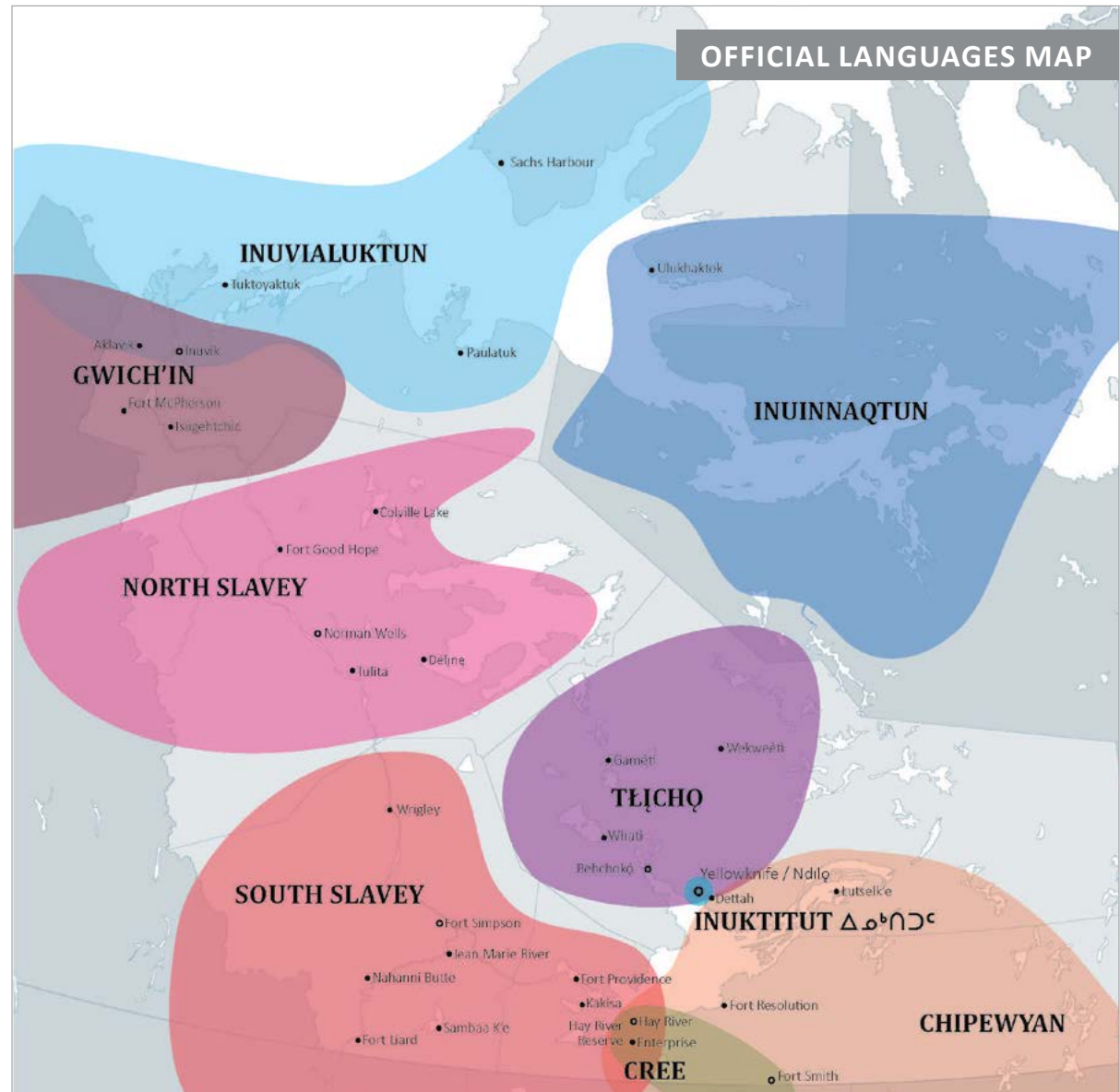


# Part I: The *Official Languages Act*

## CANADA-NWT LANGUAGE AGREEMENTS

Under the original Agreement signed in 1984, the Government of Canada agreed, on an ongoing basis, to bear all costs associated with the provision of French communications and services to the public. In February 2021, the GNWT and Canada (Department of Canadian Heritage) signed a three-year French Language Services Agreement.

Since 1984, the Government of Canada has also partnered with the GNWT to fund Indigenous languages programming and services in the NWT through the Canada-NWT Cooperation Agreement. The 2016-2020 Cooperation Agreement for Indigenous Languages expired on March 31, 2020. After a one-year extension, ECE is now drafting a proposal for multi-year Indigenous language funding beyond 2021.



FRENCH is mostly spoken in Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik and Yellowknife.

ENGLISH is spoken throughout the NWT

## Part II: Indigenous Languages

### **INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES AND EDUCATION SECRETARIAT**

In 2014, the Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat was established within ECE to enhance the protection, revitalization and strengthening of Indigenous languages. The recent work of the Secretariat is guided by the NWT Indigenous Languages Action Plan (2018-2022)—an overarching blueprint for revitalizing our threatened languages and enhancing our public services. The major responsibilities of the Secretariat include administering the Canada-NWT Cooperation Agreement for Indigenous Languages, funding Indigenous government led language programs, implementing the Indigenous Languages and Education Policy, and facilitating regular meetings of the OLB and ALRB.

### **Goal 1: Language Revitalization**

Language revitalization is one of the overarching goals of the NWT Indigenous Languages Action Plan (Action Plan) alongside language access. The Action Plan shows how we will partner with Indigenous governments, communities, schools, and organizations on language revitalization initiatives like the Our Languages curriculum, Mentor-Apprentice Program, and the Indigenous Languages Diploma. The GNWT is dedicated to ensuring all people in the NWT can use Indigenous languages as a means of communication and connection to culture.

#### **CANADA-NWT COOPERATION AGREEMENT FOR INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES**

Since 1984, the Government of Canada has partnered with the GNWT to fund Indigenous languages programming and services through a Canada-NWT Cooperation Agreement. A majority of the funding is disbursed directly to Indigenous governments and organizations, with a small amount retained to administer the Agreement and coordinate territorial language learning initiatives.

#### **INDIGENOUS GOVERNMENT LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

Some of the highlights of Indigenous government language programs, projects, partnerships, and initiatives in 2020-21 illustrate the exciting work being led by northern language communities.

#### **AKAITCHO TERRITORY GOVERNMENT**

- Recording Elders' stories to create teaching materials for youth
- Operating language and culture programs at daycares and preschools
- Offering interactive, online video teachings for participants of all ages

## Part II: Indigenous Languages

### **NORTHWEST TERRITORY METIS NATION**

- Board games and multilingual calendars
- Radio station launch and programming
- Traditional knowledge and on-the-land videography

### **GWICH'IN TRIBAL COUNCIL**

- 'Language Champion' program launch
- Multidialectal textbook and audio files
- Multidialectal traditional flood story materials

### **INUVIALUIT REGIONAL CORPORATION**

- Uummarmiut dictionary revision, digitizing resources, and 'Cook with Me' video production
- Documenting songs, dances, and stories at the Sallirmiut Drum Dance Workshop
- Community Language Radio programs and monthly 'Learning the Language' member mailouts
- Sewing phrases and making traditional atikluks
- Supporting Mentor-Apprentice Program participants and Early Childhood Development Centre language instructors

### **SAHTU DENE COUNCIL**

- Supporting Mentor-Apprentice Program participants
- Wellness programs
- Developing a searchable resource database

### **DEHCHO FIRST NATIONS**

- Dene Zhatié literacy workshop
- Language app development for iPhone and Android
- Supporting Mentor-Apprentice Program participants

### **TŁİCHQ GOVERNMENT**

- Sponsoring students to complete online courses through the Canadian Indigenous Languages and Literacy Development Institute
- Partnering with University of Victoria to offer an introductory linguistics course
- Hosting Christmas and Valentine's Day online talent shows
- Supporting Mentor-Apprentice Program participants

### **INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES MONTH**

Observed in February, Indigenous Languages Month honours the culture and knowledge that northern Indigenous languages pass from one generation to the next. In partnership with the NWT Literacy Council, the 2021 "Cook with Me" social media campaign celebrated how harvesting traditional foods and cooking for our families is integral to our identity and cultural traditions. During this year's promotion, the Literacy Council distributed bilingual recipe books, aprons, and wooden spoons to northerners, and encouraged NWT residents to try cooking in the language of their community. In addition, the Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat offered special videography grants for Indigenous governments to produce thematic, innovative, and highly accessible online language resources.

### **MENTOR-APPRENTICE PROGRAM**

In the fall of 2020, the Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat partnered with six Indigenous governments to deliver the Mentor-Apprentice Program (MAP) training for up to 60 'Mentor-Apprentice' pairs in communities across the NWT. Partner governments included the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Sahtu Dene Council, Dehcho First Nation, Tłıchq Government, and Akaitcho Territory Government. Nearly 40 pairs worked towards finishing 100 hours of immersion



## Part II: Indigenous Languages

training, and were supported by MAP Project Coordinators (Secretariat staff) through regular coaching in virtual one-on-one and regional group meetings. The results of apprentice learning have shown a measurable increase in language proficiency, with many participants stating that the program is helping them heal from intergenerational trauma and reconnect to culture.

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Annual Indigenous Language Revitalization scholarships of \$5,000 fund up to ten candidates pursuing post-secondary education in Indigenous language programs, including interpreter-translator training.

### **COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETIES AND BROADCASTING**

In 2020-21, the Native Communication Society, Inuvialuit Communication Society, and nine community radio stations were provided funding to produce radio, online, video, and print content in Indigenous languages. Notably, the Native Communication Society expanded its mentorship programs and provided public health and vaccine information to listeners in Dene languages, while the Inuvialuit Communications Society collaborated with the Inuvialuit Cultural Centre on an Indigenous Languages Month “Cook with Me” video celebrating traditional foods.

## Goal 2: Language Access

Improving access to GNWT communications and services in Indigenous languages is one of the two overarching goals of the NWT Indigenous Languages Action Plan, alongside revitalizing Indigenous languages. The Action Plan outlines deliverables that will enable people to use and benefit from high quality public services in all official Indigenous languages.

### **GNWT INDIGENOUS LANGUAGE SERVICES, INITIATIVES, EDUCATION AND COMMUNICATION**

GNWT Departments and agencies provide Indigenous language public services to northerners through health care, justice, legislative proceedings, education, and public hearings.

#### **Aurora College**

Aurora College continued ongoing projects within the Early Learning and Child Care Diploma, Early Childhood Development Certificate, Bachelor of Science in Nursing, Personal Support Worker, Social Work, and Practical Nursing programs to reflect the languages, literacies, cultures, traditions, and world views of local Indigenous peoples. The College has also received a grant which will enable Indigenous language, culture, and traditional knowledge to be incorporated more effectively into curriculum, research, and operations.

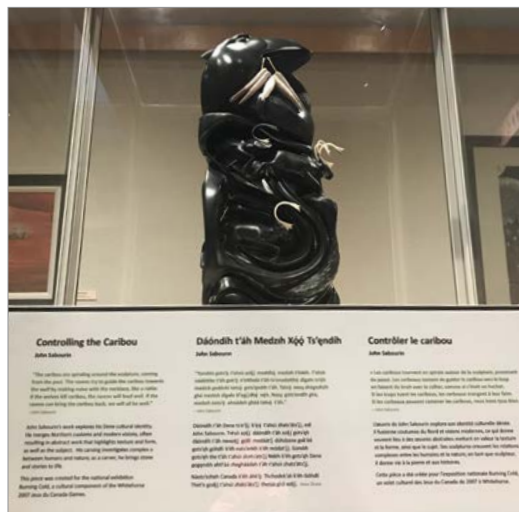
In 2020-21, Aurora College aired several program advertisements on CKLB radio in multiple Indigenous languages, the Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs published posters in Tłıchq̓ to support the Campaign School for Women and ‘She Can’ promotional campaign website, and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources developed new harvesting funding program radio ads in Chipewyan, Gwich’in, North Slavey, and Tłıchq̓.

In 2020-21, Aurora College was working to post the new mission statement, vision and values into all NWT official languages. The College was also in the process of updating external and internal signage on all campuses to ensure that local Indigenous languages are included. External signage for the new Centre for Mine and Industry Training in Fort Smith is now in Cree, Chipewyan, French, and English. The Yellowknife North Slave Campus incorporated welcome messages in local Indigenous languages, French and English on entrance signage.

# Part II: Indigenous Languages



ECE 'Cook with me' recipe booklets



Controlling the Caribou by John Sabourin | PWNHC

## Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE)

ECE's Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre (PWNHC) has developed new audio-guided tours of the museum, one of which is a fish-themed tour of the centre, narrated in English and Wiilideh Yati by Elder Fred Sangris. The NWT Archives has uploaded 1540 audio recordings of oral traditions onto the online database, including: 10 files in Dene Zhatié (South Slavey), 24 files in Tłıchq Yati; 350 files in Dëne Sųłíné Yatié (Chipewyan) 350 items, 1156 files in Dinjii Zhu' Ginjik (Gwich'in). The Department's Culture and Heritage division also supported the community of Dettah's name change.

Through the Heritage Centre Operating fund, the PWNHC awarded \$491,000 to support non-profit organizations that portray cultural or natural heritage through museums, archival collections, and Indigenous languages. The PWNHC also awarded \$424,000 to Indigenous Cultural Organizations that enhance cultural identity and run programs in Indigenous languages. The NWT Arts Council awarded \$6,300 to the Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resource Council to host a sewing and language workshop. The Gwich'in Tribal Council was awarded \$11,000 to publish the translated biographies and cultural knowledge of prominent Elders. The Délıne Got'ıne Government was also awarded \$7,000 to host the Délıne Traditional Knowledge Eco Arts Camp which includes language and culture programming for youths.

In 2020-21, PWNHC produced three exhibit components where text was translated into Indigenous languages, such as: the Controlling the Caribou carving by John Sabourin, with label text in Dene Zhatié (South Slavey); the 'NWT Turns 150!' commemorative coin design by Myrna Pokiak, with label text translated to Inuvialuktun; and the Our History is Everywhere Exhibit's 'Say it Right' instructional video by Itoah Scott-Enns on how to pronounce Tłıchq.

On March 17-18, 2021, the Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat (Secretariat) hosted a virtual gathering of Indigenous language interpreter-translators to share successes and challenges of their work, identify support and training needs in the field, and consider recruitment strategies for a new generation of these essential workers.

During the 2020-21 school year, the *Our Languages Curriculum* was officially launched and is now the mandatory curriculum for Indigenous language classes in all NWT communities. Due to public health restrictions, Secretariat staff offered virtual training to all regions, as well as a small number of in-person sessions working side-by-side with Indigenous language instructors in classrooms.

## Part II: Indigenous Languages

### (ECE continued)

The NWT Junior Kindergarten to Grade 12 Indigenous Languages and Education Policy mandates Indigenous language learning and culture-based education in schools. During 2020-21, the Secretariat continued developing the second draft of the Indigenous Language Education (ILE) Handbook—however, many ILE Handbook workshops were delivered virtually due to COVID-19 public health restrictions. This year, all schools in the NWT completed the ILE Action Planning workshop.

This past year, the Secretariat also began developing a pilot two-year Indigenous Languages Diploma (ILD) program, which builds language proficiency at post-secondary level. The community-based MAP is the feeder program for the ILD program. As well, two post-diploma laddering options are being developed: 1) Specialty Areas – practical training towards career paths and employment opportunities for the future interpreters, translators, broadcasters, language entrepreneurs, community instructors and mentors; and 2) Bachelor of Education – programming with an Indigenous language focus for the future teachers in NWT schools. To date, the project team has focused on program research and partnership development with Aurora College, University of Victoria, and three Indigenous governments for three pilot language groups.

### Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR)

ENR developed a 2020 Environmental Audit newsletter in Chipewyan, Cree, Gwich'in, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, and Tłıchq. ENR also provided rabies information through the development of a story book in Inuvialuktun, and updates on boreal caribou range planning in Tłıchq. This past year, they also worked with hamlets, band offices, and community radio stations to inform the public about the Community Harvester Assistance Program review, Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program, and flooding risk in local languages.

### Department of Finance (FIN)

FIN released the interactive 'Living Well Together: Indigenous Cultural Awareness Sensitivity Training' modules and learner's guide, which includes information about NWT official languages. In November, the NWT Bureau of Statistics also published the results of the 2019 NWT Community Survey language questionnaire.

The Minister of Finance delivered a portion of the 2021 Budget Address in Tłıchq. In addition, FIN translated Employee Long Service Award templates into Inuktitut.



Finance 'Living Well Together: Indigenous Cultural Awareness Sensitivity Training' Video

# Part II: Indigenous Languages



HSS COVID-19 Vaccine Information Factsheets

## Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) and Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA)

In 2020-21, HSS made COVID-19 public health and vaccine information available in Indigenous languages through translations, audio, and video materials and through advertisements, promotional materials, and signage. This year, NTHSSA also launched a set of videos highlighting Indigenous language and traditional food programs.

HSS held COVID-19 vaccination clinics in the Indigenous languages of the communities through interpretation services, and offered information, promotional materials, and advertisement in all official languages.

During the Fort Liard COVID-19 outbreak, the NTHSSA worked to ensure local dialects were available to communicate public health advice. NTHSSA also advanced a strategy of “putting our people first” by promoting Indigenous language services through a series of employee profiles focused on Indigenous languages program staff.

NTHSSA continued delivering interpretation, translation, traditional foods, and patient outreach activities through the Stanton Territorial Hospital Indigenous Wellness Program.

HSS conducted facility signage audits and translation updates in Fort Smith, Inuvik, and various Beaufort Delta communities.

## Northwest Territories Housing Corporation (NWT HC)

NWTHC and Local Housing Organizations hosted meetings and provided client counseling utilizing Indigenous interpretation services in Tulita, Behchokò, Whatì, Ulukhaktok, Hay River, and Fort Providence. Additionally, the NWTHC identifies the Sahtu district office in Norman Wells through Indigenous language signage.

## Department of Infrastructure (INF)

INF placed radio ads on CKLB in English and Tłıchq to update residents on the Tłıchq Highway project. The Honourable Diane Archie, Minister of INF, delivered three statements in Inuvialuktun at the Legislative Assembly.

INF also developed signage for: the Taltson Hydroelectric Facility Overhaul Project in Cree and Chipewyan; the Inuvik airport upgrades display in Gwich'in and Inuvialuktun; the Arctic Ocean sign in Tuktoyaktuk and on the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk Highway in Inuvialuktun; the J.H. Sissons School sign in Yellowknife in Tłıchq; and the Norman Wells airport sign, building and works division sign, and maintenance shop sign in North Slavey.



HSS COVID-19 Vaccine Door-knocker and Pin



## Part II: Indigenous Languages

### **Department of Justice (JUS)**

This past year, various divisions of JUS utilized Tłıchq interpretation services, including the Legal Aid Commission, the Rental Office, and the South Slave Probation Office.

JUS released public service announcements about Territorial Court proceedings in Behchokò on CBC Radio and CKLB in both Tłıchq and English.

Additionally, JUS developed Indigenous language signage for buildings in communities throughout the NWT, including Tłıchq in Yellowknife, Inuvialuktun in the Beaufort-Delta, and all 11 official languages for the Fort Smith Correctional Centre. Temporary signage advising of COVID-19 screening protocols at the Yellowknife Courthouse were posted in Tłıchq, and advisory notices were posted in Tłıchq and Chipewyan for Territorial Court proceedings in Behchokò and Łutselk'e respectively. This past year, JUS also created signage in all 11 official languages describing the significance of the J.H. Sissons carving collection that will be put on display at the Yellowknife Courthouse. The carvings depict trials heard before the first judge of the NWT, J.H. Sissons, between 1956 and 1966.

### **Department of Lands (LANDS)**

LANDS utilized radio advertising in Chipewyan, Gwich'in, North Slavey, South Slavey, and Tłıchq for the Unauthorized Occupants promotional campaign.

### **NWT Legislative Assembly (Assembly)**

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, many Assembly initiatives and programs were reconfigured or operated at decreased capacity. For example, the Assembly used remote interpreting to continue offering this important service during Session despite public health restrictions. Through this initiative, the Assembly successfully set up remote interpreting booths in Inuvik where Inuvialuktun interpreters worked through the February-March 2021 sitting. In February 2021, the Standing Committee on Rules and Procedures also completed a report on the use of Official Languages within the Assembly—in March, the Office of the Clerk began reviewing the eight recommendations to plan actions in the following fiscal year.

The Assembly continued to share a satellite channel with the Nunavut legislature and broadcast live proceedings in most official languages. The Assembly also continued to rebroadcast its Indigenous language interpretation files.

The Assembly continued to provide Indigenous language interpretation for Session sittings in Chipewyan, French, Inuvialuktun, North Slavey, South Slavey, and Tłıchq, although with reduced capacity due to physical distancing requirements. In the past year, the message from the Speaker for the 2018-2020 Annual Report was also translated into Gwich'in, and a standing committee hearing was interpreted into Tłıchq.

### **Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA)**

MACA provided funding to the 'Take a Kid Trapping' program and the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning to support transmission of traditional knowledge, cultural teachings, and languages. The Department also released a radio spot advising the public about Ingraham Trail fire services engagement sessions on an Indigenous media outlet.

To enhance engagement, MACA employs three regional employees who speak an Indigenous language and maintains signage in all regional offices in local Indigenous languages.





## Part II: Indigenous Languages



EIA 'She Can' Campaign Ad

### LANGUAGE PROGRAM EXPENDITURES – INDIGENOUS LANGUAGES

In 2020-21, ECE spent \$9,420,529 to support Indigenous language revitalization, community partnerships, and public services.

Canada-Northwest Territories Agreement 2020-21 Indigenous Languages	Actual Expenditures
Outcome 1 (Language Communities)	\$5,092,712
Outcome 2 (Broadcasting and Media)	\$968,000
Outcome 3 (Programs and Partnerships)	\$1,119,399
Outcome 4 (Community Learning and Resources)	\$2,100,000
Outcome 5 (Administration and Services)	\$140,418
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,420,529</b>

In 2020-21, ECE spent \$2,100,000 of the Canada-NWT Agreement funds for 'Community Learning and Resources' plus an additional \$9,711,828 of JK-12 funds for Education Bodies to provide a combined total of \$11,811,828 towards Indigenous language and culture education.

Government of the Northwest Territories — Indigenous Languages Education	Actual Expenditures
Community Learning and Resources (Canada-NWT Agreement funding)	\$2,100,000
JK-12 Language and Culture Education (ECE funding formula)	\$9,711,828
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,811,828</b>

Since 1997, GNWT departments and agencies are each separately responsible to provide funding for their public services in Indigenous official languages.

# Part III: French Language

## Francophone Affairs Secretariat

The Francophone Affairs Secretariat (Secretariat) offers advice, tools and support to Government institutions<sup>1</sup> for the purpose of developing plans on French language communications and services, 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.

### **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 the effective delivery and active offer of French language communications and services.

### **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 GNWT.

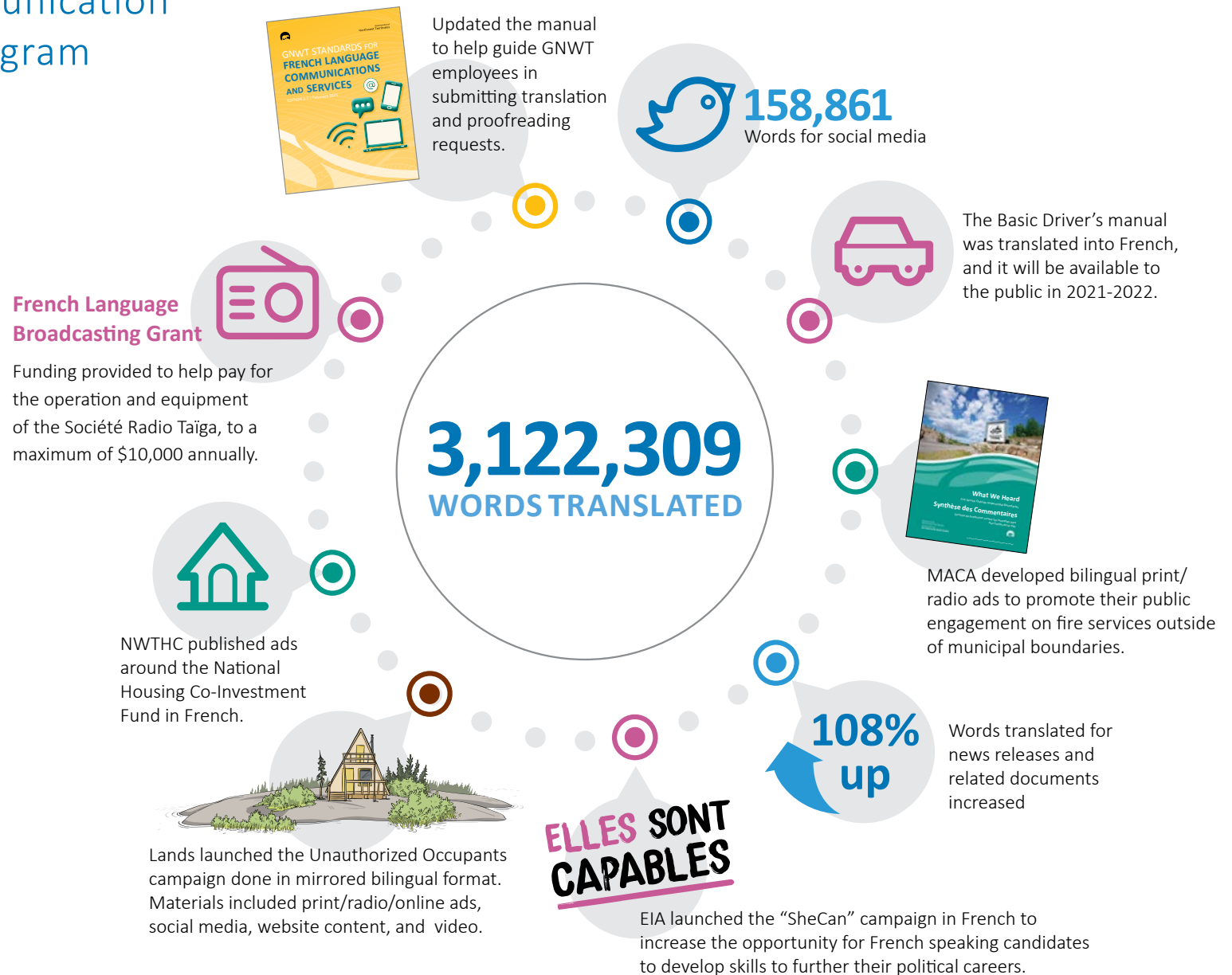
### **GNWT STANDARDS FOR FRENCH LANGUAGE COMMUNICATIONS AND SERVICES**

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, as well as receiving and responding to public feedback. The standards are updated regularly with the last review occurring in February 2021. They complement and work in tandem with the GNWT's Visual Identity Program and communications directives.

1. 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*.

# Part III: French Language

## French Communication Highlights Diagram



# Part III: French Language

Cette feuille vous permettra de noter quotidiennement vos symptômes pendant que vous surveillez votre état de santé.

**Formulaire de surveillance quotidienne des symptômes de la COVID-19**  
Si vous décelez des symptômes, avisez-en votre fournisseur de soins de santé.

Nom : \_\_\_\_\_  
Date d'apparition des symptômes : \_\_\_\_\_  
Date de fin de surveillance : \_\_\_\_\_  
Les personnes sont invitées à surveiller leur état de santé durant 14 jours après leur arrivée de l'extérieur des T.N.O. afin d'être à l'affût de symptômes.

Indiquez la date du jour, prenez votre température, puis vérifiez la présence d'autres symptômes.

Date	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Aucun symptôme	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Symptômes:</b> Si vous décelez des symptômes, avisez-en votre fournisseur de soins de santé.														
Température (précisez: $^{\circ}\text{C}$ )														
Fraîcheur/fièvre														
Difficultés à respirer														
Toux														
Nas qui coule														
Nausées/vomissements/diarrhée														
Gorge irritée														
Autres, veuillez préciser														

**Bonnes pratiques d'hygiène respiratoire que tous devraient appliquer pour se protéger soi-même et la collectivité**

Si vous êtes malade, restez chez vous. Si vous êtes malade, évitez tout contact rapproché avec d'autres personnes. Retenez-vous, et couvrez-vous la bouche et le nez. Évitez les mouchoirs à usage unique. Lavez-vous les mains. Nettoyez et désinfectez.

Mise à jour : 14 mars 2020

HSS COVID-19 Self-Monitoring Tool



HSS COVID-19 Healthy at Home Poster

## COVID-19

The 2020-21 fiscal year was marked by the emergence of COVID-19. Government institutions developed various materials in French to inform the public.

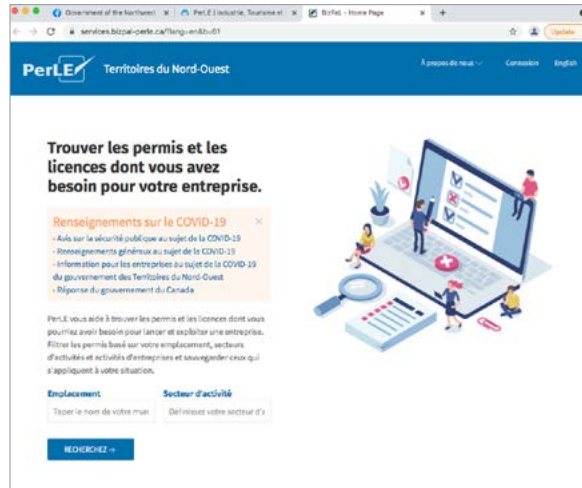
- The French Translation Service provided 24 hours / 7 days a week service during the pandemic to ensure critical information was available to the public in a timely manner during this emergency period.
- 560,107 COVID-19-related words were translated.
- The COVID-19 vaccination clinics signage and advertisements were done in French. Speech bubbles, Hesitancy Facebook ads, pins and information sheet are examples of the materials created in the context of the pandemic to promote awareness, public information and services.
- The WSCC has published several COVID-19 related resources for workplaces, such as posters, information sheets, safety checklists, guides and safety bulletins.
- A COVID-19 outreach gift basket for new mothers who give birth at Stanton Territorial Hospital was put together. The gift basket, an easy-to-carry diaper bag, included French books about the postpartum period, a baby gift, a handout about French interpretation services, a greeting card, and a feedback card. The initiative was developed to bring joy and comfort to women who faced strict restrictions during the pandemic. Also, to create a connection between French language service providers and French speaking families. This initiative was led by French Language Services Coordinators at Stanton Territorial Hospital and funded by the NTHSSA.

## Services

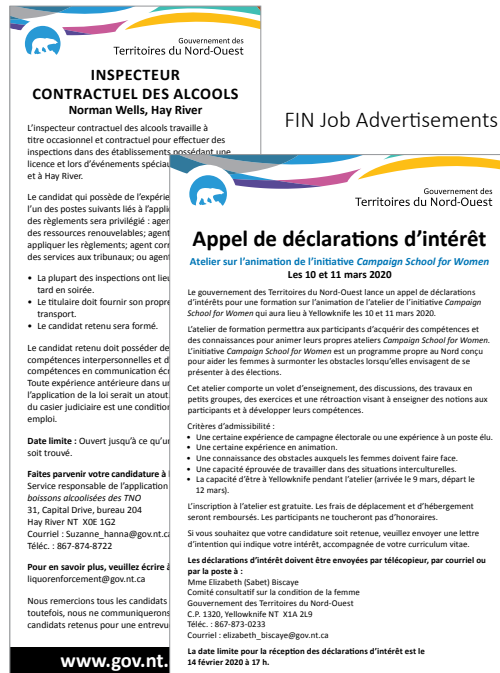
- 82 training sessions were offered by French Language Service Coordinators to GNWT employees.
- The Secretariat received seven public feedback forms through *Votre Avis GTNO*.
- JUS created a French presentation to facilitate delivery of the free Parenting After Separation ("PAS") workshop. A French evaluation form was created for participants to provide feedback. Participants receive general information about a variety of family and legal



# Part III: French Language



ITI BizPal Portal



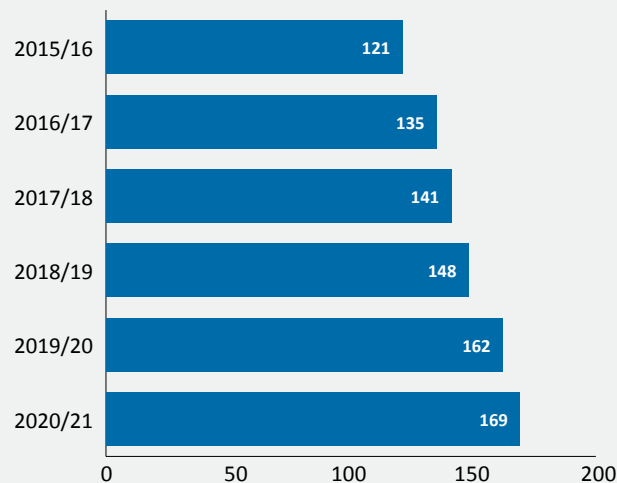
FIN Job Advertisements

issues that may arise during separation and divorce. They learned how to communicate effectively with children and ex-partners as well as how to reduce conflict during this stressful time. Participants also learned about what children need to help them through the separation and divorce process. A wide variety of resources were provided. Participants were encouraged to develop a parenting plan to minimize future conflict. This program is accessible in French and is an example of how NWT residents and families can anticipate and prepare for issues that arise. This language accessible information can help them make informed and positive choices about their families' future.

- ITI launched the BizPal portal in French. BizPal is an online service that provides prospective business owners and entrepreneurs easy and convenient access to critical information needed to establish and run a business in every community in the NWT.
- Services TNO processed a total of 287 requests. It should be noted that Services TNO office was closed to the public for a total of six months due to the pandemic. During this period telephone and email services were maintained.
- The second edition of the francophone community survey was launched in March 2021. It showed that 81.7% of the respondents who used a French language service provided by the GNWT in the past 12 months, indicated being very satisfied or satisfied with the service received. Additionally, the survey indicated that 84.7% of participants were able to receive direct service when receiving French service.

# Part III: French Language

## EMPLOYEES RECEIVING FRENCH BILINGUAL BONUS



JUS Corrections Shoulder Flash

## Human Resources

- 169 employees received the bilingual bonus for French in 2020-21. This is an increase of 4.3% from 2019-20 and an increase of 40% from 2015-16. The number of bilingual employees has been consistently increasing over the past five years.
- The Human Resources Branch of the Department of Finance has run 23 competitions to fill required bilingual positions.
- The GNWT bilingual employee survey was conducted in March 2021. The survey showed that 90% of the respondents feel their French skills are valued at work and 95% feel that they have a clear understanding of their role in providing French language communications and services.
- The Legislative Assembly was delighted to debut a new interpreter's skills just as the Minister of ECE was delivering a celebratory statement in the Chamber about the 23rd Annual *Rendez-vous de la Francophonie*.

## Funding

### EDUCATION AND FRENCH

In 2020-21, ECE continued to work with its partners and stakeholders to offer quality French language education in the NWT.

In addition to the funding received from the 2019-2023 Canada-Northwest Territories agreement on minority-language education and second official-language instruction, the department, on behalf of its stakeholders, successfully applied for funding from Canadian Heritage. This funding will be used to assist in Teacher retention and recruitment initiatives, as well to increase the French second language programming capacity in the NWT and the French first language programming capacity of the Collège Nordique Francophone (CNF).

ECE regularly engages with CNF to discuss its plans for continued growth and development, considering CNF to be a valued post-secondary education organization partner in the NWT. During the 2020-21 fiscal year, CNF received \$877,600 from ECE, including the complimentary funding requested from Heritage Canada on their behalf.

## Part III: French Language



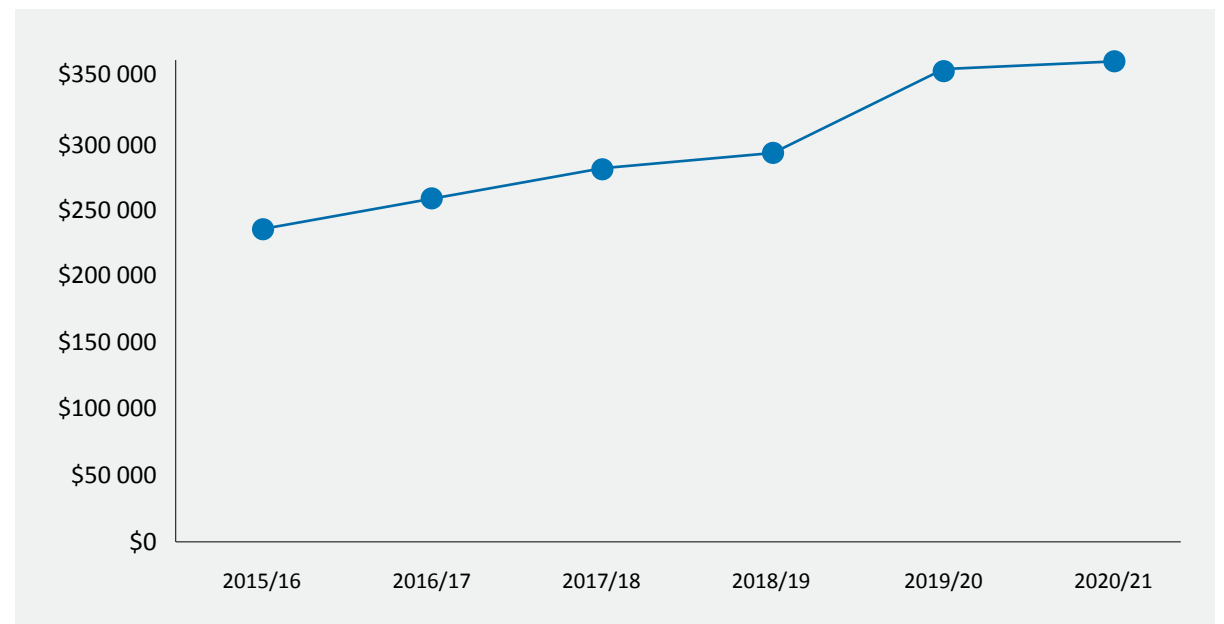
HSS COVID-19 Campaign

### GNWT LANGUAGE PROGRAM EXPENDITURES – FRENCH (2020-21)

In 2020-21, the GNWT spent \$5,552,179 for French Language Services. In the same fiscal year, ECE spent an additional \$3,796,471 for French Language Education programming.

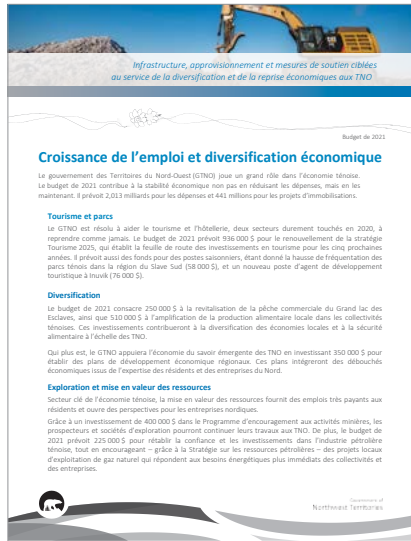
Description	Actual Expenditures
French Language Services	\$5,552,179
French Language Education <sup>2</sup>	\$3,796,471
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$9,348,650</b>

### ADVERTISING DOLLARS SPENT IN FRENCH LANGUAGE MEDIA



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

# Part III: French Language



FIN Budget Fact Sheet

## Examples of Collaborations and Engagement

The Minister's Council on the Canadian Francophonie (MCCF) is an intergovernmental organization that was 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. In 2020-21, the Minister responsible for the *Official Languages Act* participated in the annual meeting of the MCCF.

The Manager of Labour Market Programs of ECE delivered a presentation and answered questions during the Conference on Employability and Immigration organized by the Conseil de développement économique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (CDETNO) and Fédération Franco-Ténoise (FFT).

In 2020-21, JUS was part of the FFT advisory committee on Access to Justice in French, which produced a two-year strategic plan. The plan defines activities to improve access to justice in French and the French Language Services Coordinators, among other stakeholders, will pursue a working relationship with the FFT to achieve this goal.

Engagement sessions were held regarding changes to the *Liquor Act*. All printed materials were available in both French and English at the time of the engagement sessions, including a survey and background information.

ENR performed consultation and engagement online for the Water Stewardship Strategy Action Plan 2021-2025.

NTHSSA French Language Services Coordinators and the Manager of Official languages are representatives on the Réseau TNO Santé coordination committee. This representation is a helpful link to inform, plan and consult with the Francophone community about French communication and services.

The Northwest Territories Business Development and Investment Corporation will continue to explore opportunities for partnership as it conducts stakeholder engagement in the fall of 2021 as part of its 2021-2024 Strategic plan implementation.

# Part III: French Language



JUS Crime Reduction Funding Poster

## Looking forward

GNWT institutions will train their frontline staff on the importance of their role in offering and delivering communications and services in French. One of the tools that will be used is a training video providing background information and sample scenarios of public interaction. The GNWT, in partnership with Réseau TNO Santé en français, will create two updated staff training videos- as well as a public service announcement- about the active offer. The project is expected to be completed in the 2021-22 fiscal year.

NTHSSA will work with Réseau TNO Santé on an Integrated Bilingual Health Human Resources Project Partnership. This initiative aims at informing the demand for French services, identify areas of priority for additional French speaking resources, as well as work to attract and retain French speaking staff within the NWT health and social services system.

The results of the compliance audit on health sector communications will be published in 2021-22.

The GNWT will be launching an E-Service portal where Fishing Permits, Hunting Permits and Permits to Burn will be available in French, among other permits issued by the GNWT in an ongoing staged release.





# 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT ON OFFICIAL LANGUAGES

## CONTACTS

### Indigenous Languages

(867) 767-9346 Ext. 71037

[indigenous\\_languages@gov.nt.ca](mailto:indigenous_languages@gov.nt.ca)

### French Language

(867) 767-9348

(866) 561-1664 (toll free)

Government of  
Northwest Territories