



Government of the Northwest Territories
Summary of Commitments to Enhance the 2026-2027 Main Estimates

The Government of the Northwest Territories is proposing up to \$40 million in incremental funding in 2026-27 and makes the following commitments, listed by Department and Agency:

Education, Culture and Employment

Commitment	GNWT Response
Inclusive Schooling Review and Directive	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Inclusive Schooling Review and Management Response will be released in March 2026; • Upon release, ECE will immediately identify priority enhancements, including specialized supports such as speech-language pathology and other clinical services; • The GNWT commits \$30 million to support these actions, to be brought forward in the May/June Supplementary Estimates.
Early Literacy Screening and Intervention	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By Winter 2027, ECE will develop territory-wide JK-12 transition protocols, including options for a Ministerial directive on consistent JK/SK literacy screening; • ECE will also strengthen early literacy screening and intervention by creating standardized, culturally responsive screening options and enhancing early years screening resources for educators; • ECE will provide clear guidance on support plans and pathways, including how early screening information can inform student supports across the inclusive schooling continuum.
Ensure Early Learning and Child Care Program Continuity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • By October 2026, Regulation changes to support requests made by NWTECA will be complete; • In the absence of Federal funding changes, the GNWT will provide new funding to support ELCC continuity; • The final sum will be evaluated alongside additional regulatory flexibility that may be available, if Federal funding requirements were no longer a constraint; • This would be included in Budget 2027.
Adult Education Access / Community Learning Centers (CLCs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECE and INF will establish subsidized leases and offer time-limited transitional O&M funding to help offset facility costs; • ECE will also seek feedback from partners, communities, and learners during Summer 2026 to help inform future planning and ensure the final approach responds to learner needs across the territory; • During Budget 2027, the GNWT will include sustainability plans for community-led adult learning programs.

Post-Secondary Education Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECE provides stable funding to northern post-secondary institutions for many years, with multi-year contribution agreements in place with the Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning and Collège Nordique Francophone to support continuity of operations and programming. • ECE will continue to work with these partners to ensure multi-year funding arrangements support stability, accountability, and alignment with territorial workforce and learner needs, within established budget processes.
Aurora College – Degree Programs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Aurora College will introduce a Bachelor of Social Work and a Bachelor of Education degree program, with intakes beginning in November 2027; • The GNWT will plan to incorporate all graduates into available positions similar to the current requirement of graduating nursing cohorts.
Aurora College – Student Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECE will continue working with Aurora College to examine options to advance student housing solutions, including potential feasibility or pilot approaches, within existing authorities and partnership models.
Major Project Readiness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECE will work with departments to understand anticipated labour needs and ensure that the training, apprenticeship, and employment programs it delivers remain available to help residents prepare for job opportunities; • ECE is leveraging targeted federal supports, including \$1.5 million over three years through the Workforce Tariff Response, to assist workers impacted by global market shifts; • With the conclusion of the Skills 4 Success framework in December 2025, ECE will bring forward a successor approach to set updated priorities and targets, aligned with emerging workforce needs and major project demand in the territory.

Environment and Climate Change

Commitment	GNWT Response
Land Tenure and Lease Transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • While timelines will continue to depend on file complexity and required consultations and approvals, additional capacity of two positions is intended to materially accelerate progress on priority land transfers; • These additional positions will include a target to increase output by 15%; • ECC will ensure that any remaining or residual issues preventing or delaying bulk land transfer are identified for resolution by the May/June 2026 session.
Regulatory Support in Tłı̨chǫ Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ECC will establish a Regional Assessment coordinator for Behchoko for a two-year term to support increased activity on the Dehk'e Frank Channel Bridge.

Executive and Indigenous Affairs & Finance

Commitment	GNWT Response
Intergovernmental Relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GNWT will work with the Tłıchǫ Government towards the establishment of a standalone Tłıchǫ Administrative Region to ensure reporting structures better reflect the services delivered to Tłıchǫ communities; • The GNWT will engage with the Tłıchǫ Government on priority initiatives such as: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ the Arctic Economic & Security Corridor, ○ the Dehk'e Frank Channel Bridge (via Tłıchǫ Investment Corporation), ○ the Nàlǫ Energy / Lac La Marte feasibility MOU, ○ housing implementation, and ○ ongoing Tłıchǫ Final Agreement obligations

Health and Social Services

Commitment	GNWT Response
Integrated Primary and Community Health Care Framework	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSS will deliver a territory-wide Integrated Primary and Community Health Care Framework for the May/June 2026 session, which establishes the foundation for phased primary care reform across the NWT; • By December 2026 panels (teams) will be established in Yellowknife; • The forthcoming Framework for Primary and Community Health Care Reform provides strategic guidance and a “blueprint” for what transformative change looks like for primary care clinics and community health centres across the Northwest Territories. It includes three pillars (Constellations) each with identified strategies to act as an ongoing orientation point, while allowing regional and community-based adaptation; • In addition to the Framework and Roadmap, there will be a Primary Care Workforce Plan developed by the Medical Director, drawing on practitioner working groups and the Yellowknife patient journey; • HSS is currently developing approaches to implement the Framework at the System and Regional/Community level; • A Regional Implementation Toolkit will support local frontline staff, patients, and Indigenous Governments to come together to co-design what team-based primary health care can look like based on community priorities, population needs assessments, and wise practices learned from other Indigenous-centered primary health care models across Canada; • This implementation Toolkit will also provide clinical teams with guidance to support patient attachment and paneling.

Nurse Practitioners (NP) and Community Health Nurses (CHN)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSS commits to filling all NP vacancies on primary care teams; • Current efforts include targeted recruitment initiatives, streamlined hiring processes, enhanced onboarding and retention supports, and partnerships to grow and train nurses locally; • The GNWT commits to adding NP or CHN positions where physician vacancies impact service delivery, to stabilize services; • The positions will be created and resources will be brought forward in the May/June Supplementary Estimates.
Connectivity / Technology in Health Centers and Health Cabins	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding is included in 2026–27 Main Estimates to advance targeted upgrades that strengthen acute and emergency care in small and remote communities; • HSS will prioritize investments in biomedical equipment and digital health tools that support virtual care, remote clinical support, and improved emergency response.
Medical Travel Modernization and Reform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSS will advance reforms through the multi-year Medical Travel Modernization Initiative. Phase 1 is on track for completion by September 2026 and is focused on strengthening program administration, client experience, and cost controls; • Phase 2 will advance policy and program changes to improve how benefits are delivered, including examination of escort entitlements and compassionate approaches for emergency medevacs; • Costed options will be brought forward for consideration as part of the reform process and future budget planning.
Medical Travel Case Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HSS will continue advancing the Medical Travel Case Management Initiative. The model is already delivering early operational improvements and is being actively monitored to assess impacts on scheduling consistency, patient experience, and avoidable travel; • This funding will be made permanent in Budget 2027.

Industry, Tourism and Investment

Commitment	GNWT Response
<i>Mineral Resource Act</i> and Regulations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITI is actively advancing the development of the required regulations and implementation planning, with the current target for the Act to come into force in Fall 2027; • Positions required to ensure the delivery of MRAR (including MAARS) will be established as a standalone priority for monitoring and a pool of pre-evaluated candidates will be maintained.
Mackenzie Delta Energy projects	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITI will engage with the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to assess their interest in advancing the Mackenzie Delta LNG and Inuvialuit Energy Security projects, and to understand the conditions under which IRC would consider moving the projects forward.
Review of the NWT Mining Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ITI will deliver the GNWT-CanNor workplan prior to the May/June 2026 session.

Infrastructure

Commitment	GNWT Response
Mackenzie Valley Highway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The GNWT will select the preferred procurement method before the end of the 20th Assembly.
Taltson Transmission Line and Arctic Security Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final routing decisions for the Taltson transmission line and the Arctic Economic and Security Corridor will be brought forward in partnership with Indigenous governments; Delivery teams will be established for major projects to ensure coordination across government, and with external partners and stakeholders; An MLA will be invited to be a member of each of these teams.

Justice

Commitment	GNWT Response
RMCP Community Engagement and Presence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overnight accommodation will be made available for RCMP in Gameti and Tsiigehtchic within the fiscal year; Justice will request that RCMP increase patrols in Gameti and Tsiigehtchic; Justice will request a meeting between the Minister, Commander, respective MLAs and community leadership prior to May/June 2026 session.
Access to Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> GSO's will be identified as contact point for duty counsel and/or regional court workers to support contact with clients in communities where circuit courts do not attend; Telecommunication facilities will be made available to clients or their agents on regional court days.
Mental Health Supports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Justice and Health and Social Services are leading a joint, evidence-based process with the RCMP and Health and Social Services Authorities, supported by Wilfrid Laurier University and a cross-departmental steering committee, to identify the most effective and appropriate crisis response models for the NWT; This work began in November 2025 and is expected to result in a costed options paper in April 2027; The GNWT will bring forward informed options, including recommended models, resource requirements, and costs, once this work is complete, to support future decisions on mental health crisis response services in the territory.

Housing NWT

Commitment	GNWT Response
Housing Capacity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HWNT will ensure that two affordable seniors housing units are available in Enterprise within the fiscal year.
Homeowner Housing Assessments	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HWNT will initiate discussions with the Gwich'in Tribal Council under the Collaborative Agreement on Housing about homeowner housing assessments in Aklavik, Fort McPherson, and Tsiigehtchic.
Support in Tlicho Region	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• HWNT will ensure that a services officer is in Behchoko, no less than two days every two weeks, on a schedule to be published at the Local Housing Authority.