

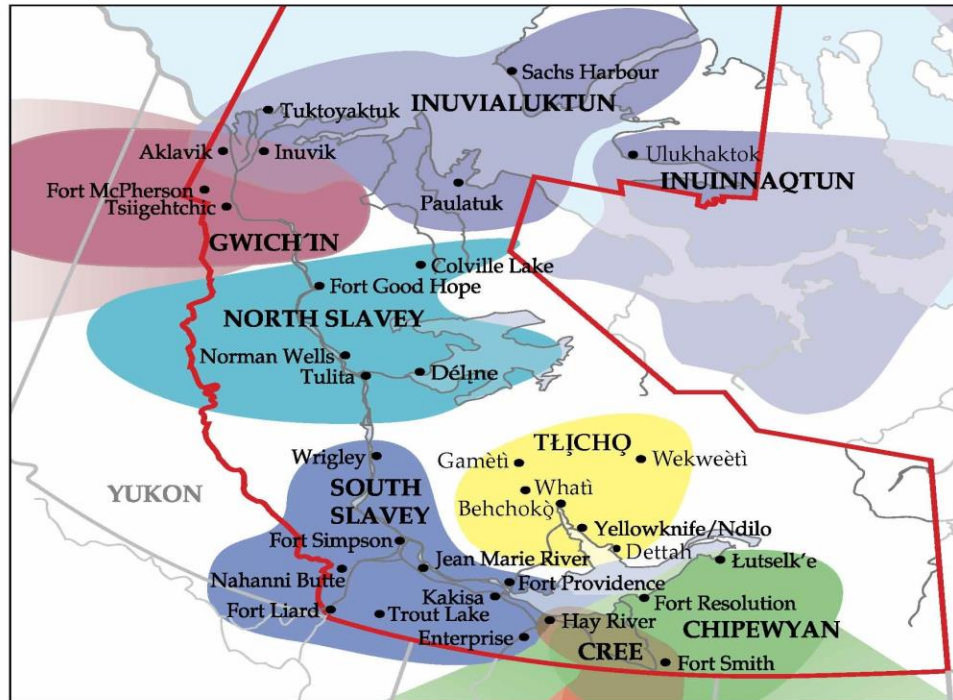


# Early Years Systems Development in the Northwest Territories

Government of  
Northwest Territories

# The Northwest Territories

## Official Languages of the Northwest Territories



**FRENCH** is mostly spoken in Hay River, Fort Smith, Inuvik and Yellowknife.  
**ENGLISH** is spoken throughout the Northwest Territories.  
**INUKTITUT** is mostly spoken in Yellowknife.

The Northwest Territories (NWT) is the only political region in Canada which recognizes 11 official languages.

Of these, nine are Aboriginal and belong to three different language families: Dene, Inuit and Cree. Aboriginal languages are most frequently spoken in smaller communities throughout the Northwest Territories.

The Dene languages spoken in the majority of the NWT are part of the Athapaskan family. Included in this group are Chipewyan, Tłı̨chǫ́ (Dogrib), Gwich'in, North Slavey and South Slavey.

The Inuit languages recognized in the NWT are Inuvialuktun, Inuinnaqtun and Inuktitut. In the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, 20% of the Inuvialuit population speak either Inuvialuktun or Inuinnaqtun. The majority of people that speak Inuktitut in the NWT live in Yellowknife.

A small number of people, living mostly in the Fort Smith and Hay River area, speak Cree. Their language belongs to a different linguistic group, the Algonquian family.

Approximately 3% of the population states that French is their first language. The use of French and English is more common in Yellowknife and the regional centres.

- ʔjaghe ní dēne yatı ı̄.  
*Chipewyan*
- Mamawi kitaskenaw, mihcet pı̄htākosowina.  
*Cree*
- One land, many voices.  
*English*
- Un territoire aux voix multiples.  
*French*
- Nan ihłak, dı̄deezhuu leı̄.  
*Gwich'in*
- Atauhiq nuna, uqauhiriaktuq.  
*Inuinnaqtun*
- ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ ᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱᐱ.  
*Inuktitut*
- Atausiq nuna, inugiaktut uqallausiit.  
*Inuvialuktun*
- Ne h̄e, kede ı̄q.  
*North Slavey*
- Ndeh h̄e, zhahtı̄e ı̄q.  
*South Slavey*
- Gon̄e ih̄l̄e, go yatı neł̄.  
*Tłı̨chǫ́*



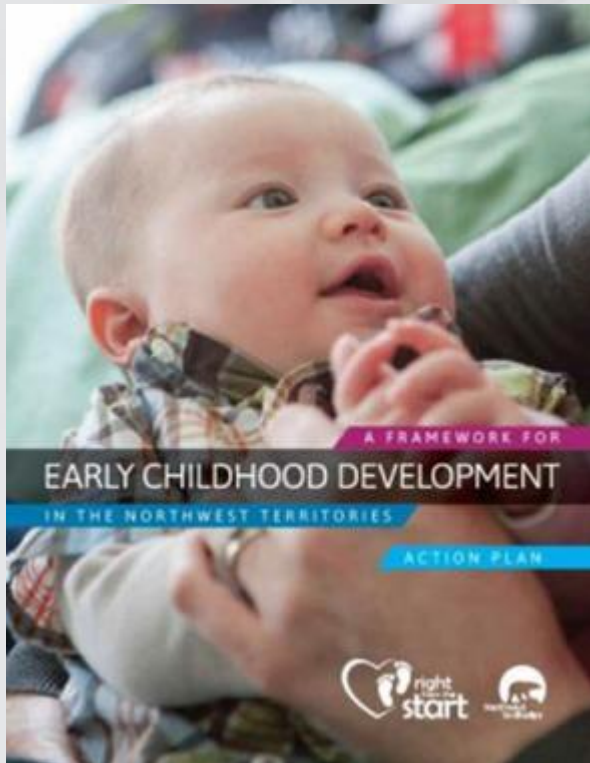
Languages Commissioner of the N.W.T.



Northwest Territories Education, Culture and Employment



# Right From the Start Early Childhood Framework and Action Plan



- ECE and HSS established a collaborative working relationship
- Both departments are working to provide the best service we can to the people who need it most
- 22 areas for action:
  - 4 led by HSS
  - 8 led by ECE, and
  - 10 joint ECE/HSS; ECE leads 4 of these



# ECD Framework

## GOALS

Increased accessibility, affordability and participation in early childhood development programs, services and supports for children, families and communities

Enhanced quality of early childhood development programs, services and supports

Improved integration and collaboration at all levels of the early childhood development system

## COMMITMENTS

Expectant mothers will have access to evidence-based services that support improved outcomes for mom and baby

Early intervention programming aimed at infants, children and parents will be expanded

Early childhood assessment, intervention and responses will be improved

Coordination and integration will be improved across the continuum of ECD programs and services

Promotion, awareness and education initiatives on early childhood development will be available to families and communities

Access to high quality, affordable early learning programs and child care services will be enhanced

Monitoring, reporting and ongoing evaluation for continuous quality improvement in ECD programs and services

## OUTCOMES

Mothers are healthy and give birth to healthy babies who remain healthy

Children have safe, culturally appropriate early childhood development opportunities, including early learning and play

Children and families participate fully in their community: no one is left behind

Families have the knowledge, skills and resources needed to support their children's development

Residents of the NWT have access to quality ECD programs, services and supports



# Action Highlights - Joint

Target campaigns to raise awareness about Early Childhood Development (ECD) amongst parents and caregivers

- Self-regulation – ECE
- Oral Health – HSS

Monitoring, Evaluation and Assessment (MEA) Plan to support ongoing improvements to programming



# Action Highlights - HSS

## Oral Health Initiatives

- Federal Funding – PM and Consultant
- Starts with Breastfeeding Support and Promotion



# Action Plan Highlights - ECE

## Self-regulation Initiative

- Target campaign to raise awareness about ECD
- Joint social media campaign
- Information available on the Right From the Start Facebook page
- Self-regulation ECD videos are being developed



# Action Highlights - HSS

## Healthy Family Program

- Was expanded to 16 communities
- Collective Kitchen Cookbooks
- Developed certification process for training northern trainers





# Action Highlights - HSS

## Universal Screening Tool

- One time assessment for 5 year olds
- 76% of children born in 2009
- Modified Rourke – NWT Well Child Record
- Better reflect NWT needs and data requirements
- 6 training sessions across the NWT



# Action Highlights - HSS

## Review of Rehabilitation Services:

- Occupational Therapy
- Speech Therapy
- Physiotherapy
- Audiology
- Public Health
- Counseling Services and follow-up for children with developmental issues



# Action Highlights - HSS

## Innovation

- Baby Bags or not?



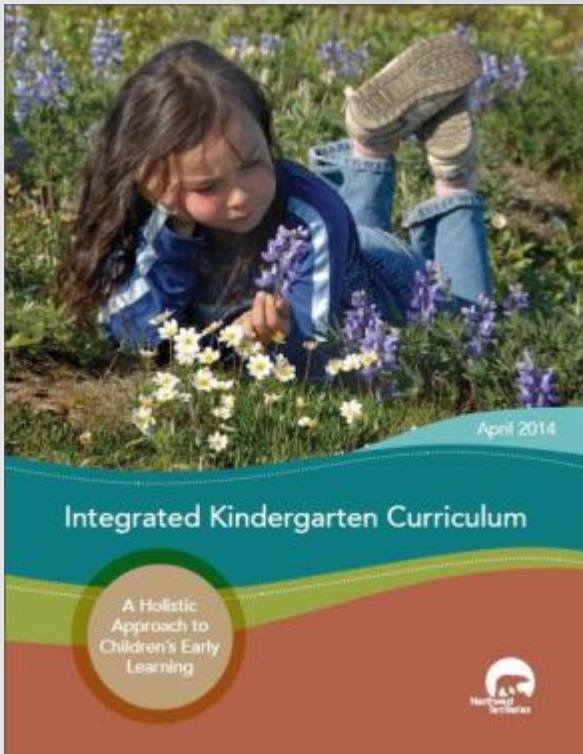
# Action Highlights - ECE

Development of a Senior Secondary high school dual credit course that focuses on Early Childhood Development



# Action Highlights - ECE

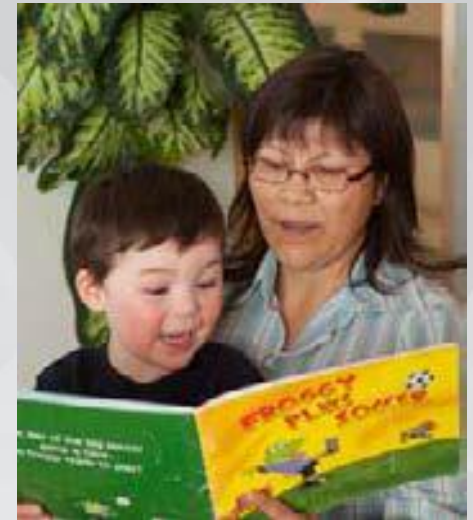
- Junior Kindergarten is currently offered in 16 schools in small communities across the NWT
- External JK review was recently completed and will inform future territorial implementation
- The NWT *Integrated Kindergarten Curriculum – A Holistic Approach to Children’s Early Learning* is available in English and French
- The Draft Implementation Guide is being reviewed and revised



# Action Highlights - ECE

## Early Childhood Scholarships

- awarded to help full-time college and university students offset the costs of attending southern accredited postsecondary institutes in Diploma or Degree programs with a direct focus in Early Childhood Development studies.
- 10 scholarships of \$5000 were awarded in 2014-15
- 15 scholarships of \$5000 were awarded in 2015-16



# Early Childhood Staff Grant Program

Number of hours worked per quarter	100 – 234 Hours per quarter (8- 18 hours per week)	235 – 351 Hours per quarter (18.5 – 27 hours per week)	354 – 468 Hours per quarter (27.5 – 36 hours per week)	469 + Hours per quarter (37 + hours per weeks)
No completed early childhood post-secondary education	\$600	\$900	\$1,200	\$1,500
Completed early childhood certificate	\$800	\$1,200	\$1,600	\$2,000
Completed early childhood diploma	\$1,000	\$1,500	\$2,000	\$2,500
Completed early childhood degree	\$1,200	\$1,800	\$2,400	\$3,000



# iPad Minis for New Parents and Caregivers



Download an application form at [www.ece.gov.nt.ca](http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca)  
or call 1-844-iPadNWT (472-3698)

Eligible parents and caregivers must provide proof that their child is between 0 and 6 months and was born in the NWT, proof of current NWT residency and have not previously received an iPad Mini through the initiative.

More information or download applications at [www.ece.gov.nt.ca](http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca) or call 1-844-iPadNWT (472-3698)





# Integrated Case Management Services

- Support at-risk children and families with a wrap around approach
- Connected with K-12 Education Renewal Initiative
- Interdepartmental/interagency model – focused on children in care
- Working on developing a common consent form that will enable departments to share individual level assessment information across care providers



# Questions, comments...

