



# GNWT Health and Social Services Research Agenda

# Improving health, care, and sustainability through innovation:

## A road map for wellness research in the NWT

This research agenda identifies research priorities for the NWT Health and Social Services System and outlines our commitment to them. The identified priorities are not intended to be mutually exclusive; rather they represent important gaps in information which have impacts across the system and population. In addition to these priorities, the Department of Health and Social Services places particular value on research projects that lead to increased cultural capacity, skill building for local residents, improved knowledge translation tools, and research targeted to improving social determinants of health.

## NWT Health and Social Services Research Priorities

### Improving the Health Status of the Population through Prevention and Education

- Research that adds to regional baseline surveys and to establish a comprehensive understanding of health care knowledge, behaviours, population health status, and health care outcomes as well as perceived needs.
- Research that defines or predicts the impacts of economic development on social wellness and human health or establishes baseline data in impacted regions.

### Improving Access to Primary Care Services

- Research that supports improvements in care and service delivery methods related to: chronic disease, communicable diseases, seniors care, addictions, child and family services, early childhood development, and mental health.
- Research that supports the safe delivery of quality primary care service delivery structures/models in rural and remote locations with small populations.
- Research that supports enhanced communication between health care professionals and patients to maximize patient participation in decision-making and improved patient experiences and outcomes.
- Research that supports innovation in service delivery and scaling up proven innovation (knowledge translation and dissemination).

## Mental Health and Addictions

- Research that supports improved prevention and education for individuals and families facing mental health and addictions concerns.
- Research that supports improved outcomes for individuals and families facing mental health and addictions concerns.
- Research that supports minimizing social disparities by addressing social determinants of health.
- Research that provides evidence about the effectiveness of Land based healing approaches.

## Child and Family Services

- Research that supports outcome informed practice.
- Research that supports improved outcomes for children and families.
- Research that supports minimizing social disparities by addressing social determinants of health.

## Addressing Disparities in Aboriginal Health

- Research that supports targeted access to services for high-risk populations to reduce disparities in health status and the impacts of social determinants between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal populations.
- Research that supports the delivery of culturally sensitive services that meet community wellness needs.
- Research that supports the safe delivery of care and effective communication to bridge language and cultural barriers. For example, the development of cancer terminology in Aboriginal languages, or exploration of the potential for trauma-informed practice in service delivery.

## Other Considerations

- A cross-cutting priority for the Department is research that utilizes an implementation science approach, with a focus on demonstrating and spreading best practices.
- Knowledge translation and plain language dissemination plans that target the health and social services policy and decision makers as well as community participants.
- Additional consideration will be given to dissemination plans that have a capacity building enhancement component that may include Aboriginal groups, elders, youth, and school aged children.

## Enabling Research in the NWT: Our Commitment to Driving our Research Agenda

The Government of the Northwest Territories is committed to supporting researchers who are addressing our research priorities. Those conducting research aligned with our priorities can request the following types of support. Our ability to provide support will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Particular attention to knowledge translation and plain language dissemination plans will be assessed.

### Letters of Support

The DHSS can provide Letters of Support for researchers during their application process for funding or licensing. Depending on the level of detail provided in the research proposal, the Department will state their potential level of support outlined in the letter.

### Collaboration

The Department of Health and Social Services is home to a wide range of professionals with broad skill sets. The Department also has extensive networks that can be leveraged within the research community in the NWT.

### Strategic Support for Required Research

The Department may on occasion actively seek proponents to work collaboratively on specific research questions. Support for such projects might include collaboration, in-kind contribution(s), knowledge translation partnerships, or financial contribution(s).

## Research Agenda Review

The stated research priorities will be reviewed and updated to coincide with the development of new system strategic plans. This will include a review of the effectiveness of the research agenda implementation.

For more information, please contact:  
HSS\_research@gov.nt.ca.

Government of Northwest Territories  
Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Kīspin ki nitawihtīn ā nīhīyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwēsīnēn.

Cree

ʔerihł'ís dəne súliné yati t'a huts'elkēr xa beyéyati theʔa ʔat'e, nuwe ts'en yółti.

## Chipewyan

If you would like this information in another official language, call us.

English

Si vous voulez ces renseignements en français, contactez-nous.

Français

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijahch'uu zhìt yinohtan jì', diits'àt ginohknìi.

## Gwich'in

Hapkua titiqgat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.

Inuinnaqtun

C<sup>b</sup>dA በበ<sup>a</sup>bB<sup>c</sup> ለሂጋባር<sup>c</sup> ልዎንጋሮ<sup>a</sup>የሚለክ፣ ድሮስዳ<sup>c</sup> ድኤረ ሩ<sup>a</sup>ዲ<sup>a</sup>ንጋር<sup>c</sup>.

## Inuktitut

UVANITTUAQ ILITCHURISUKUPKU INUVIALUKTUN, QUQUAQLUTA.

## Inuvialuktun

K'éhshó got'ine xədó k'é hederi ʔedıhtl'é yeriniwə nídé dúle.

## North Slavey

Edi gondı dehgéh got'ie zhatié k'ée edat'éh enahddhë nide.

## South Slavery

Thichō yati k'èè dè wegodiì wek'èhoizō neḡwō dè, gots'ò goahde.

Tłicho

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