

DOING OUR PART:

THE GNWT'S RESPONSE TO THE SOCIAL AGENDA

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Introduction

The Government of the Northwest Territories recognizes the hard work and dedication of the Social Agenda Working Group in finding ways to improve quality of life for the people of the Northwest Territories. The GNWT is also committed to this goal and believes that social development is as important as political and economic development in ensuring the long-term prosperity of our Territory.

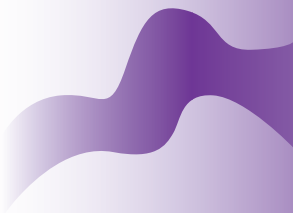
This paper represents the GNWT's response to the *Social Agenda: A Draft for the People of the NWT* (referred to in this Response as the 'Social Agenda'). But this is only a preliminary step.

As the Social Agenda Working Group said, everyone has a part to play. Individuals in the NWT have a personal responsibility to make healthy choices that support their families, communities and society. Other levels of government and non-government organizations also have a role.

It is critical that all levels of government, and our non-government partners, work together to develop and implement a comprehensive approach to addressing social issues and working towards social equality for everyone in the NWT. However, there are a number of actions that, as a Territorial government, we can undertake ourselves. These activities are summarized in this Response. We are committed to working in partnership with Aboriginal governments and the Federal government as well as with non-government organizations, to ensure a comprehensive approach to addressing the issues that have been identified. Although the GNWT's fiscal situation does not permit the investment of a significant amount of new public money, much can be accomplished within existing resources.

The Social Agenda made ten major recommendations within six broad areas:

- The Social Agenda as a Lens;
- Working Together;
- Capacity Building;
- Accountability;
- Leadership and Individual Responsibility; and
- Prevention.



The GNWT's Response focuses on all six areas and identifies activities that can be undertaken immediately (within approximately six (6) months) as well as actions that will take longer to complete. In addition, we have identified those government activities that are already underway (Appendix I) that address specific recommendations or support the overall goal of the Social Agenda - "to improve the well-being of people in the NWT". We have built on the linkages with extensive activities already underway through existing GNWT strategies and initiatives including the *Health and Social Services System Action Plan 2002-2005*, the *Early Childhood Development Strategy*, Housing Initiatives and the *Seniors' Action Plan 2002-2003*.

We remain committed to the vision of this government as described in *Towards a Better Tomorrow*. Our response to the Social Agenda builds on this vision and moves us closer to realizing our goal of "healthy, educated individuals making responsible personal choices for themselves and their families".

The Social Agenda As A Lens

Recommendation #1: Social Agenda as Policy Framework and Lens

The Social Agenda's Recommendation

The Social Agenda Working Group recommends that public governments, Aboriginal governments, and non-government organizations should use the Social Agenda as a lens for all social policy and program decisions and actions.

The GNWT's Response

The GNWT agrees to use the Social Agenda as one of the key criteria for assessing its program and policy decisions. The GNWT has begun work developing a set of social policy principles and a social initiatives checklist for GNWT decision-makers, based upon the Guiding Principles and Recommendations in the Social Agenda. The purpose of the social initiatives checklist, which will consist of a set of questions regarding various aspects of program development, is to ensure that initiatives undertaken to improve social conditions are developed within a consistent framework and that all initiatives are reviewed to identify potential social implications.

Together, the principles and the social initiatives checklist will form the "lens" that will be used as part of the assessment of all new programs and policies.

Recognizing that there can be intended or unintended social impacts of any program or policy, the GNWT will apply the lens to all policy and program developments, not only those within the Social Envelope. The lens will help to ensure that projects currently underway are informed by the Social Agenda and that potential barriers to cooperation are identified and addressed as new legislation and policies are developed.

The GNWT encourages the Government of Canada and Aboriginal governments to also accept this recommendation.

The GNWT's Public Commitment to Action

1.1 Immediate Actions

- 1.1.1 The GNWT will complete development of a set of social policy principles based on the Social Agenda.
- 1.1.2 The GNWT will develop a social initiatives checklist for departments to use when developing program and policy proposals.

1.2 Longer Term Activities

- 1.2.1 Once approved the "lens", consisting of the principles and social initiatives checklist, will be used in the assessment of all new program, policy and legislative proposals.
- 1.2.2 GNWT program staff will apply the principles when developing or amending policies and programs.
- 1.2.3 GNWT decision-makers will refer to the principles when asked to approve new policies or programs.

Working Together

Recommendation #2: Remove Structural Barriers to Working Together

The Social Agenda's Recommendation

The Social Agenda Working Group recommends that public governments, communities, and non-government organizations should remove structural barriers to working together and create or improve the ways that governments, communities, departments, agencies and service providers work together.

The GNWT's Response

The GNWT agrees with the need to improve the ways in which we work together. This was a broad recommendation of the Social Agenda Working Group based on several issues:

- the need for better coordination between GNWT departments, agencies and service providers;
- the frustration of the average person trying to access "stove-piped" government services;
- the frustration of communities and community groups with the need to access funding through different avenues with different accountabilities; and,
- barriers to working together that can be created by policy and legislation.

The GNWT has taken steps to address some of these issues including:

- improved inter-departmental coordination;
- integrated funding approaches for Federal and territorial wellness programs;
- and block funding for municipalities, health and social services authorities, divisional education councils and other third parties who deliver core services.

However, we recognize that, despite actions taken to date by the GNWT, communities and organizations are still spending considerable time and effort in accessing different funding sources. We will continue to work with them to find ways to reduce this administrative burden. To effectively remove the barriers to integrated, or better coordinated, community based programs it is essential that all levels of government and non-government organizations work together. We will work with our partners to further explore, and implement ways of effectively integrating services.



In responding to this recommendation, the GNWT has considered a number of aspects: increased coordination; improved funding mechanisms; streamlined service delivery; and removal of legislative and policy barriers. We will be testing several approaches through the use of demonstration projects designed to support communities impacted by development in the development and implementation of their own wellness strategies. This work will be consistent with our commitments in the *Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy*, the *NWT Health and Social Services Action Plan 2002-2005*, the *Northern Wellness Framework*, and with previous work on business service centres.

The GNWT's Public Commitment to Action

2.1 Immediate Actions

- 2.1.1 Demonstration projects in five (5) communities affected by resource development dealing with integration and coordination of health and social services (including services by government, NGOs, private and volunteer sectors).
- 2.1.2 Demonstration projects in two (2) communities not likely to be affected by resource development to test approaches to community wellness plans.
- 2.1.3 Release revised Child Abuse Protocol clarifying roles of GNWT department, federal agencies and NGOs regarding reporting and intervention.

2.2 Longer Term Actions

- 2.2.1 Review existing legislation and policies to identify barriers to cooperation; identify possible changes and implement wherever possible. The initial focus for review will be the *Child and Family Services Act*, the *Social Assistance Act*, the *Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, and the *NWT Housing Corporation Act*.
- 2.2.2 Through application of the Social Agenda "lens", ensure that linkages are identified and strengthened and any legislative or policy barriers are addressed as new legislation and policies are developed (See Recommendation 1).
- 2.2.3 Continue to promote and improve inter-departmental coordination and cooperation at headquarters and regions through: regular interdepartmental meetings at ministerial, deputy and staff levels; regular regional/headquarters meetings - outside Yellowknife where possible; and identification of interdepartmental activities in Business Plans.
- 2.2.4 Clarify what are considered core services in program departments to provide the basis for identifying funding that may be available for discretionary "wellness" related activities.
- 2.2.5 Continue to work with Federal government departments to identify and promote one-window approaches.
- 2.2.6 Expand public access to information on GNWT programs and services via the internet.

Capacity Building

Recommendation #3: Multi-Year Funding

The Social Agenda's Recommendation

The Social Agenda Working Group recommends that the GNWT provide multi-year funding to build local capacity and infrastructure, help with long-term planning, and reduce red tape beginning in the business planning cycles for 2003-2004.

The GNWT's Response

The GNWT recognizes the need for communities and non-government agencies that deliver important programs and services to have some certainty as to funding levels so that they can do long-term planning and program implementation as well as more easily retain staff. Approval of multi-year funding can eliminate the need for annual funding proposals. However, continued funding should still be contingent upon clearly outlined accountability requirements (e.g. financial and results reports). This accountability is not only to the GNWT as the funding agency, but also to their membership and the public they serve.

There is nothing in the *Financial Administration Act* (FAA) or *Financial Administration Manual* (FAM) to prevent departments and agencies from entering into multi-year funding arrangements, as long as commitment to future year funding is contingent upon the funds being appropriated by the Legislative Assembly and accountability requirements are met. In addition, as noted in the Social Agenda, multi-year funding is not an appropriate approach for all organizations or types of funding.

The GNWT agrees to enter into multi-year funding arrangements at the earliest opportunity where appropriate. There are already a number of multi-year funding agreements in place, but to date there has not been a comprehensive, planned approach. MACA has already taken steps in this direction by providing community governments with multi-year funding projections. Multi-year funding is also provided to communities for the *Healthy Children's Initiative*.

The GNWT's Public Commitment to Action

3.1 *Immediate Actions*

- 3.1.1 Establish criteria for provision of multi-year funding.
- 3.1.2 Based on established criteria, review all programs to identify cases where multi-year funding for grants and contributions would be appropriate and amend policies accordingly to provide for approval of multi-year funding in fiscal 2003-2004.
- 3.1.3 Complete review of FAM to identify any revisions required to clarify provisions for multi-year funding arrangements.
- 3.1.4 Review all existing departmental contributions policies to ensure they reflect the FAM provisions.
- 3.1.5 All departments will make any necessary revisions to departmental contribution policies to accommodate multi-year funding arrangements.
- 3.1.6 Effective immediately, where the GNWT is entering into agreements with communities or non-government organizations, multi-year funding will be considered and, where appropriate, included as a term of the agreement.
- 3.1.7 Reflect commitment to multi-year funding in 2003-2004 contribution agreements.
- 3.1.8 Ensure that NWT women's groups maximize GNWT office leases and have adequate infrastructure available to them to improve service delivery to clients.

3.2 *Longer term Actions*

- 3.2.1 Multi-year agreements reflected in guide to grants and contributions published annually.

[Note: Multi-year funding may also be a component of demonstration projects identified under Recommendation 2]

Capacity Building

Recommendation #4: Baseline Services in Small Communities

The Social Agenda's Recommendation

The Social Agenda Working Group recommends that all Members of the Legislative Assembly work together to establish and fund a minimum level of services for all communities based on community specific needs assessments. The Working Group further recommends that these assessments should be completed within the time frame of the work of the Special Joint Committee on Non-Tax Based Community Affairs.

The GNWT's Response

The GNWT recognizes the challenges facing all communities, but especially the smaller non-tax based communities, in accessing the full range of government programs and services. We are committed to work to determine where service levels need to be clarified and to identify what other mechanisms may help to improve service levels in communities.

The Legislative Assembly Special Joint Committee on Non-Tax Based Community Affairs is proposing to undertake consultation with communities to focus and define the specific issues that need to be addressed. Rather than duplicate efforts, and recognizing that multiple consultation processes stretch the capacity of community leadership and staff, we will work in cooperation with the Special Joint Committee to involve communities and all other stakeholders in the discussion.

Following release of the Committee's report, the GNWT will also address the issue of funding for communities.



The GNWT's Public Commitment to Action

4.1 *Immediate Actions*

- 4.1.1 Approach the Special Joint Committee to work collaboratively to develop useful community profiles that will address communities' needs for planning and analysis.

4.2 *Longer Term Actions*

- 4.2.1 Following release of the report of the Special Joint Committee, develop and implement a proposal for next steps.
- 4.2.2 The issue of funding will also be examined following release of the Committee's recommendations.
- 4.2.3 The GNWT will also work with interested groups to develop and implement the Volunteer Support Initiative (see Recommendation #9).

Capacity Building

Recommendation #5: Research and Northern Program Delivery

The Social Agenda's Recommendation

The Social Agenda Working Group recommends that governments, non-government organizations, academic institutions and the private sector should partner to build the NWT's capacity to conduct research and to deliver more programs in the NWT instead of relying on southern services. The Working Group further recommends that this work should begin now and continue over the long term.

The GNWT's Response

The GNWT agrees with the recommendation to improve northern capacity to conduct research. We will build on the GNWT's current activities and programming in the research and innovation sectors, under the leadership of the Aurora Research Institute, to promote linkages and partnerships.

We also recognize the excellent social science research that continues to be done by northern organizations such as the Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute and the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre.

The GNWT is prepared to explore the establishment of a Network of Excellence for Social and Cultural Research. The intent will not be to centralize the activities of existing organizations, but to promote linkages, collaboration, and resource sharing.

The GNWT also agrees that programs should be delivered in the NWT instead of relying on southern services where it can be demonstrated that this approach results in an equivalent level of service and when it is cost-effective to do so. This is an area we will need to explore further with our partners in the Aboriginal and Federal governments and non-government organizations.



The GNWT's Public Commitment to Action

5.1 *Immediate Actions*

- 5.1.1 Led by the Aurora Research Institute, the GNWT will consult with non-government organizations, academic institutions, NWT social and cultural institutes, the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre, Aboriginal governments and the private sector, to develop a proposal for establishing a Network of Excellence for Social and Cultural Research in the NWT.
- 5.1.2 The Aurora Research Institute will have the opportunity to apply for a group of intern positions for northern graduates through the current internship program under *Maximizing Northern Employment*. These positions would be for research officers. Research could also be sponsored and partially funded by a department and conducted through one of the partners in the Network.
- 5.1.3 A focus group of northern industry, northern researchers, non-government organizations will identify and articulate northern research priorities and provide results to the Federal Government's Northern Forum on the Innovation Strategy.

5.2 *Longer Term Actions*

- 5.2.1 The GNWT will promote the establishment of a virtual library of existing northern research, in consultation with the partners identified.

Accountability

Recommendation #6: Quality of Life/Social Indicator Approach

The Social Agenda's Recommendation

The Social Agenda Working Group recommends that public governments and Aboriginal governments should develop and use social indicators to measure social conditions and quality of life over time. The Social Agenda Working Group further recommends that an effective method be devised of monitoring the implementation of the Social Agenda.

The GNWT's Response

The GNWT agrees that ongoing measurement and reporting of broad indicators of social conditions in northern society are important means by which all northerners can monitor quality of life and measure progress towards broad social goals. The GNWT has already made a public commitment to do this and recently published the first annual report on government-wide measures, *Towards Improved Accountability, 2002*.

The GNWT also agrees that all levels of government and other stakeholders should work in partnership to determine appropriate social indicators and methods for monitoring progress. We further agree with the proposal in the Social Agenda to increase the focus on evaluating program quality.

It will also be important to develop an effective mechanism for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of the Social Agenda. However, as many of the actions that need to be taken are outside the mandate of the GNWT, we will need to explore with all the stakeholders appropriate mechanisms to monitor implementation.



The GNWT's Public Commitment to Action

6.1 *Immediate Actions*

- 6.1.1 Establishment of a formal working group to advance the identification and measurement of social indicators within the GNWT's mandate. Building on the work done by the Social Agenda Working Group, we will promote the development of partnerships with NGOs and all levels of governments to advance this work.
- 6.1.2 Development of a strategy to support the development of an enhanced evaluation capacity throughout the government and communities across the NWT.
- 6.1.3 Implementation of an accountability framework for the Health and Social Services system that includes consideration of health and social conditions of communities in the NWT.

6.2 *Longer Term Actions*

- 6.2.1 The GNWT will provide training in basic program evaluation techniques to build capacity in communities and regions.
- 6.2.2 The GNWT will support the development and maintenance of community profiles using the social indicators, which can support communities in identifying priorities for action on social conditions.

Accountability

Recommendation #7: Tracking, Implementing and Communicating Recommendations

The Social Agenda's Recommendation

The Social Agenda Working Group recommends that all governments and non-government organizations should ensure that the recommendations contained in all of their reports or plans are implemented, assessed, monitored, and reported back to the public.

The GNWT's Response

The GNWT agrees that government should be accountable for the effective use of public funds, including regular monitoring and evaluation of program effectiveness, and continuous quality improvement of programs. Over the last few years the GNWT has worked hard to enhance the transparency and accountability of government and will continue to do so. The GNWT will continue to ensure that, wherever possible, copies of program reviews, program evaluations and similar reports are accessible to the public. Furthermore, the GNWT is committed to creating greater public awareness about government initiatives.

The public also has a right to know the results of program reviews and evaluations and government should be held accountable for demonstrating how it has responded to such reports. It should be noted, however, that the recommendations of external reviewers are not always accepted and implemented. While the GNWT can commit to enhancing our own accountability, specific reporting on implementation of the recommendations contained in the Social Agenda is a collective responsibility and needs to be done in consultation with all partners.



The GNWT's Public Commitment to Action

7.1 Immediate Actions

- 7.1.1 Draft Regulations under the *Archives Act* to legally establish depository status for the Legislative Library.
- 7.1.2 Ensure that copies of program reviews, program evaluations, and similar reports developed within the term of this government are placed in the NWT Legislative Library to ensure public accessibility.
- 7.1.3 Provide information to the public regarding accessibility of materials through the Legislative Library and on-line.

7.2 Longer Term Actions

- 7.2.1 Development and implementation of a government wide Accountability Framework including regular reporting through the Business Plan process.
- 7.2.2 Continuing enhancement of the GNWT accountability and reporting mechanisms.
- 7.2.3 Enhanced availability of government documents through its online library.

Accountability

Recommendation #8: Policies, Legislation, and Standards

The Social Agenda's Recommendation

The Social Agenda Working Group recommends that all governments and non-government agencies should establish policies or legislation and minimum standards for programs and services. The Working Group further recommends that all governments and non-government agencies should review existing policies, legislation and standards to protect the public, guide service providers, ensure people have access to care no matter where they live, and ensure people receive an adequate and safe level of care. In addition, the Working Group recommends that there be plain language summaries of policies and legislation.

The GNWT's Response

The GNWT agrees that we must be clear about the objectives of government programs and services and that minimum levels of service must be defined where this is appropriate and feasible. Wherever possible, information regarding government programs and services should be easily accessible to all residents.

The GNWT's Public Commitment to Action

8.1 *Immediate Actions*

- 8.1.1 Publication of Health and Social Services Core Services document and distribution to all households in the NWT.
- 8.1.2 Program Planning Framework posted on GNWT web-site and implemented for all new program development.

8.2 *Longer Term Actions*

- 8.2.1 Program planning process revised to ensure it reflects the criteria proposed in the Social Agenda.
- 8.2.2 All departments within the GNWT will take steps to make more information on programs and services available in plain language.
- 8.2.3 The GNWT will develop a programs and services guide for residents, to be published annually that will provide information about what we do as a government and the types of programs and services that we offer.
- 8.2.4 The GNWT, through the Communications Working Group will explore the potential for plain language summaries of policies and legislation and make recommendations for future action.

Leadership and Individual Responsibility

Recommendation #9: Individual and Leadership Commitment

The Social Agenda's Recommendation

The Social Agenda Working Group recommends that every person, including leaders, should make a personal commitment to contribute to improving social conditions in the NWT. The Working Group further recommends that we should work together to better support our leaders.

The GNWT's Response

The Government agrees that every individual in the NWT should make a personal commitment to improving social conditions, beginning with accepting personal responsibility for our own behaviours. This is a theme of *Towards a Better Tomorrow* where we specifically recognize that the personal actions and choices of all NWT citizens play a major role in social conditions.

However, helping individuals make healthy lifestyle sources, developing leadership skills and ensuring good citizenship are not goals that can be accomplished by government alone. These are areas that require the GNWT, Aboriginal Governments, communities and Non-Government Organizations to work closely together.



The GNWT's Public Commitment to Action

9.1 Immediate Actions

- 9.1.1 Publication of Self-Care Handbook and distribution to all households in the NWT.
- 9.1.2 Review zero tolerance policies to determine whether there is the potential to do more.
- 9.1.3 Develop Terms of Reference for a Volunteer Support Initiative designed to support NGOs in their volunteer development needs, help communities develop their volunteer skills, and generally promote good citizenship through volunteerism.

9.2 Longer Term Actions

- 9.2.1 GNWT departments will continue to promote zero tolerance policies for unhealthy or dysfunctional behaviour.
- 9.2.2 The GNWT will work with interested groups to develop and implement the Volunteer Support Initiative.

Prevention

Recommendation #10: Support Approaches that Emphasize Prevention

The Social Agenda's Recommendation

The Social Agenda Working Group recommends that all levels of government, service providers, non-government organizations, communities, the private sector, families and individuals should support initiatives that emphasize prevention.

The GNWT's Response

The GNWT agrees that prevention is key to improving the quality of life for northerners. This is reflected in its current initiatives that promote and support individuals making healthy choices, such as *Early Childhood Development Initiative* and the *Health Promotion Strategy*, both of which are priorities of the GNWT.

The principles underlying the *Health Promotion Strategy* - personal responsibility, knowledge of tradition, prevention, external determinants, and a holistic approach - are strongly linked to the recommendations of the Social Agenda.

Currently the four major health promotion priorities are: Tobacco Harm Reduction and Cessation; Active Living; Healthy Pregnancies; and, Injury Prevention.

Other major prevention priorities of the GNWT include firearms safety, small craft safety and prevention of drunk driving.

For prevention initiatives to have long-term success, the GNWT believes that they require a comprehensive set of components, including training and skill development, working together, research and knowledge, communication, public policy, re-orienting services, and community development. The major priorities of the GNWT include all of these components.

Also critical to the success of prevention initiatives is ensuring that all levels of government, communities and non-government partners work together to develop and implement effective promotion/prevention programs.

The GNWT's Public Commitment to Action

10.1 *Immediate Actions*

- 10.1.1 Development and publication of a list of all current promotion/prevention initiatives.
- 10.1.2 Meeting of stakeholders to initiate Territorial Active Living Strategy.
- 10.1.3 Publication of a report on injuries in the NWT.
- 10.1.4 Continued implementation of the *Health and Social Services System Action Plan* through actions such as publication of core services and service delivery documents and establishment of a Call Centre.

10.2 *Longer term actions*

- 10.2.1 The GNWT will continue to make promotion of healthy choices a priority through:
 - Continuation of the Tobacco Cessation and Harm Reduction Strategy;
 - Implementation of Territorial Active Living Strategy;
 - Expansion of Healthy Pregnancies Program;
 - Initiation of a territorial injury prevention plan.

(Note: The GNWT will support demonstration projects designed to test out a number of approaches that will promote prevention practices in communities. This commitment is part of the GNWT's response to Recommendation #2.)

Conclusion - Implementation of the Social Agenda

This Response has identified areas within the mandate of the GNWT where we can act. However, there are many recommendations that invite the response of other levels of government, NGOs, and even individuals. There are several critical areas, such as building northern capacity to reduce our dependence on southern services where we need to work with our partners in order to achieve desired results.

To improve upon the quality of life in the NWT, everyone has to take responsibility for their part in improving social conditions. This means all of us - individuals, communities, Aboriginal and public governments and non-government organizations must be prepared to work together to achieve our collective goal of improved social conditions across the NWT.

The Social Agenda Working Group represented several levels of government and non-government organizations. We will be exploring with these partners ways we can work together to build on our response and develop appropriate mechanisms to monitor implementation.

Monitoring results achieved is a critical component of the implementation of a Social Agenda for the NWT. We believe that the monitoring of community profiles over time will probably prove to be the best indicator of our collective success improving the well-being of all NWT residents.

We look forward to working collectively to build healthier communities and to realizing our vision of "A Better Tomorrow".

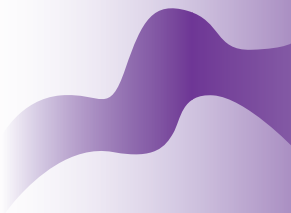


Appendix I

Activities Currently Underway that Support the Social Agenda

- Specific steps taken by the GNWT to improve coordination between government departments include:
 - o the Ministerial Committee on the Social Agenda;
 - o meetings of the Deputy Ministers of Social Program Departments;
 - o improved inter-departmental coordination in specific program areas such as
 - Harmonization of Programs for Seniors
 - Disabilities Framework
 - Early Childhood Development
 - Tobacco Action Plan
 - Territorial Strategy for Tobacco Control
 - Active Living Strategy
 - Literacy Strategy.
- The Department of Health and Social Services is working with Health Canada, in consultation with Aboriginal organizations and NGOs, on integrated funding approaches. The anticipated outcome is a "one window" approach for provision of federal funding to communities for the various wellness initiatives (such as the Canada Prenatal Nutrition Program, Brighter Futures, etc.).
- In the *Non-Renewable Resource Development Strategy*, and the *NWT Health and Social Services System Action Plan 2002 - 2005*, the GNWT committed to support communities in testing out best practices for dealing with the potential negative impacts of non-renewable resource development.
- An inter-departmental committee is revising the Child Abuse Protocol to bring it in line with current legislation and to ensure teachers, social workers and police officers can work together effectively in the best interests of the child.
- A two day "think tank" is to be hosted by the GNWT in September 2002, bringing together industry representatives, community members, the Gwich'in Tribal Council, and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, to explore joint approaches to dealing with the impact of resource development on communities.

- MACA provides community governments with multi-year funding projections; the *Healthy Children's Initiative* also provides funding to communities for multi-year projects.
- Departments are participating as appropriate in the work of the Special Joint Committee on Non-Tax Based Community Affairs.
- The GNWT has raised concern regarding the per capita approach to funding in a number of program and service areas, and has expressed this concern to the Federal government, most recently with regard to funding of health programs.
- The GNWT publishes annual reports on government-wide measures.
- The GNWT also publishes regular and special reports on social issues such as the *Health Status Report*, Alcohol and Drug surveys, the Coroner's annual report, *Smoke Alarm*, etc.
- Work is in progress to build capacity in program evaluation across the Northwest Territories by offering courses, previously available only to GNWT staff, to the non-profit sector.
- Volunteer specialists have conducted program evaluation and program design workshops for the non-profit sector and user-friendly resource materials are under development.
- On-line access to government publications is available at the GNWT web-site www.gov.nt.ca
- The Legislative Library is mandated to serve the public by collecting and making available documents produced by the Government.
- Results Reporting has improved as noted in the Auditor General's *Report on Other Matters*.
- As part of their commitment under the *Health and Social Services System Action Plan*, the Department of Health and Social Services has undertaken a number of activities including:
 - o development of Core Services and Service Delivery Model documents for health and social services programs;

- 
- o development of a Self-Care Handbook to assist individuals to take greater responsibility for their own and their family's health;
 - o progress towards the implementation of a system-wide performance measurement and reporting system for Health and Social Services (including the Department and all Authorities)
 - The *Literacy Strategy 2001-2005* was implemented.
 - All health and social services authorities have adopted workplace safety policies in their facilities.
 - A number of prevention strategies have already been implemented including:
 - Tobacco Harm Reduction and Cessation
 - Action on Tobacco*, the Territorial Strategy on Tobacco Control
 - Active living strategy development
 - Healthy pregnancies
 - Breastfeeding promotion
 - FAS/FAE public education campaign
 - Work with vendors/servers in licensed outlets to promote alcohol-free pregnancies
 - Injury prevention.
 - A study of injuries in the NWT is in progress.
 - The GNWT supports community development through community based health promotion projects funded from the Health Promotion Fund.

Appendix II

Implementation Plan

SOCIAL AGENDA AS A LENS

RECOMMENDATION # 1: THE SOCIAL AGENDA AS POLICY FRAMEWORK AND LENS

ACTION	OUTCOME SUPPORTED	DELIVERABLES	TIME LINE	LEAD
Develop a “social lens” for use by the GNWT (1.1.1-1.2.3)	Departments, central agencies, and GNWT decision-makers will use the “social lens” to evaluate GNWT programs, policies and legislative initiatives	“Social lens”, consisting of a set of social policy principles and a social initiatives checklist Guidelines to assist with its use	February 2003	Executive

WORKING TOGETHER

RECOMMENDATION # 2: REMOVE STRUCTURAL BARRIERS TO WORKING TOGETHER

ACTION	OUTCOME SUPPORTED	DELIVERABLES	TIME LINE	LEAD
Five demonstration projects dealing with integration and coordination of health and social services in communities affected by resource development (2.1.1)	Improved integration and coordination of health and social services, including services by non-government agencies, and private and volunteer sectors	Demonstrated best practices implemented in five communities Report and recommendations available to other communities	April 2003	HSS
Two demonstration projects in communities not likely to be affected by resource development to test approaches to community wellness plans (2.1.2)	Increased capacity at community level to develop, implement and sustain community wellness plans	Community Wellness Plan and Implementation Workplan from each of the demonstration project communities Examples for governments and NGOs on how to work together	March 2003	HSS
Review, update and release Child Abuse Protocol (2.1.3)	Increased understanding of the various roles and responsibilities of the staff of the signatories to the Child Abuse Protocol Improved capacity to work cooperatively to ensure the best interests of the child	Revised Child Abuse Protocol Training workshops	March 2003	HSS

WORKING TOGETHER

RECOMMENDATION #2 CONTINUED: REMOVE STRUCTURAL BARRIERS TO WORKING TOGETHER

ACTION	OUTCOME SUPPORTED	DELIVERABLES	TIME LINE	LEAD
Identify barriers to cooperation in existing legislation and policies and make changes where appropriate (2.2.1)	Reduction in barriers to cooperation	Identification of barriers to cooperation Recommendations for change	June 2003	HSS, ECE, Executive
Through application of "social lens", ensure that potential barriers to cooperation are identified and addressed in new legislation and policies (2.2.2)	Improved cooperation between departments, governments and non-government organizations	Potential barriers to cooperation between departments identified and addressed prior to implementation of new legislation or policy	January 2003	Executive
Continue to promote and improve inter-departmental coordination and cooperation at headquarters and regions (2.2.3)	Established processes for information sharing, consultation and cooperation	Maintenance of active interdepartmental committees at DM and staff levels	September 2002	Executive
Identify core services in social program departments to reveal funding that may be available for "discretionary" wellness related activities (2.2.4)	Building the capacity of communities and/or regions to work together on social issues	Identification of potential GNWT funding for discretionary wellness related activities	March 2003	HSS
Continue to work with the Federal government on "one-window" approach for Vote 4/5 funding (2.2.5)	"One-window" approach for provision of Vote 4/5 funding to communities	Report on consultation with Federal Government	Ongoing	HSS
Expand public access to information on GNWT programs and services via the Internet (2.2.6)	Increased public awareness of GNWT programs and services	Expanded capacity of GNWT web-site to provide information to the public regarding programs and services	June 2003	PWS

CAPACITY BUILDING

RECOMMENDATION #3: MULTI-YEAR FUNDING

ACTION	OUTCOME SUPPORTED	DELIVERABLES	TIME LINE	LEAD
Establish criteria for multi-year funding (3.1.1)	Clarity for organizations and communities regarding opportunities for multi-year funding	Criteria available to communities and NGOs	October 31, 2002	FMBS
Take all necessary steps to ensure that commitment to multi-year funding is reflected in 2003-2004 contribution agreements, where appropriate (3.1.2 - 3.1.7)	Increased capacity for communities and NGOs to do long-term planning and retain staff	Clear policy direction regarding multi-year funding agreements Multi-year funding agreements, where appropriate	April 01, 2003	FMBS
Ensure that NWT Women's Groups maximize GNWT office leases and have adequate infrastructure available to them to improve service delivery to clients (3.1.8)	Improved and enhanced office space for NWT Women's Groups	More efficient services to NWT clients	December 1, 2002	Executive
Publication of multi-year funding agreements (3.2.1)	Increased transparency in GNWT funding arrangements	Information publicly available regarding multi-year funding	Fall 2003	FMBS

CAPACITY BUILDING

RECOMMENDATION #4: BASELINE SERVICES IN SMALL COMMUNITIES

ACTION	OUTCOME SUPPORTED	DELIVERABLES	TIME LINE	LEAD
Approach the Special Joint Committee on Non-Tax Based Community Affairs to work collaboratively to develop community profiles that will address communities' needs for planning and analysis (4.1.1 - 4.2.2)	Progress towards greater access in non-tax-based communities to government programs and services	Proposal for next steps, including examination of funding issues (after Committee's report)	May 2003	MACA

CAPACITY BUILDING

RECOMMENDATION # 5: RESEARCH AND NORTHERN PROGRAM DELIVERY

ACTION	OUTCOME SUPPORTED	DELIVERABLES	TIME LINE	LEAD
Develop proposal for establishing a Network of Excellence for Social and Cultural Research in the NWT (5.1.1)	<p>Collaborative approach for identifying research needs</p> <p>Development of knowledge on northern social and cultural issues</p> <p>Increased Northern input for determining research priorities in the social and cultural areas</p>	Proposal for establishment of Network, including identification of costs and potential resources	December 2002	ECE
Research officer positions for northern graduates available annually to the Aurora Research Institute (5.1.2)	<p>Opportunities for northern graduates to apply their new skills and knowledge and gain experience.</p> <p>Expanded knowledge and information in areas important to northern residents.</p>	One or more one-year research positions available to northern graduates	February 2003	ECE
Focus group of Northern industry, Northern researchers, and NGOs (5.1.3)	Clearer common understanding of research priorities in the North	Identification of northern research priorities	October 2002	ECE
Promote establishment of a virtual library of existing northern research (5.2.1)	<p>Increased access to research on northern issues</p> <p>Enhanced learning tools for northern high schools and Aurora College</p>	Options for supporting the establishment of a virtual library	Ongoing to 2003	ECE

ACCOUNTABILITY

RECOMMENDATION # 6: QUALITY OF LIFE/SOCIAL INDICATOR APPROACH

ACTION	OUTCOME SUPPORTED	DELIVERABLES	TIME LINE	LEAD
Establish a working group to advance the identification and measurement of social indicators within the GNWT's mandate (6.1.1)	Improved monitoring and reporting of changes in social conditions and improved planning for social programs Strengthened partnerships with NGOs and all levels of government for measurement of indicators	NWT Social Indicators Report Community profiles for community based planning of social programs	March 2003	Finance (Bureau of Statistics)
Development of evaluation capacity throughout the GNWT and northern communities (6.1.2)	Greater capacity in the GNWT, the regions, and the communities to evaluate the effectiveness of programs	Program Evaluation Manual Workshop Interactive website Strategy for developing evaluation capacity in the regions	March 2003	FMBS
Implement an accountability framework across Health and Social Services system (6.1.3)	An accountability framework that reflects commitment to accountability, transparency, and participation. A consistent accountability framework for third parties	Detailed accountability framework	September 2002	HSS
Provide training in evaluation (6.2.1)	Enhanced community and regional evaluation capacity	Workshops conducted in all regions through 2003/04.	April 2003	FMBS
Develop and maintain community profiles (6.2.2)	Enhanced community capacity for social planning (See also 2.1.1)	Community profiles of social well-being available for all NWT communities	March 2004	Finance

ACCOUNTABILITY

RECOMMENDATION #7: TRACKING, IMPLEMENTING AND COMMUNICATING RECOMMENDATIONS

ACTION	OUTCOME SUPPORTED	DELIVERABLES	TIME LINE	LEAD
Legally establish depository status for the Legislative Library (7.1.1)	Greater public accessibility to government documents	Regulation under the <i>Archives Act</i>	December 2002	ECE
Ensure that copies of program reviews, program evaluations, and similar reports developed within the term of this government are placed in the NWT Legislative Library (7.1.2)	Increased public accessibility to program reviews, program evaluations, and similar reports	Government documents of a public nature available for public review	September 2002	Executive
Provide information to the public regarding accessibility of materials through the Legislative Library and online (7.1.3)	Greater public awareness of availability of materials	Communications strategy	December 2003	Executive
Develop and implement government-wide accountability framework (7.2.1, 7.2.2)	Transparency and accountability of GNWT and third parties	Government-wide accountability framework	Summer 2003	FMBS
Increase the availability of government documents through the GNWT's online library (7.2.3)	Increased public accessibility to government documents	More government documents of a public nature posted on department and GNWT websites	January 2003	Executive

ACCOUNTABILITY

RECOMMENDATION #8: POLICIES, LEGISLATION AND STANDARDS

ACTION	OUTCOME SUPPORTED	DELIVERABLES	TIME LINE	LEAD
Publish Core Services document and distribute to all households in the NWT (8.1.1)	Greater public awareness of core services offered by the health and social services system	Published Core Services document	October 2002	HSS
Post the government-wide Program Planning Framework on the GNWT website and implement it for all new program development (8.1.2)	High quality planning and evaluation for programs and services	Program approval criteria available to GNWT and third parties	September 2002	FMBS
Revise the Program Planning Framework to incorporate the principles proposed in the Social Agenda (8.2.1)	Consistent and principled basis for the planning of new programs and initiatives across government	Revised Program Planning Framework for submission to Cabinet	April 2003 (Dependent upon approval of "Social Lens")	FMBS
All departments will take steps to make more information on programs and services available in plain language (8.2.2)	Greater public awareness of government programs and services	Consolidated report on departmental proposals for clarification of services and plain language documents	April 2003	Executive
Publication of GNWT guide to programs and services (8.2.3)	Clear consolidated information on GNWT programs and services available to public	First Annual Guide to GNWT programs and services	September 2003	Executive
Explore the potential for plain language summaries of policies and legislation (8.2.4)	Consideration of best practices in making policies and legislation accessible to the public.	Recommendations to Cabinet and FMB on plain language guidelines for policy and legislation	January 2003	Executive

LEADERSHIP AND INDIVIDUAL RESPONSIBILITY

RECOMMENDATION #9: INDIVIDUAL AND LEADERSHIP COMMITMENT

ACTION	OUTCOME SUPPORTED	DELIVERABLES	TIME LINE	LEAD
Publish Self-Care Handbook and distribute to all households in the NWT (9.1.1)	Improved knowledge of self-care among NWT residents	Self-Care Handbook	December 2002	HSS
Review “zero tolerance” policies and determine if there is potential to do more (9.1.2, 9.2.1)	Improvement in quality of life for individuals working at or visiting GNWT facilities	Recommendations for improvement to “zero tolerance” policies	March 2004	Executive
Work with interested groups to develop and implement Volunteer Support Initiative (VSI) (9.1.3, 9.2.2)	Support NGOs and communities in their volunteer development needs Strengthen the volunteer sector across the NWT Promote good citizenship	VSI Action Plan A GNWT Volunteer Declaration	February 2003	MACA

PREVENTION

RECOMMENDATION # 10: SUPPORT APPROACHES THAT EMPHASIZE PREVENTION

ACTION	OUTCOME SUPPORTED	DELIVERABLES	TIME LINE	LEAD
Publish list of all current promotion/prevention initiatives (10.1.1)	Greater public awareness of current promotion/prevention initiatives	Published list of all promotion/prevention initiatives	October 2002	HSS
Publish report on injuries in the NWT (10.1.3)	Improved understanding of injuries in the NWT and what can be done to prevent them	Published report on injuries in the NWT	March 2003	HSS
Continue implementation of HSS System Action Plan (10.1.4)	Improved understanding of services available and knowledge of self-care among NWT residents Improved access to services after hours	Core service document published and circulated Self-care handbook distributed to NWT households NWT Call Centre launched	October 2002	HSS
Tobacco Cessation and Harm Reduction – HP Strategy priority (10.2.1)	Reduction in smoking in the NWT	Territorial Steering Committee with increased membership including aboriginal organizations, youth, etc. First stage of curriculum development for schools Feasibility study regarding NWT tobacco legislation Initiate Quit and Win Contest Coordinate training of health professionals	2002-2003	HSS

PREVENTION

RECOMMENDATION # 10 CONTINUED: SUPPORT APPROACHES THAT EMPHASIZE PREVENTION

ACTION	OUTCOME SUPPORTED	DELIVERABLES	TIME LINE	LEAD
Territorial Active Living Strategy (10.1.2, 10.2.1)	<p>Greater public awareness of the meaning of active living</p> <p>Increased number of physically active people in the NWT</p>	<p>Territorial Active Living Strategy process initiated;</p> <p>Key stakeholder meeting in fall 2002</p> <p>Promotional activities: Recreation and Fitweek, media campaign, information for Recreation and Parks Association (RPA) directory</p> <p>Work with Youth to help with Strategy Development</p>	October 2002- March 2003	MACA
Healthy Pregnancies - Programs (10.2.1)	<p>Increased public awareness of FAS/FAE especially in men and youth.</p> <p>Improved information for women and health care practitioners regarding healthy pregnancies</p>	<p>FAS/FAE Awareness Promotion and Prevention</p> <p>International FAS day</p> <p>FAS Awareness for youth and males</p> <p>Additional promotional materials</p> <p>Breastfeeding survey</p> <p>Complete health professional manuals on healthy pregnancies</p>	September 2002 - March 2004	HSS
Injury Prevention (10.2.1)	Improved understanding of injuries and steps that can be taken to prevent them	Initiate the development of a territorial injury prevention plan (development stage only this year)	March 2004	HSS