

GNWT Anti-Poverty Action Plan



Executive Summary

In June 2013, the anti-poverty strategic framework, *Building on the Strengths of Northerners*, was tabled in the Legislative Assembly. Building on the strategic framework, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Anti-Poverty Action Plan describes GNWT commitments to address the needs of those most vulnerable and those at risk of falling into poverty, while promoting the prosperity necessary for the Northwest Territories (NWT) to grow.

The action plan is the GNWT's response to reducing poverty in the NWT. Departments sharing in the action plan include: Health and Social Services; Education, Culture and Employment; NWT Housing Corporation; Industry, Tourism and Investment; Municipal and Community Affairs; and the Department of Justice.

The action plan lays out the commitments made by the GNWT to address poverty over the next two years. It describes broad areas for action necessary to achieve the vision and goals for reducing poverty in the NWT.

Government alone cannot eliminate poverty. To that end, the GNWT is committed to continuing our work in partnership with non-government organizations, community and Aboriginal governments, business and industry and other partners towards the development of a multi-stakeholder NWT action plan.

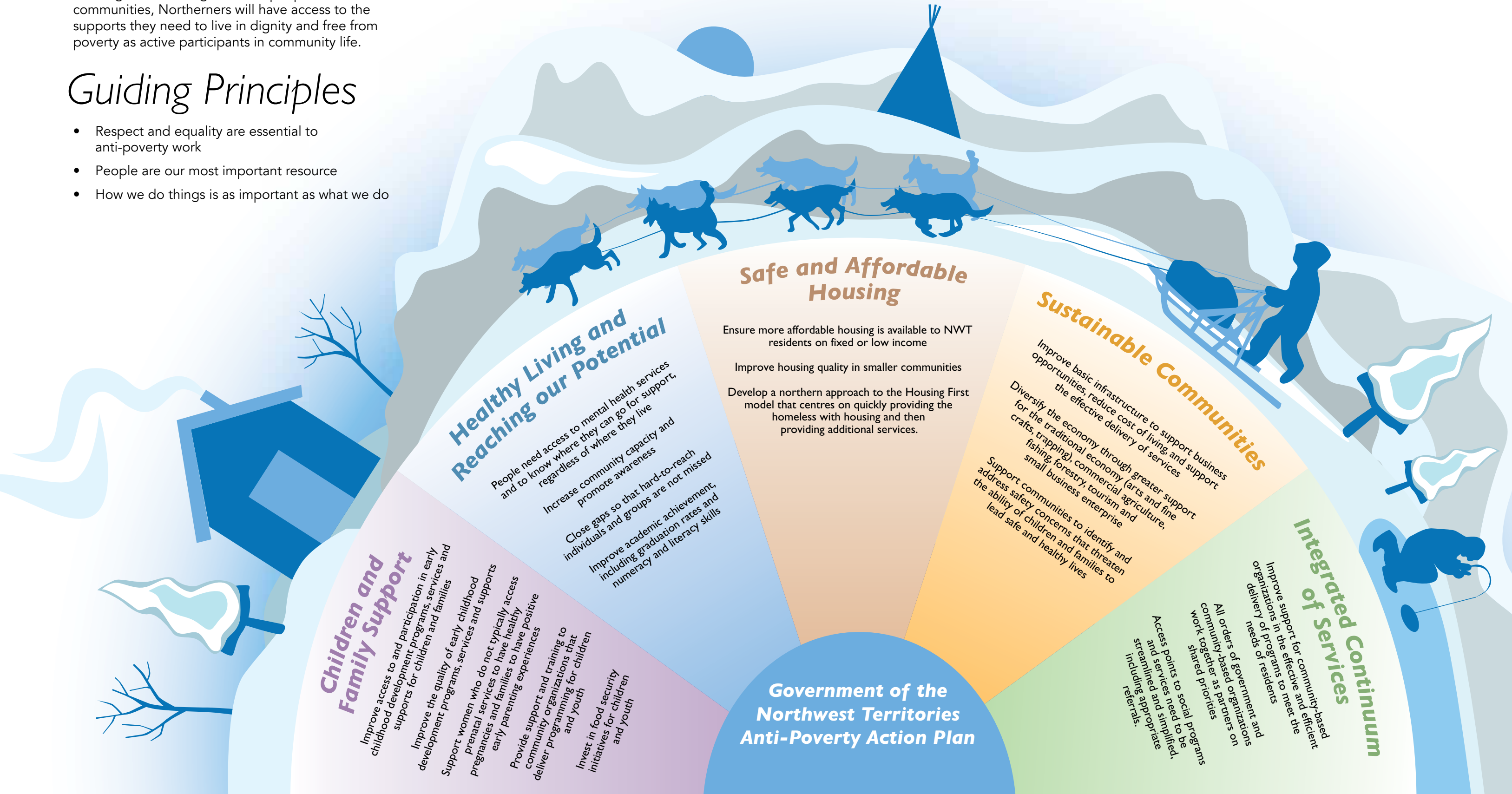
Vision

Building on the strengths of our people and communities, Northerners will have access to the supports they need to live in dignity and free from poverty as active participants in community life.

Guiding Principles

- Respect and equality are essential to anti-poverty work
- People are our most important resource
- How we do things is as important as what we do

Plan at a Glance



Priorities

1. Children and Family Support

Our children are precious, full of potential, and also incredibly vulnerable. Their growth and development can be seriously affected by poverty. Children deserve to grow up in a safe, nurturing and stimulating environment. Children with a good start in life are less likely to fall behind in school, get into trouble with the law, depend on social services, live in poverty, be homeless or have issues with addictions. It is everyone's responsibility to break the cycle of poverty by strengthening the ability of families to meet the needs of their children and by strengthening the ability of communities to meet the needs of their families.

2. Healthy Living and Reaching our Potential

Poverty profoundly affects one's ability to both achieve and maintain good mental and physical health. Promoting healthy living to reduce poverty and ensure everyone has what they need to reach their full potential requires action on a variety of fronts, including literacy and education, addiction prevention and treatment, health promotion and the prevention of violence, as well as supports for those living with chronic illness.

3. Safe and Affordable Housing

The provision of shelter is pivotal to the long-term well-being of NWT residents and communities. A person's home is often the foundation for their own and their family's lives. A home should be where family members and friends gather, it should provide children a safe and secure place to grow and learn, and it should be a source of pride and accomplishment.

4. Sustainable Communities

Reducing poverty by increasing economic prosperity in communities requires different levels of governments to work closely together to plan and deliver community and economic development programs and services that are tailored to the communities they serve. Working more closely together will help us to more effectively address issues and prevent service overlap.

5. Integrated Continuum of Services

Poverty is a result of a diverse array of social, cultural and economic circumstances. There is no single solution. To make a difference we must work together to make better use of limited resources. While some government services and programs overlap those provided by other organizations, there are also gaps in service that need to be filled. There is a need for coordination and collaboration among all levels of government, including Aboriginal governments, other service providers, and among NWT government departments, so that programs and services are accessible and available. Coordination also ensures that program planning involves all necessary stakeholders and that resources are used efficiently and effectively.