



MEETING EDE 56-20-25

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
AND ENVIRONMENT**

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MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 2025
EAGLE ROOM, LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY / ZOOM
1:00 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 on Regional Economic Development Plans (REDP) with ITI Minister Cleveland
6. In Camera Matters
 - a) Debrief
 - b) Macroeconomic Policy Framework
 - c) SCEDE Workplan
7. New Business
 - a)
8. Date and Time of Next Meeting
 - Wednesday September 10, 2025 at 9am
9. Adjournment



Regional Economic Development Plans and Economic Opportunity Strategy

Presentation to Standing Committee

September 8, 2025

Government of
Northwest Territories



Presentation Outline

History of GNWT economic strategies

- Common Ground
- Economic Opportunities Strategy (EOS)
- Regional Economic Development Plans (REDPs)

The relationship between the EOS and REDPs

- Shaping work in 2025 and the future



Common Ground Strategy (2000)

- Released during the 14th Legislative Assembly
- Long term economic roadmap to 2025
- Created in a time of major transformation

Vision: “A resilient, diversified economy that respects people and land, driven by Northerners.”

“We will use the Common Ground strategy as a guide to establish priorities and focus our economic investments”—

***Hon. Joseph Handley,
2000 Budget Speech***

Key Themes

- Centered communities and Indigenous governments in economic decision-making
- Called for reduced reliance on resource extraction
- Promoted growth in tourism, culture, fisheries, local food, small business, and renewables
- Prioritized education, skills training, and modern infrastructure (roads, broadband, energy)
- Emphasized partnerships and collaborative governance



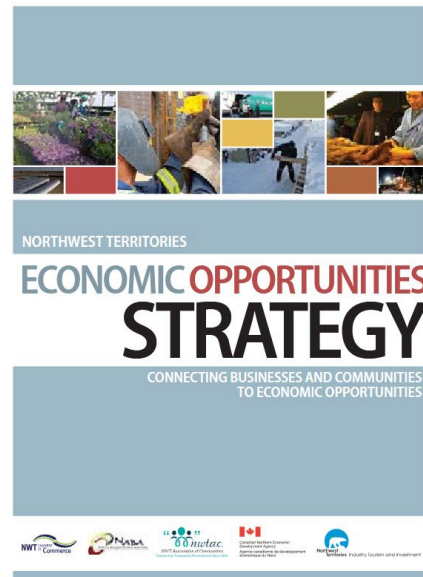
Economic Opportunities Strategy (EOS)

“To guide the development and realization of economic potential across all regions of the NWT, strengthen and diversify the economy, and enhance the quality of life for all NWT residents.”

“The Strategy builds on past work, including Common Ground and other regional and sector-based strategies, but it is firmly focused on action and implementation.”

EOS, 2014

17th Legislative Assembly



Economic Opportunities Strategy Timeline

Alignment with GNWT Strategies included: Mineral Development Strategy, Land Use and Sustainability Framework, NWT Energy Plan, Anti-Poverty Strategy, Workforce Planning Strategy.

Public Engagement

(Dec 2012 – Feb 2013)

Over 80 sessions were held engaging more than 400 individuals across the NWT

Official Launch of the Economic Opportunities Strategy

(Oct 2013)

Progress Reports

(2014 – 2018)

Regular progress reports highlighting key developments, achievements and updates on implementation

Release of What We Heard Report

(Jun 2013)

A summary of feedback received including over 90 recommendations

Release of the Implementation Plan

(Aug 2014)

Concrete action plan and delivery framework to operationalize the strategy

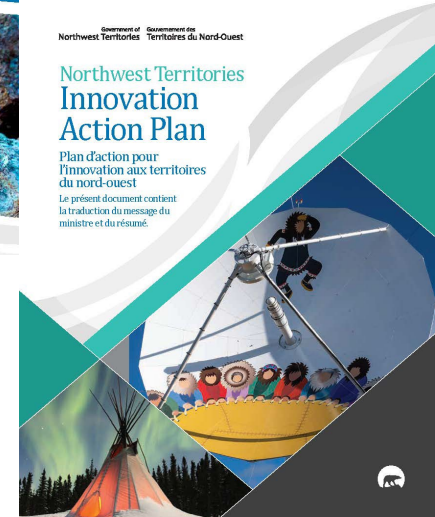
Past Successes

Many of the recommendations were entrenched in yearly departmental workplans and sectoral strategies



2020 to 2024

- Economic development activities were largely focused on economic recovery
- NWT Indigenous Leaders Economic Forum



Regional Economic Development Plans

- 19th Legislative Assembly committed to: “increasing economic diversification by supporting growth in non-extractive sectors and setting regional diversification targets.”
- GNWT committed to “establish regional economic development plans to support growth in all sectors of the economy, including agriculture, fisheries, forestry, the knowledge economy, manufacturing, and arts.”
- ITI worked with Indigenous governments and community leaders to develop the plans, which were released in 2023

The Strategic Investments program under the **Support to Entrepreneurs and Economic Development Policy** was created under the EOS to help fund implementation of regional economic development plans



REDPs and the EOS Today

REDPs identified opportunities for:

- **Strategic Investments Focused on Future Sectors**
Direct funding toward projects that replace lost mine activity, especially those with community or Indigenous ownership
- **Workforce Shift and Re-Skilling Supports**
Align with labour market programs to support mine-exit transition paths, including skills training for youth and affected workers
- **Infrastructure and Policy Alignment**
Integrate initiatives with broader GNWT investments in energy, broadband, and transportation to unlock new economic zones

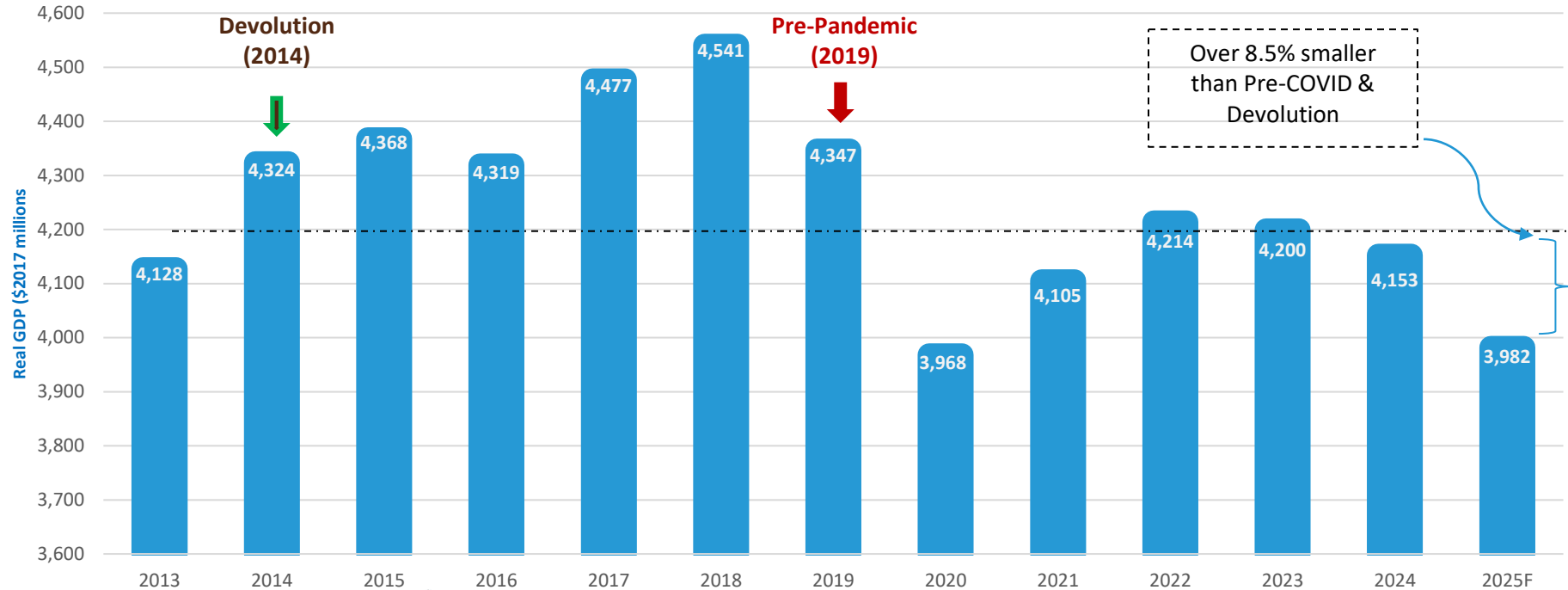


Empowering Communities, Driving Change

- **Replacing lost revenue and employment** by accelerating investment in sectors with long-term sustainability and higher local participation.
- **Empowering communities** to lead economic development through funding, training, and policy alignment.
- **Using this moment to redesign the NWT economy** for resilience, equity, and independence from boom-bust cycles.



NWT Economy Remains Smaller Today Than a Decade Ago



NWT is Seeing Growth in Diversified Sectors

	2022	2023	% Change
Arts, Entertainment and Recreation	5.8	6.4	10.8% ↑
Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing & Hunting	24.4	25.9	6.1% ↑
Accommodation and food services	92.5	98.2	6.2% ↑
Motion picture and video industries	0.6	0.7	16.7% ↑

Millions of Chained (2017) Dollars



A New Path Forward: Partnership and Vision

- A strategic and intentional shift towards **empowering and funding others** for strengthening our economic foundation
- The **NWT economy is in a period of transition** with the diamond mining sector maturing
- Collaborating with Indigenous governments and other important, strategic partners to **unlock new community-led economic opportunities**
- Critical minerals, renewable energy, tourism, and innovation are **the pillars of our future**



QUESTIONS

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

