



MEETING SD 76-20-25

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

**TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 9, 2025
DET'ANCHOGH KÚÉ - EAGLE ROOM
7 PM**

AGENDA

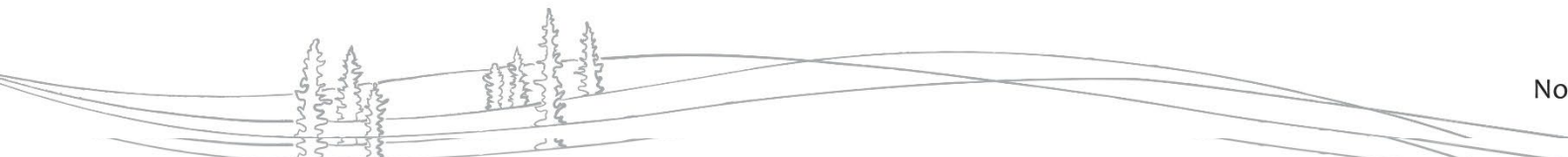
1. Call to Order
2. Prayer/reflection
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
5. Public Matters
 - a) Public briefing with Premier RJ Simpson on Non Government Organization Sector Support Initiative
6. In Camera Matters
 - a) Debrief
 - b) SCOSD Workplan
7. New Business
 - a)
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting:
 - a) TBD
9. Adjournment



NGO SECTOR SUPPORT INITIATIVE

Presentation to Standing Committee on Social Development

September 9, 2025



Government of
Northwest Territories

- Background
- Progress
- Proposed Next Steps



Background

- 2023 *Strengthening the Non-Profit and Charitable Sector External Advisory Committee* report
- After Action Review Report
- Historical and ongoing NGO sector feedback

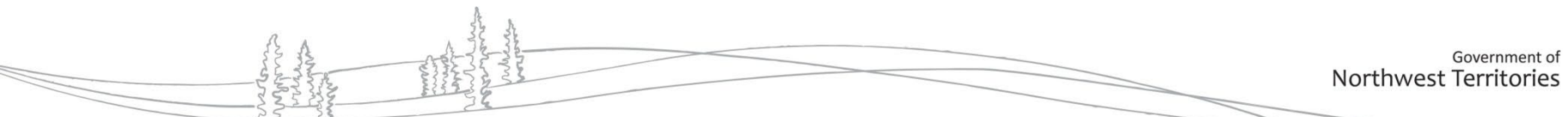


Funding Challenges

- **Persistent funding inadequacy:** NGOs continue to express concerns about insufficient GNWT funding levels, compounded by historic funding deficits and rising cost-of-living pressures
- **Understanding but unsustainable status quo:** While many NGOs acknowledge the GNWT's fiscal constraints and remain open to exploring alternative stabilization mechanisms, current funding levels cannot sustain operations—particularly for organizations delivering critical services on behalf of the government
- **Funding stagnation:** Many NGOs have received identical funding amounts for 10+ years, creating a compounding deficit as operational costs continue to rise with inflation and cost-of-living increases
- **Project based funding:** Larger NGOs have received significant amounts of funding from the GNWT however, invariably that funding does not include increases for operational costs, resulting in high staff turn-over, lower service levels and or complete cessation of programs

Why Now?

- **Service Continuity Threat:** Without sustainable funding for NGOs, the GNWT faces a critical risk: NGO service cessation would force the government to assume direct delivery responsibilities at substantially higher operational costs, particularly for wages and infrastructure
- **Effectiveness Concerns:** This shift would also prove counterproductive, as GNWT service delivery operates under legal and operational constraints that make government-delivered front-line services less effective than NGO alternatives for the residents who depend on these programs.



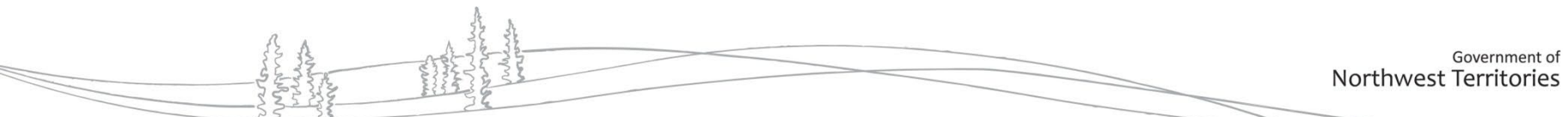
Recommendations from the *Strengthening the Non-Profit and Charitable Sector External Advisory Committee* Report

1. Implement the full suite of tools included in the GNWT Program Manager's Guide for Funding NGOs (2014) as a mandatory element of orientation for all GNWT staff who work with non-profit organizations.
2. The GNWT complete an update the Program Manager's Guide in the next 12 months to address application cycles and timely payments, recognize and build relationships with long-standing non-profits, reduce application burden, and ensure better compliance with annual funding assessments.
3. The GNWT provide additional support to increase the capacity of the non-profit sector in the NWT.



GNWT Response

- Established an interdepartmental ad hoc Committee to address the recommendations
- Strengthening the Non-Profit and Charitable Sector-Implementation (SNPCI)



SNPCI Actions

- Review and initial update of the Guide has taken place
- Discussion and development of a policy brief to address the use of the term vulnerable populations
- Recommended definition of Critical Services to provide coherence and support for emergency and business continuity planning



SNPCI – Next Steps & Timelines

Fall 2025

- Finalize new Guide
- Distribute to NGO sector
- Establish an ongoing process for NGO feedback to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Guide

Fall 2026

- Develop training for GNWT staff to ensure the Guide is understood and implemented
- Develop an NGO Funding Policy



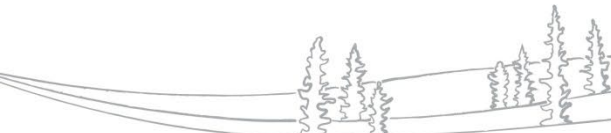
Other GNWT Actions

- A What We Heard Report outlining the finding of the review of the Anti-Poverty Fund and the NGO Stabilization Fund will be shared with Committee in mid-September.
- The pressures on these two annual project-based funds are being analyzed with options including consideration of block funding of some critical service NGOs.
- Inclusion of NGO partners in departmental Business Continuity Plans
- Emergency Social Support Planning



Operational Actions

- Increased communications
- GNWT Budget timeline shared
- NGO access to GNWT training
- Evergreened computers



NGO Sector Support Initiative

Comments and Questions?

Mársı | Kinanāskomitin | Thank you | Merci | Hąı' | Quana | Qujannamiik |
Quyanainni | Máhsı | Máhsı | Mahsı

