

THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES ANTI-POVERTY ACTION PLAN

PARTNERS AGAINST POVERTY

A Charter for Working Together Toward the Elimination of Poverty in the NWT

This Charter dated November 29th, 2013.

INTRODUCTION

The Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework: *Building on the Strengths of Northerners* resulted from consultation across the Northwest Territories, with input received from people in all regions. The work was led by a Steering Committee representing non-government organizations, Aboriginal governments, business and industry, people living in poverty, the Government of Canada and the GNWT.

It sets out a shared vision, three principles and five key “Pillars for Action” for poverty reduction in the Northwest Territories.

The Strategic Framework sets out the basis for work towards the elimination of poverty in the NWT.

This Charter is the next step in moving toward a “Poverty-Free NWT”. It states our shared commitment to work together for the benefit of all residents of the NWT. It confirms our vision and principles to guide action within the five priority areas.

Eliminating poverty is a complex challenge and will be a long-term process requiring on-going commitment. This Accord symbolizes our individual and collective commitment to work together toward the goal of a Northwest Territories free of poverty.

THE ANTI-POVERTY STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

OUR VISION OF THE FUTURE

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.

GETTING THERE - GUIDING PRINCIPLES

We are committed to the following principles as we work together to achieve a poverty-free NWT:

- 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.

PRIORITIES

The Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework contains five priorities to meet our vision for the elimination of poverty:

- Children and Family Support
- Healthy Living and Reaching Our Potential
- Safe and Affordable Housing
- Sustainable Communities
- Integrated Continuum of Services

GOALS

Each priority is supported by a goal that identifies the outcome we are working towards. These are:

1. Children and families lead healthy lives free from poverty in a safe and nurturing environment.
2. NWT residents have access to the supports they need for healthy living and reaching their full potential.
3. Everyone has a roof over their head and a safe and affordable place to call home.
4. Sustainable communities managing their resources based on current need while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations.
5. NWT residents receive a continuum of integrated services according to their needs

WORKING TOGETHER FOR RESULTS

We believe that, working together, we can fulfill our vision of a North free from poverty. We know it will take all of us to make meaningful change – government cannot do it alone.

We recognize the need for partnership, for supporting on-going research into best practices, for holding ourselves accountable and evaluating our success in the implementation of the strategy.

We further recognize the complex nature of poverty, and the need for the involvement of all sectors. We know that new opportunities and new issues will continue to emerge so will need to be able to review and adjust our goals and activities as required.

Our vision can be achieved by working in a variety of ways, both individually and collectively.

This includes:

- Working individually within our own community or organization by:
 - Developing and implementing a plan for action to meet the needs of the people we serve;
 - Monitoring and reporting on the results we achieve.

- Working collectively by:
 - Meeting annually to review progress and plans for ongoing work;
 - Establishing an evaluation process to monitor and report on our activities;
 - Developing an open communications plan to increase awareness of the many issues related to the elimination of poverty in the NWT;
 - Supporting on-going discussion and the development of solutions to issues that may arise.

This Charter confirms the collective efforts of many people and organizations committed to working together to combat poverty in the NWT. We believe that people are best served when we all work together to address social issues.

Every one of us has a role to play.

APPROVAL BY CONSENSUS

By signing this Charter, we agree to work within our own organization towards achieving the vision set out in the Charter, to support each other in achieving the collective goals and to report annually on progress. We also commit to doing this in the spirit of respect, recognition and responsibility.

_____ Date
Government of the Northwest Territories

_____ Date

_____ Date

_____ Date

_____ Date

Etc.