

GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES

# Knowledge Agenda: Action Plan 2019-2024

June 2019



Government of  
Northwest Territories



# MESSAGE FROM THE PREMIER



Research completed in the North and relevant to the North is essential to help the Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT), Indigenous and federal governments, residents and communities increase our knowledge and understanding of climate change. The NWT is warming at a rate

three to four times faster than the global average. This is causing significant changes in the natural environment. Investigation, experience and research relevant and valuable to NWT residents and communities will ensure we are better able to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.

As a culturally, socially and environmentally diverse area, with continuing and emerging resource development opportunities, the NWT attracts significant research interest and activity every year.

Past research in the NWT has often been driven by the scientific curiosity of national and international research and academic institutions. This research resulted in some high quality investigations, but often overlooked or under-represented many areas of importance to NWT residents.

The Northwest Territories Knowledge Agenda outlines ways to acquire the necessary knowledge for meeting the northern interest, benefiting NWT residents and increasing the calibre of northern research. It is designed to minimize knowledge gaps and support evidence-based decision-making at all levels of government.

The GNWT, Indigenous and community governments must be active leaders, practitioners, partners and promoters of research necessary to plan for the future of our territory. Relevant research results must be integrated into decision-making at all levels.

The GNWT will continue to collaborate with other governments, academic institutions, research agencies, communities, environmental non-governmental organizations and industry to guide research practitioners working in the NWT to ensure our residents directly benefit from research results.

Research completed in the North must promote engaged decision-making based on best available evidence, including traditional knowledge, local and scientific knowledge.

**Robert R. McLeod**

Premier of the Northwest Territories





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## We will develop a knowledge economy by:

*Building upon the research vision developed in the GNWT Knowledge Agenda: Northern Research for Northern Priorities and other strategic instruments, to support the generation of knowledge (e.g. traditional and local knowledge and western science) and innovation to enhance decision-making and sustainable economic opportunities.*

GNWT Mandate 2015-2019



Photo Credit: Government of Northwest Territories

# SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

More than ever we require research and knowledge to understand ourselves and our environment, to describe and solve increasingly complex problems and to improve the quality of our day-to-day lives. Knowledge is also critical to our ability to innovate and prosper.

How we view research and knowledge has evolved over the past several decades. We now fully appreciate that by bringing together different types of knowledge, gained in different ways, we can address the most important challenges of our time.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is only one player in the world of knowledge generation. One of our responsibilities as a government is to clearly articulate our knowledge priorities, focus our own resources on advancing those priorities, and ensure that research done in the NWT benefits the Territory by improving our residents' quality of life while maintaining a healthy and resilient environment.

*The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Knowledge Agenda: Northern Research for Northern Priorities*, released in May 2017, defines the GNWT's current research priorities. It outlines what knowledge the GNWT proposes to acquire to meet northern needs, advance northern interests, and benefit northern residents. It does this in part by identifying the knowledge priorities that, if addressed, will help align research efforts with the information required for decision-making by northern governments at all levels.

The Knowledge Agenda is a tool that will be used by GNWT leaders, planners, policy-makers and researchers, in conjunction with GNWT legislation, policies, strategies and plans to advance the strategic goals of government and ultimately improve the quality of information used to make decisions in the Territory. The Knowledge Agenda was identified in the GNWT Mandate 2015-2019 as a strategic element of the GNWT's vision for a knowledge economy.

This Action Plan will be the mechanism through which the Knowledge Agenda will be implemented across government. It will guide GNWT departments, researchers and decision-makers to fully realize the purpose of the Knowledge Agenda, by building our own capacity and expanding our external research partnerships.

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT CONTINUED

### Knowledge

For the purposes of the Knowledge Agenda and Action Plan, the GNWT defines knowledge as: **the theoretical or practical understanding of a subject.**

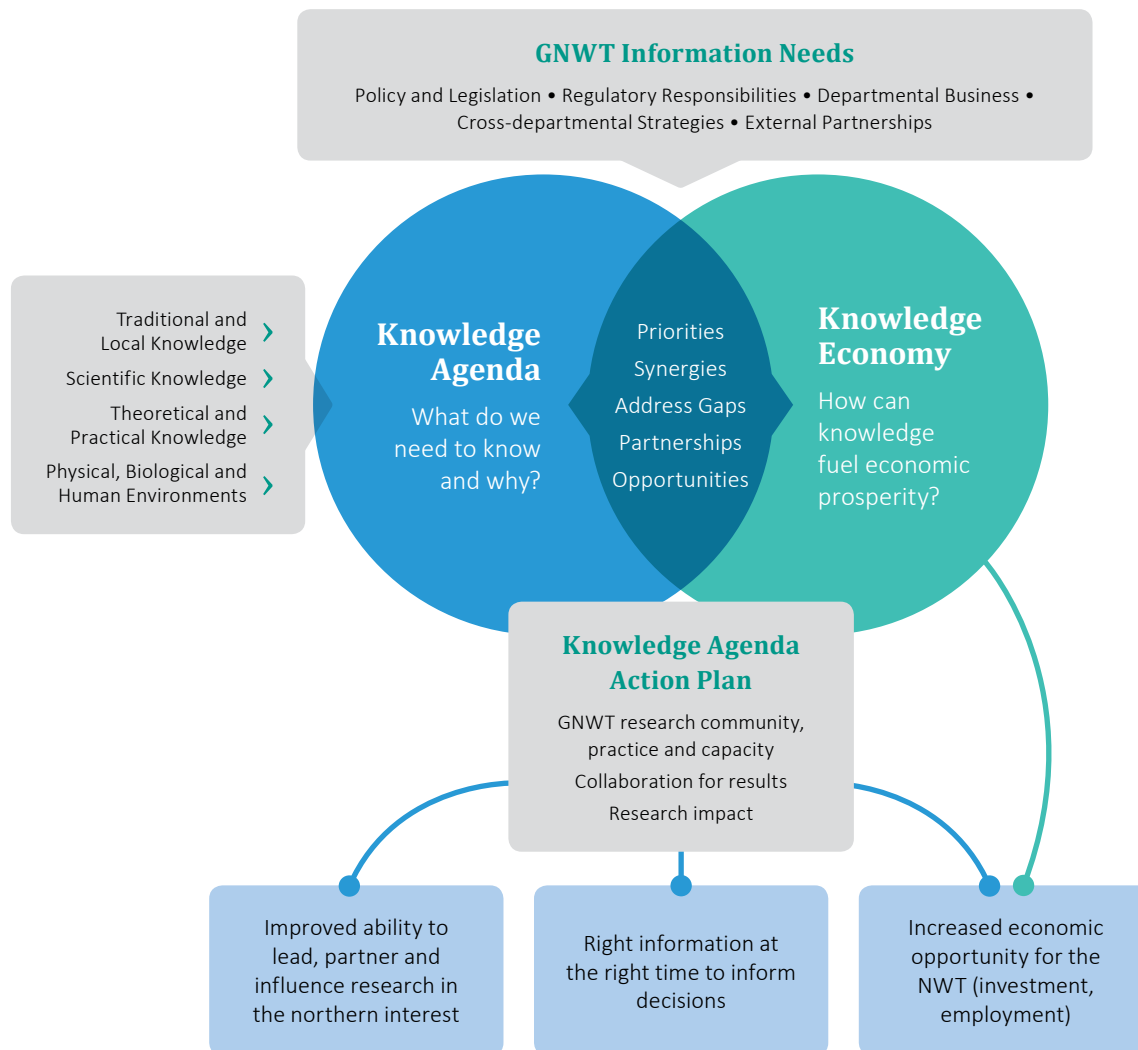
### Research

For the purposes of the Knowledge Agenda and Action Plan, the GNWT defines research as: **the creation of new knowledge and/or the use of existing knowledge in a new and creative way so as to generate new concepts, methodologies and understandings.**

### Why the focus on “knowledge”?

- The NWT faces major social, political, economic and environmental challenges and opportunities that require various types of knowledge to understand and address.
- There are many different research methodologies and approaches that can be used to increase our collective understanding of the physical, biological and human environments of the NWT.
- The term “knowledge” is inclusive and neutral. It recognizes the value and importance of both scientific and non-scientific research methods used to obtain knowledge in a particular subject area.
- The GNWT believes that knowledge can, and should, be obtained by research conducted using the most appropriate methodologies for each specific research question.
- Knowledge is a key element in successfully adapting to rapid changes in our environment and innovating for the future.
- The GNWT Science Agenda was updated, revised and renamed the Knowledge Agenda in 2017 to reflect the inclusion of traditional and community-based knowledge systems and a broader range of research methods.





## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT CONTINUED

### Knowledge Agenda in Brief

- A tool to help the GNWT create, share and use knowledge to achieve its strategic goals.
- Not a stand-alone plan but rather a lens that will be applied by all departments to plan, collaborate, prioritize and make decisions on research initiatives.
- Developed based on the operational realities and strategic directions of all departments, as expressed in their mandates, business plans, frameworks, strategies and action plans.
- Reflects the GNWT's interests as research practitioner, consumer, regulator and educator.
- Provides essential information and focus to support our transition towards a knowledge economy.
- Provides a focus on research topics and themes that are important for meeting the GNWT's information priorities and needs.

### Five subject areas

- **Cultural Sustainability** - Study past and current cultural practices, traditions and traditional knowledge to better understand and support these practices and traditions in the future.
- **Environmental Stewardship** - Expand our basic environmental knowledge and expertise with a view to supporting economic, social and cultural progress while maintaining healthy and resilient ecosystems.
- **Health and Wellness** - Ensure continuing vitality of NWT residents by better understanding health and wellness trends, health care service and management systems.
- **Natural Resource Management** - Expand our basic knowledge and expertise with a view to manage these resources, support economic and industrial progress, and to create opportunities for the development of new resources and technologies while minimizing environmental impacts.

## SECTION 1: INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT CONTINUED

- **Sustainable Communities**
  - **Social environment** - Study, understand and develop governance structures that best promote the health, safety and sustainability of communities in the NWT.
  - **Economic Development** – Study, understand and support social well-being and economic development in NWT Communities.
  - **Civil infrastructure** - Improve the conditions for the continuing success of NWT communities to function and ensure the reliability of materials, services, energy supplies and communications.
- Three cross-cutting themes
  - Climate change
  - Innovative and Emerging Technologies
  - Enhanced Role for NWT Residents
- Provides research agencies with a comprehensive list of research topics and themes that are important to meeting the GNWT's information priorities and needs.



Photo Credit: Government of Northwest Territories

*The Knowledge Agenda supports the GNWT's overall goal of positioning the NWT as an active leader, practitioner, partner, and promoter of all forms of research, including traditional knowledge, community-based research, and academic studies, necessary to inform relevant, timely and effective policy, planning, and legislation.*



Photo Credit: Mike Donnelly

## SECTION 2: OVERVIEW OF THE ACTION PLAN

The Knowledge Agenda Action Plan was informed by numerous interviews with key informants across the GNWT including the Aurora Research Institute. The plan was developed by the Interdepartmental Working Group on Research Activities (the Working Group) which includes representation from Aurora College. The Working Group is co-chaired by members from the departments of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) and Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI).

The Action Plan is organized under three main components:

- GNWT research community;
- Collaboration for results;
- Research impact.

For each component, the Action Plan specifies **target outcomes**, supporting **objectives** and **key actions**, along with a series of **associated tasks**, **timelines** and **leads**.

The Knowledge Agenda program is led by the Senior Science Advisor. While housed in ENR, the Knowledge Agenda program reports on the overall state of all GNWT research activities and compiles critical information needs from across all departments. In conjunction with the Working Group, the Science Advisor works to address these gaps through collaboration with local, regional, territorial, national and international research partners and funding agencies.

The co-chairs of the Working Group will provide overall leadership and coordination for implementation of the Action Plan, including the development of more detailed internal work plans required to achieve the various tasks listed in the plan, as well as internal reporting on progress. The Working Group may further assign individuals to certain tasks, form task teams as appropriate, or work with individual departments and agencies on an activity that uniquely falls within that organization's mandate.

It is important to recognize that the Knowledge Agenda is a visionary document and the GNWT is in the early stages of implementation. The Action Plan is based on an assessment of the GNWT's current research practices, systems and capacity. It lays out an incremental approach that will steadily strengthen the GNWT's ability to lead, collaborate, influence and promote research in the northern interest. Some of the actions are focused on solidifying the GNWT's own internal research capacity. Others are more externally focused on how the GNWT works in partnership with communities, Indigenous

## SECTION 2: OVERVIEW OF THE ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

governments and external research agencies. All are intended to enhance the GNWT's ability to conduct or influence research in the NWT so that it meets the needs of our government, our communities and our residents.

The Action Plan spans a 5-year horizon (2019 to 2024) and will be reviewed and updated in 2024. Timelines for actions in this plan are:

**Short term:** 2019 - 2020

**Mid term:** 2020 - 2022

**Long term:** 2022-2024 and beyond

The Working Group will monitor implementation on an annual basis and prepare an annual public report summarizing progress on key actions in this plan, GNWT research activities, research needs and highlighting successful research partnerships. At the end of the five year Action Plan timeframe, a review to describe progress on the overall objectives and key tasks will be completed and released.



Photo Credit: Government of Northwest Territories



## SECTION 2: OVERVIEW OF THE ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

### Linkages

By taking a broad view of research and knowledge creation, the Knowledge Agenda will necessarily interact with a range of other strategies, policies and projects within the GNWT such as the anticipated NWT Manufacturing Strategy. The intent of the action plan is not to displace or replace these other initiatives, but rather to draw linkages and strengthen alignment based on clearly-articulated NWT research priorities.

The Action Plan is not prescriptive as to how individual actions must be undertaken. In some cases, the best approach will be to establish entirely new tools or processes. In other instances, target outcomes may be best achieved by building onto or adapting an existing activity or initiative. An excellent example of this is the **NWT Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program (CIMP)**, which has existing linkages within the research community and brings years of experience collecting and sharing environmental monitoring and research information and making it available to support northern resource management decision-making.

The most critical linkages will be those that relate directly to the five subject areas and the three cross-cutting themes of the Knowledge Agenda itself. A notable example of this is the **2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework**, which will be a major driver of GNWT research and research partnerships over the next decade. However, there are also a number of other GNWT frameworks, strategies and action plans that will influence the types of research the GNWT conducts or supports in areas ranging from energy, resource development and water, to early childhood development, mental health and addictions.

In addition, there are initiatives within the GNWT that have the potential to inform better solutions and approaches to achieve the objectives of this Action Plan. For example, the **Service Innovation Strategy (SIS)**, led by the Office of the Chief Information Officer, offers opportunities to look at how government-wide technology solutions and GNWT information management capacity can support the Knowledge Agenda. Similarly, the **GNWT Open Government Policy** has created an interdepartmental venue to examine the challenges and opportunities related to Open Data, including data sharing protocols, practices and technological solutions.

## SECTION 2: OVERVIEW OF THE ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

### The Action Plan at a Glance



## SECTION 2: OVERVIEW OF THE ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

### Who Will It Benefit?

The GNWT Knowledge Agenda Action Plan will support, guide and direct the work of the GNWT research community. It will also produce benefits for a number of other groups, including:

- NWT decision-makers at all levels of government;
- Organizations and researchers with an interest in the North;
- Funding agencies;
- Industry;
- NWT communities.

Implementation of the Knowledge Agenda Action Plan will provide these and other groups with:

- Better access to GNWT research and researchers;
- An ability to identify common research interests and knowledge needs as well as opportunities for collaboration;
- A better understanding of NWT research needs, best practices and the value of working directly with NWT communities;
- Guidance on how to work effectively with and build capacity in communities;
- An opportunity to build a broader NWT Research Agenda;
- Information that can be used to support regulatory processes and required community engagement.



Photo Credit: Paul Vecsei

## Solidifying capacity and collaboration

*The Action Plan is based on an assessment of the GNWT's current research practices, systems and capacity. It lays out an incremental approach that will steadily strengthen the GNWT's ability to lead, collaborate, influence and promote research in the northern interest.*



Photo Credit: Government of Northwest Territories

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN

### COMPONENT: GNWT Research Community

*To effectively lead, partner, support and influence priority research in the northern interest, the GNWT must ensure its own researchers are able to effectively connect, collaborate and maintain expertise in priority areas. This includes making the best use of available resources to maximize the value of research investments.*

Target outcomes for this component are:

- GNWT researchers working together on shared knowledge objectives and solving common research issues;
- Use of Traditional Knowledge in GNWT research programs is strengthened;
- GNWT using common best practices and protocols;
- Expertise to meet GNWT Knowledge Agenda priorities is consistently available and accessible;
- GNWT in-house research and knowledge is strengthened, retained and regularly used; and
- GNWT data is effectively managed across departments.



Photo Credit: Aurora Research Institute

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

### Objective:

Strengthen the ability of GNWT to incorporate the use of Traditional Knowledge into research activities

#### Key Action #1: Improve GNWT's capacity to integrate Traditional Knowledge into research programs

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
1.1	Investigate how all departments engage in Traditional Knowledge research and develop a list of options for addressing priority needs for each department	Long term	Environment and Natural Resources
1.2	Convene an annual meeting between the GNWT Traditional Knowledge Committee and the Interdepartmental Working Group on Research Activities to discuss opportunities to engage communities in Traditional Knowledge projects associated with departmental research goals	Mid term	Environment and Natural Resources and the Working Group on Research Activities



## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

**Objective:** Connect the GNWT research community

**Key Action #2:** Create and maintain mechanisms for the GNWT research community to share information and identify opportunities to collaborate

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
2.1	Host an annual interdepartmental workshop to share information on existing programs and facilities, describe research results and identify priorities going forward	Short term	GNWT Science Advisor, Working Group on Research Activities
2.2	Maintain Interdepartmental Working Group to lead initiatives and as a venue to regularly identify opportunities for collaboration on knowledge priorities	Ongoing	Working Group on Research Activities Co-chairs
2.3	Regularly update GNWT research community on tools, facilities, technologies and resources available for data management, communication and research	Ongoing	GNWT Science Advisor, Working Group on Research Activities
2.4	Establish interdepartmental mechanisms to share information about new and existing research projects (e.g., websites, dashboards, newsletters, regular meetings)	Mid term	Working Group on Research Activities
2.5	Sharing information on available research grants and potential internal and external partnerships	Ongoing	GNWT Science Advisor

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

<b>2.6</b>	Work with Aurora College and the Aurora Research Institute to share NWT research information, establish partnerships and access resources that support Knowledge Agenda goals	Short term	GNWT Science Advisor and Aurora College Vice-President, Research
<b>2.7</b>	Establish a regular interdepartmental forum to plan Traditional Knowledge components in GNWT research plans	Mid term	Environment and Natural Resources

**Key Action #3:** Encourage departments' business units to pool resources to solve common research-related issues and/or maximize the value of research dollars

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
<b>3.1</b>	Identify and implement field program synergies that reduce costs of travel, equipment, or staff time	Mid term	Working Group on Research Activities
<b>3.2</b>	Provide an assessment of education and training needs for northern-based researchers and develop initiatives to meet those needs on a priority basis	Long term	GNWT Science Advisor and Aurora College with support from Education, Culture and Employment
<b>3.3</b>	Provide an assessment of current and future needs for research infrastructure and opportunities for shared research facilities	Mid term	Working Group on Research Activities
<b>3.4</b>	Coordinate Traditional Knowledge programs, where appropriate, that reduce costs for travel, meetings and staff time	Long term	Environment and Natural Resources

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

**Objective:** Strengthen GNWT research practice

**Key Action #4:** Consolidate and build on NWT research 'best practice' guidelines, policies, and protocols

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
4.1	Compile and share existing GNWT research-related best practice guidelines, policies and protocols	Short term	Science Advisor and Working Group on Research Activities
4.2	Identify priority gaps in best practice guidelines and protocols for research in the NWT	Mid term	Aurora Research Institute
4.3	Develop and communicate GNWT code of ethical practices for researchers including for the use of Traditional Knowledge	Long term	Aurora Research Institute, Health and Social Services, Environment and Natural Resources with support from Education, Culture and Employment
4.4	Share best practices on how to effectively communicate research results to the public	Mid term	Working Group on Research Activities
4.5	Develop practical guidance for GNWT researchers on how to work with external research partners or consultants, including advice for writing research proposals, grants and contracts	Long term	GNWT Science Advisor

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

### Objective:

Support and develop NWT research capacity (human and financial resources, infrastructure) in the NWT

#### Key Action #5: Strengthen internal research expertise required to advance Knowledge Agenda research priorities

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
5.1	Work in partnership with Aurora College and the Aurora Research Institute to evaluate NWT research capacity challenges and opportunities	Short term	Working Group on Research Activities, Aurora College
5.2	Explore options for creating a “revolving fund” to support priority information gaps	Long term	Working Group on Research Activities with support from Aurora College

#### Key Action #6: Sustain and enhance world class regional research facilities and programs

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
6.1	Convene regular meetings of GNWT research-focused business units to review existing strategic plans and discuss current and future needs to identify opportunities for alignment and collaboration	Short term	Working Group on Research Activities
6.2	Develop communications products to highlight capacity of GNWT research facilities and opportunities to host research programs	Mid term	Aurora Research Institute, GNWT Science Advisor

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

### Key Action #7: Find creative solutions to recruit, train and retain research expertise in the NWT

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
7.1	Promote the importance of and opportunities for knowledge-based careers in the north to NWT students and residents	Long term	Working Group on Research Activities with support from Finance (Human Resources)
7.2	Explore opportunities to strengthen research capacity through co-op programs, cross-appointments, internships, researcher-in-residence programs and externally-funded research positions that are situated in the NWT	Long term	GNWT Science Advisor with support from Working Group on Research Activities
7.3	Assess research-related staffing needs with an increased focus on succession planning	Long term	Working Group on Research Activities with support from Finance (Human Resources)

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

### Key Action #8: Improve GNWT's capacity to store, manage and share data collected through research and monitoring

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
8.1	Compile information on current research-related data, data products and data management systems and governance across the GNWT	Short term	Working Group on Research Activities
8.2	Investigate possible synergies with national and international providers of research data and data management services	Mid term	Working Group on Research Activities and GNWT departments
8.3	Investigate potential for integrating Traditional Knowledge into existing GNWT data management systems	Long term	Environment and Natural Resources



## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

### COMPONENT: Collaborate for results

*We must effectively reach out to communities, external researchers and funding agencies to establish productive relationships, create strong research partnerships and expand our research network. In addition, the GNWT wants to encourage increased overall research activity in the NWT in a way that contributes to our knowledge needs and benefits all northerners.*

The focus of this component is to take actions that will position the GNWT as a valuable partner and increase our ability to influence all research taking place in the NWT. When working with communities, we strive to incorporate their research priorities into established research and monitoring programs, so that we can work together to make progress on shared goals.

Target outcomes for this component are:

- External researchers and funding agencies are aware of and reference NWT research needs and priorities;
- External research is producing results that advance GNWT research priorities;
- External researchers are inspired to collaborate with the GNWT and NWT communities;
- External researchers access, cite and use GNWT research;
- GNWT regularly partners with or supports communities to advance shared knowledge goals;
- GNWT research is consistently informed and supported by community members;
- Research conducted in the NWT supports northern interests.

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

**Objective:** Promote GNWT research

**Key Action #9:** Provide easy access to GNWT research information

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
9.1	Establish an inventory of current GNWT research projects organized by the core subject areas and cross-cutting themes in the Knowledge Agenda	Short term	Working Group on Research Activities
9.2	Establish, maintain and promote a list of GNWT points of contact for key research areas	Short term	Working Group on Research Activities
9.3	Host an “InfoNorth” or Knowledge Agenda website that summarizes the GNWT’s research and encourages external researchers to partner or collaborate with GNWT researchers	Mid term	Working Group on Research Activities with support from GNWT departmental communications

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

**Objective:** Enhance collaboration with external organizations and governments

**Key Action #10:** Coordinate existing and future research efforts, and bring multiple partners together to advance Northern research and innovation

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
10.1	Highlight the respective roles of Aurora College, Aurora Research Institute, and GNWT departments in engaging external researchers and funding agencies, providing and maintaining infrastructure, establishing academic networks and communicating research priorities	Short term	GNWT Science Advisor and Aurora College Vice-President, Research, with support from Working Group on Research Activities
10.2	Work with other jurisdictions to develop research programs and networks of mutual benefit and interest.	Ongoing	GNWT Science Advisor
10.3	Provide guidance and advice to new research networks and projects that helps to maximize benefits for NWT residents.	Ongoing	GNWT Science Advisor with support from Working Group on Research Activities
10.4	Update guidance for external agencies that describes NWT best research practices	Ongoing	Working group on Research Activities, Aurora Research Institute
10.5	Promote linkages between research agencies, Indigenous governments and organizations, and co-management boards	Mid term	Working Group on Research Activities

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

**Objective:** Influence research in the Northern interest

### Key Action #11: Promote the GNWT's Knowledge Agenda and research priorities

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
11.1	Develop a communications plan to actively promote the GNWT's Knowledge Agenda and research priorities and cross cutting themes, such as climate change, to key audiences	Short term	Working Group on Research Activities with support from GNWT departmental communications
11.2	Identify and highlight current research gaps that the GNWT believes need to be addressed in the short term	Short term	GNWT Science Advisor, Aurora Research Institute
11.3	Inform funding agencies of Northern needs with respect to research and related infrastructure	Long term	GNWT Science Advisor, Aurora Research Institute

### Key Action #12: Modernize GNWT legislation that regulates research, science and knowledge generation

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
12.1	Compile an overview of NWT legislation that regulates research activities and identify how current laws and regulations could be amended to better align with Knowledge Agenda goals	Short term	Working group on Research Activities

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

**Objective:** Enable effective community involvement in research

### Key Action #13: Support best practices for working with communities on research

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
13.1	Continue to encourage GNWT departments and external researchers to engage early with communities on the objectives and scope of proposed research projects	Ongoing	Aurora Research Institute, GNWT Science Advisor
13.2	Participate in regional meetings to share plain-language information, understand research and communications needs, and develop positive relationships between researchers and community members	Short term and ongoing	GNWT Science Advisor with support from Working Group on Research Activities and Aurora Research Institute

### Key Action #14: Support community research capacity development

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
14.1	Investigate options for making Contribution Agreements more efficient and effective for community research partners (e.g., multiyear funding, joint agreements with several business units)	Mid term	Working Group on Research Activities
14.2	Encourage GNWT departments and external researchers to design projects in a manner that builds community research capacity (e.g., hiring and training of local people, use of local businesses)	Mid term	Aurora Research Institute, Working Group on Research Activities
14.3	Build on community-based monitoring initiatives including training and support for Guardian programs.	Ongoing	Environment and Natural Resources

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

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### COMPONENT: Research impact

*The ultimate goal of GNWT's research efforts is to enable decisions and actions that improve the quality of life for our residents. With a growing focus on evidence-based decision making, it is increasingly important to ensure research data and results are accessible and translated into usable knowledge for GNWT decision-makers. We also want to share this knowledge with the public and anyone who has an impact on our environment, our communities and our residents. This includes community and Indigenous Governments and organizations, the federal government, regulatory and resource management boards, non-governmental organizations and industry.*

Actions under this component seek to integrate research considerations into GNWT planning processes, including consideration for providing centralized support for GNWT's research community as a whole.

Target outcomes for this component are:

- The right knowledge is available at the right time in the right form to be used by the GNWT and other decision-makers;
- GNWT decision-makers are aware of and use available research and knowledge to inform their discussions, planning and decisions;
- Knowledge gained through GNWT research and monitoring is accessible to the public, to GNWT clients, and to others who make decisions and recommendations that impact the NWT;
- Northern knowledge and research needs are being met now and in the future.

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

### Objective:

Make research results more accessible and relevant to the people of the NWT and decision-makers with all levels of Government

**Key Action #15:** Improve the way research is translated and made available to decision-makers

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
15.1	Provide key decision-making bodies with a list of departmental contacts who can provide information on various areas of NWT research	Short term	GNWT Science Advisor
15.2	Develop a common reporting mechanism for GNWT and external researchers to provide brief plain language “so what” summaries of their projects	Mid term	Working Group on Research Activities
15.3	Evaluate web-based dashboards and other tools that highlight current NWT research on Knowledge Agenda priorities	Mid term	Working Group on Research Activities
15.4	Develop options for improving how plain language research result summaries are delivered to NWT communities	Mid term	Environment and Natural Resources

## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

**Objective:** Contribute to building a knowledge economy in the NWT

**Key Action #16:** Leverage NWT features, infrastructure and expertise to help generate new sources of investment and revenue for the NWT

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
16.1	Develop a plan to promote the NWT to national and international stakeholders as a unique natural laboratory for climate change and cold weather research	Mid term	GNWT Science Advisor and Industry, Tourism and Investment
16.2	Use GNWT infrastructure, infrastructure networks, resources and letters of support to advance academic partner funding proposals in priority areas	Ongoing	Working Group on Research Activities
16.3	Encourage and establish new partnerships that enhance NWT research capacity such as increased program support, new research chairs and new equipment	Ongoing	Working Group on Research Activities
16.4	Provide information to GNWT departments on Federal Government funding options available through Aurora College	Short term	GNWT Science Advisor, Aurora College
16.5	Conduct a study to examine the feasibility of developing new infrastructure to support development of the knowledge economy in the NWT	Short term	Industry Tourism and Investment, Environment and Natural Resources Education Culture and Employment



## SECTION 3: DETAILED ACTION PLAN CONTINUED

**Objective:** Build momentum toward a territory-wide knowledge agenda

**Key Action #17:** Assess knowledge gaps across the NWT

Associated Tasks		Timeframe	Lead/Key department
16.1	Develop a plan to engage with communities on a territory-wide research strategy or agenda for the NWT	Long term	GNWT Science Advisor
16.2	Facilitate university collaboration with Aurora College and the GNWT on academic initiatives that support and grow knowledge-based programs, education needs and knowledge capacity throughout the NWT	Ongoing	GNWT Science Advisor, Aurora College, Aurora Research Institute

*The Knowledge Agenda developed research priorities using a variety of strategic planning documents, and expressed needs from across all GNWT departments. The Knowledge Agenda Action Plan will help ensure that the GNWT continues to lead and influence Northern research, collaborate with partners and provide critical information to support decision making in the Territory, while also supporting a developing Knowledge Economy.*



Photo Credit: Government of Northwest Territories

## SECTION 4: RESEARCH FOR THE NORTH

### The Knowledge Agenda: A living document

*In order to ensure the continued relevance of the Knowledge Agenda and the GNWT's research priorities, the Agenda and the Action Plan will be subject to regular review and adjustment. Specifically, the Interdepartmental Working Group on Research Activities, working in collaboration with the GNWT Science Advisor will:*

1. Seek feedback from communities, Indigenous governments, researchers and other key stakeholders (mid-term);
2. Establish a mechanism to identify research gaps and emerging research priorities (mid-term);
3. Provide an annual summary of GNWT progress on key actions under each objective in the action plan, research activities, and emerging needs highlighting successful projects, and;
4. Prepare and publish a five-year review and update to the Knowledge Agenda and Action Plan based on feedback, gaps and emerging priorities (long-term).



Photo Credit: Government of Northwest Territories





