



Aboriginal Affairs and
Northern Development Canada

Affaires autochtones et
Développement du Nord Canada

A Year in Review | NT Region 2010-2011



Canada



Information contained in this publication or product may be reproduced, in part or in whole, and by any means, for personal or public non-commercial purposes, without charge or further permission, unless otherwise specified.

You are asked to:

- Exercise due diligence in ensuring the accuracy of the materials reproduced;
- Indicate both the complete title of the materials reproduced, as well as the author organization; and
- Indicate that the reproduction is a copy of an official work that is published by the Government of Canada and that the reproduction has not been produced in affiliation with, or with the endorsement of the Government of Canada.

Commercial reproduction and distribution is prohibited except with written permission from the Government of Canada's copyright administrator, Public Works and Government Services of Canada (PWGSC). For more information, please contact PWGSC at: 613-996-6886 or at: droitdauteur.copyright@tpsgc-pwgsc.gc.ca.

www.AANDC-AADNC.gc.ca
1-800-567-9604
TTY only 1-866-553-0554

QS-Y332-002-EE-A1
Catalogue:R111-2/2011E

Contents

Note from the Regional Director General

Snapshot of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern
Development Canada NT Region

NT Region Mission

Operational Summary

The Northern Strategy

Key Activities - Introduction

The Northwest Territories Region
Strategic Plan 2010-2015

Governance

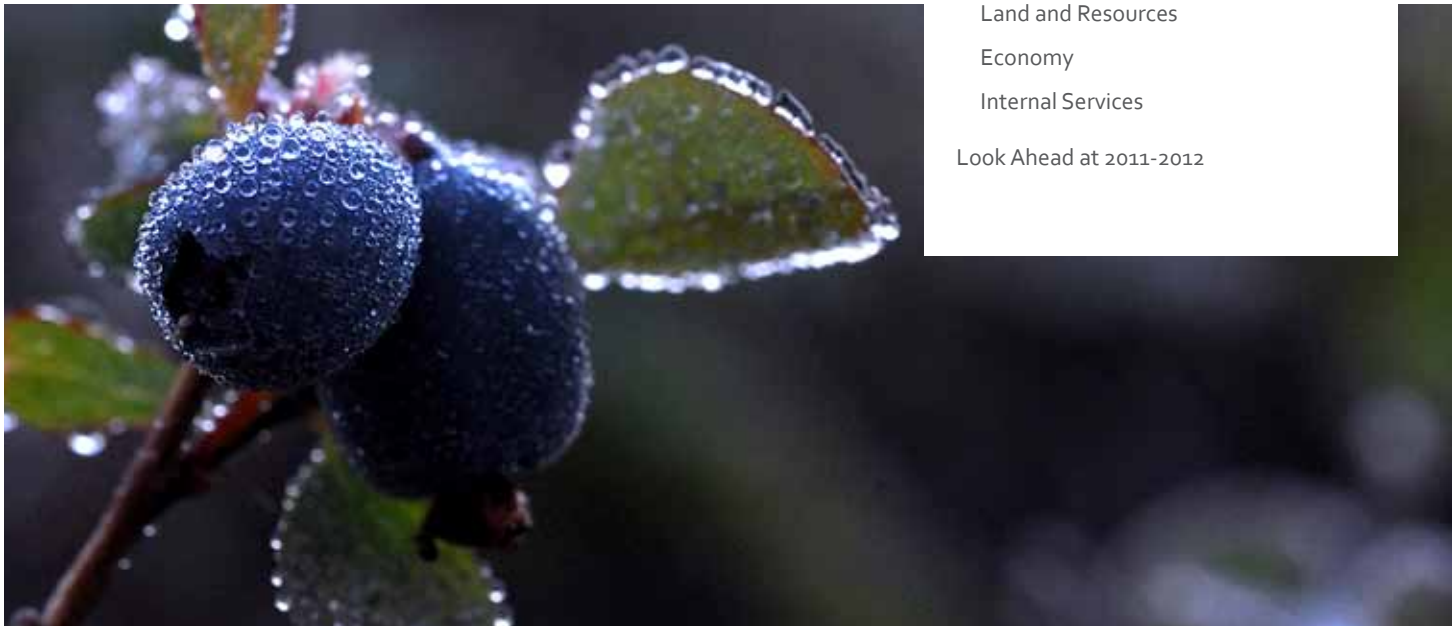
Communities

Land and Resources

Economy

Internal Services

Look Ahead at 2011-2012





In 2010-2011, Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC) NT Region contributed to progress on key deliverables of the Action Plan to Improve the Northern Regulatory Regimes, announced by the Minister in May 2010. This included reviewing and consulting on the *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA), completing a first draft and consulting on proposed surface rights board legislation, and supporting cumulative impact monitoring programs in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

Under the Action Plan, the NWT Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program (NWT CIMP), jointly with Nunavut's General Monitoring Program, received \$8 million in funding in 2010, over two years. Through NWT CIMP, traditional knowledge and formal scientific research methods come together through engaged community-based monitoring programs, to form evidence for use by decision makers. Last year 21 projects were awarded funding under the program, totaling a distribution of \$477,000 to Aboriginal organizations, community groups, government and educational institutions.

The NT Region supported the Department in reaching an Agreement-in-Principle in January 2011, on NWT Devolution for the transfer of management of land and resources that forms the basis for negotiations towards a Final Agreement. This is a significant milestone for the Region and an important step in the political and economic development of the NWT.

I'm also proud of the contribution NT Region employees made to the *Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy*, which was released by AANDC and the Government of the Northwest Territories in May 2010. A number of the NT Region's employees received a GNWT Premier's Collaboration Award in recognition of their contributions to the strategy. Staff also contributed to *NWT Water Stewardship: A Plan for Action 2011-2015*, which was released in May 2011.



We continued to support ongoing implementation and negotiation processes, including implementation concerns related to the Gwich'in, Sahtu, Tlicho and Inuvialuit Agreements. Through a mentorship program initiated by the NT Region, the Communications and Public Affairs directorate worked with the Deline First Nation and other local organizations to help support self-government communications initiatives in the community.

The Region made consistent progress in the remediation of contaminated sites, including Giant Mine. In October 2010, the Giant Mine Project team submitted the Developer's Assessment Report to the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board as required for the environmental assessment process. In March 2011, the Freeze Optimization Study became fully operational at the site. Approximately \$22.7 million was spent on the project in 2010-2011.

There are many other successes and progressions that are highlighted in this booklet. If you have feedback on the 'Year in Review' or comments on the NT Region's programs or activities, please feel free to let us know by emailing us at NTcommunications@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca.

I look forward to continuing to work with our partners, staff, industry and communities to further our successes during the upcoming year.

Trish Merrithew-Mercredi, Regional Director General
Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada NT Region

NT Region Mission:

We are a team of Northerners that support a strong and healthy Northwest Territories by:

- Upholding and strengthening Canada's relationship with Aboriginal peoples
- Promoting and developing relationships with all Northerners and stakeholders
- Supporting responsible resource management
- Advancing devolution
- Advocating Northern interests



Snapshot of Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada NT Region

The Northwest Territories is a highly complex operating environment characterized by a broad set of political, social and economic variables. The federal government attends to its responsibilities in the NWT under Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada's mandate.

In the NWT, the Department's operations are subdivided into three broad areas:

1) Governance, advice, and support to Aboriginal organizations and First Nation communities

Support to departmental work related to the negotiation and implementation of land, resource and governance agreements in the NWT is provided by the Aboriginal and Territorial Relations directorate. Capacity building amongst First Nations and Inuit organizations is supported by the Indian and Inuit Services directorate.

2) Sustainable resource and environmental management

Land, water and resource management, including advice, regulation and intervention, are coordinated through the Region's operational directorates which include: Mineral and Petroleum Resources, Operations, Contaminants and Remediation, Giant Mine, and Renewable Resources and Environment.

3) Internal services and management

The Region also has several service-based programs that perform largely internal functions for the region. These include: Corporate Services, Policy and Planning, Human Resources and Leadership, and Communications and Public Affairs.

Overseeing all of the programs and services in the NT Region is the Executive Office with the Regional Director General and the Associate Regional Director General. The Executive Office is responsible for leading and coordinating the entire Region. It maintains a close working relationship with the National Capital Region in Ottawa as well as other sectors and regions, and the NT Region's partners and clients.

Operational Summary

The NT Region is comprised of approximately 320 staff in seven offices across the NWT. The Region’s main office is located in Yellowknife, with district offices in Fort Simpson, Hay River, Fort Smith, Norman Wells, Inuvik and Yellowknife.

The total 2010-11 operating budget for the NT Region was \$ 141.7 million. It is broken down as follows:

Salary - \$25.9M
Operations and Maintenance – \$81.3M
Grants and Contributions - \$34.5M

Total: \$141.7M

The Region regularly assesses and reviews priorities and allocations of available funds through the Regional Budget Management Framework. In 2010-2011, the NT Region used 99.4% of the total budget.



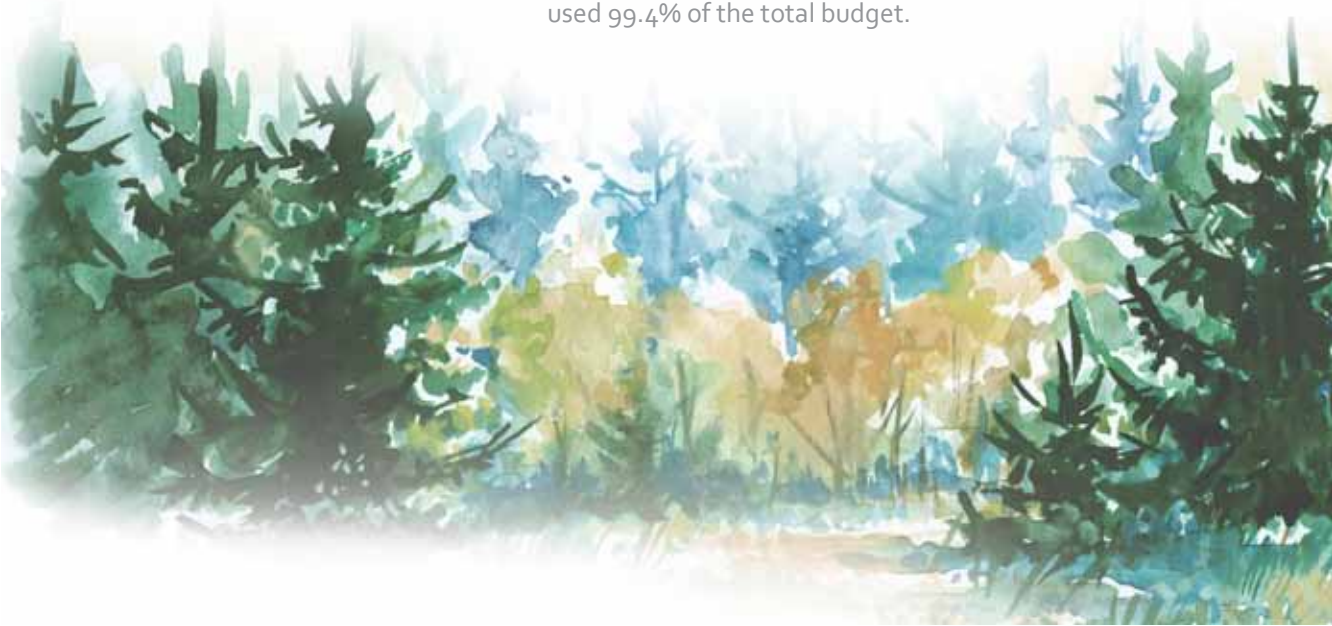
The Northern Strategy

The Government of Canada has a vision for a new North and is taking action to ensure that vision comes to life for the benefit of all Canadians and so that Northerners have greater control over their destinies.

To meet the challenges and opportunities of the 21st century, the Government of Canada has created a comprehensive Northern Strategy.

The Northern Strategy is made up of four equally important pillars:

- Exercising our Arctic sovereignty
- Protecting our environmental heritage
- Promoting social and economic development
- Improving and devolving Northern governance





AANDC Departmental Vision:

Canada's economic and social well-being benefits from strong, self-sufficient Aboriginal and northern people and their communities.

Our vision is a future in which First Nations, Inuit, Métis and northern communities are healthy, safe, self-sufficient and prosperous — a Canada where people and the physical environment are being managed in a sustainable and responsible manner.



The Government of Canada is committed to helping the North realize its true potential as a healthy, prosperous and secure region within a strong and sovereign Canada. To that end, the NT Region worked on the following initiatives in 2010-11 to assist in meeting the Northern Strategy priorities:

- Signing a Devolution Agreement-in-Principle for the Northwest Territories
- Regional support for the Action Plan to Improve Northern Regulatory Regimes
- Continued geo-mapping projects in the NWT
- Accelerated reclamation and remediation of federal contaminated sites
- Continued negotiation and implementation of land claims

Key Activities - Introduction

This 'Year in Review' for Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada NT Region 2010-2011 provides an overview of key activities from the past year. The guiding documents for our 2010-11 year were our Region's mission, the Government of Canada's Northern Strategy and the new NT Region Strategic Plan. The NT Region focussed its work this past year on three key priorities:

- Support the regional commitments to the Mackenzie Gas Project
- Regional support on the Action Plan to Improve Northern Regulatory Regimes
- Support devolution efforts in the NWT

The Northwest Territories Region Strategic Plan 2010-15

The NT Region Strategic Plan was distributed in 2010. This document provides the strategic objectives for the NT Region over the next several years. The Strategic Plan highlights the long-term planned outcomes as well as objectives and strategies that support those outcomes. It is an evergreen document, and will be updated as required during its five-year span.

The Strategic Plan is intended to:

- Support a more integrated approach to how resources are allocated and operational direction is provided
- Communicate, within the Department, the Region's strategic direction and its progress underway
- Describe the opportunities and challenges facing the Region
- Demonstrate how the Region links its planning to the Departmental Mission and Vision

The NT Region is currently creating a Performance Measurement Framework so that we can report to our stakeholders and partners on our results. For the fiscal year 2010-2011, we have highlighted some of the activities that exemplify the outcomes we are pursuing under our Strategic Plan.

"The NT Region as a whole should be very proud of its wise use of available funds. The region continues to receive less than 30% of its funding through A-base, which calls for extensive budget monitoring and reallocation. The NT Region surplused less than 1% of the total budget received, due to a cooperative and informed approach."

Susan Craig, Director, Corporate Services, AANDC NT Region



Strategic Plan Outcomes

The NT Region has five planned outcomes:

1 | Governance

Good governance, effective institutions and co-operative relationships for all of the people of the Northwest Territories.

2 | Communities

Individual and family well-being for the people of the Northwest Territories.

3 | Land and Resources

Sustainable stewardship of lands, resources and the physical environment for all of the people of the Northwest Territories.

4 | Economy

Increasing self-reliance to ensure the economic well-being for all people of the Northwest Territories.

5 | Internal Services

An effective and responsibly managed and operated organization, positioned to achieve its strategic objectives.

The objectives and strategies articulated in each planned outcome shape the focus for NT Region deliverables.

To obtain a copy of the NT Region Strategic Plan, please contact NTcommunications@aandc-aadnc.gc.ca





"I appreciate what our Department has to offer employees, especially training opportunities in the areas of facilitation and life coaching. Taking every risk and challenge there has helped me get to where I am now, which is just where I want to be, in the Leadership and Learning division. I hope I can set a positive example that encourages young people to join the public service and make a career for themselves."

Karen Wright-Fraser, Leadership and Learning Coordinator, AANDC NT Region



Governance

Good governance, effective institutions and co-operative relationships for all the people of the Northwest Territories.

Strategy

Key Activities

Objective: Settle and implement modern Treaties in the Northwest Territories.

- Support the negotiation of land claim agreements, fiscal transfer arrangements and implementation plans.
- Actively participated in all ongoing implementation and negotiation processes, including the process for renewal of the Tlicho financing arrangements.
 - Made progress in addressing various implementation concerns for the Gwich'in, Sahtu, Tlicho and Inuvialuit Agreements.

Objective: The people of the Northwest Territories actively participate in decision-making that affects them.

- Strengthen communications and engagement with communities on projects, funding opportunities and training programs.
- Worked with the Deline First Nation and other local organizations to offer communication training and support in the community.
 - Hosted, along with partners, three days of professional development targeted for communicators who live or work in the North. The NT Region sponsored representatives from each band council in the NWT to attend. Session presenters included leaders from within Aboriginal communities, from business, and from research and development.

Objective: Political development of territorial and Aboriginal governments.

- Support the development and implementation of a devolution agreement.
- Supported the Department in reaching a Devolution Agreement-in-Principle with the GNWT, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, and the Northwest Territory Métis Nation.
- Support self-government negotiations.
- Progress continued on self-government negotiation processes (Gwich'in, Inuvialuit, Deline, Tulita and Norman Wells).
 - Started negotiations towards Framework Agreements for self-government negotiation processes (Fort Good Hope and Behdzi Ahda).
 - Progress continued on land, resource and governance processes (Northwest Territory Métis Nation, Dehcho, Acho Dene Koe First Nation, Akaitcho, K'atlodeeche First Nation).
 - Administered the flow of over \$11 million in negotiations support and interim measures funding.



Strategy	Key Activities
Continue to engage in inter-governmental working relationships.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Administered the flow of \$700,000 in Territorial Development Funding to assist Aboriginal and territorial organizations with contributing to the social and political development of the territory.• Held a meeting of senior officials from the Aboriginal regions, GNWT and the Department to foster information sharing and working relationships.

Communities

Individual and family well-being for the people of the Northwest Territories.

Strategy

Key Activities

Objective: Communities are informed about the state of the physical environment in order to make better health-based decisions.

Deliver the NWT Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program (NWT CIMP).

- Initiated over 20 NWT CIMP monitoring studies, including five in which the NT Region is actively involved.
- Conducted environmental audit for NWT CIMP.

Objective: Enhance socio-economic opportunities for Aboriginal people.

Invest in Aboriginal leadership development initiatives.

- Continued the Aboriginal Leadership Development Program, for community and Aboriginal government leaders to develop their leadership skills and build community capacity.
- One NT Region manager completed the two-year AANDC Aboriginal Leadership Development Initiative, which builds leadership capacity of Aboriginal employees.

Objective: Effectively administered First Nations member services.

Support the implementation of new Secure Certificate of Indian Status cards.

- Preparations completed for rollout of new Secure Certificate of Indian Status cards.
- Issued 2,847 Certificate of Indian Status (CIS) cards.
- Delivered Treaty annuity payments in 26 communities.



"At the District level, cooperation and communication are essential. Team work and commitment describe my experience working with the fine people in the NT Region. They always go above and beyond what's necessary to get the job done."

Marty Sanderson, Resource Management Officer, AANDC South Mackenzie District Office



Land and Resources

Sustainable stewardship of lands, resources and the physical environment for the people of the Northwest Territories.

Strategy

Key Activities

Objective: Negative impacts of contaminated sites are eliminated.	
Remediate contaminated sites.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Giant Mine freeze optimization study became fully operational.• Completed 158 reconnaissance site visits.• Completed 19 Phase I and II Environmental Site Assessments.• Completed Colomac Mine site demobilization.• Completed Tundra Mine site mobilization.• Continuing ongoing monitoring at three sites.
Objective: The negative impacts of resource development are minimized.	
Maintain and improve the compliance and enforcement program.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conducted 867 inspections of land tenure instruments, land use permits, and water licences.• Responded to 257 spill reports.• Conducted investigations on 22 spills.
Objective: The people of the Northwest Territories are supported in the governance of land and resource management processes.	
Implementation of the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy with the GNWT and Aboriginal governments.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Contributed to completion of the final NWT Water Stewardship Strategy, which was tabled in the NWT Legislative Assembly on May 20, 2010.• Contributed to the NWT Water Stewardship: A Plan for Action 2011-2015, released in May 2011.• Participated in drafting a communication and engagement plan for the Strategy, in partnership with the GNWT.
Negotiate and implement trans-boundary water agreements through the Mackenzie River Basin Board.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Completed Memorandum of Understanding with all five Mackenzie River Basin Board jurisdictions to use a Facilitated Negotiation Process.• Developed the framework for Aboriginal engagement and consultation.• Completed detailed work plan for NT Region negotiations team with the GNWT.



Strategy

Key Activities

- Objective: A comprehensive and understood, effective and efficient regulatory regime.
- Support the implementation of the Action Plan to Improve Northern Regulatory Regimes.

- MVRMA amendment team held several workshops to better understand issues relating to MVRMA including enforcement, security deposits and the Consult to Modify process.
 - Created and implemented communications plan.

Economy

Increasing self-reliance to ensure the economic well-being of the people of the Northwest Territories.

Strategy

Key Activities

- Objective: Reinvigorate economic development in the territories.
- Encourage and support communities in actively marketing their regions for investment.

- Assisted Tulita Community Leadership in attending the Husky Oil Moose Mountain facility to build awareness about petroleum development project potential.
- Objective: Economic development is bolstered through managed access to resources.
- Broaden the knowledge and understanding of the natural resource potential in the Northwest Territories.

- Hosted Mineral and Petroleum information sessions in several communities, including Wrigley, Tulita, Yellowknife (Geoscience Forum) and Inuvik.
 - Gained support from community engagement efforts that paved the way for a successful 2011-2012 Call for Bids, including 11 parcels in the central Mackenzie Valley covering nearly 900,000 hectares.
 - Released Sekwi Mapping Program maps.
 - Partnered with the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers and the GNWT to host the annual “Industry Meets the North Open House.” Initiative and determination by the Petroleum Development Division has kept this event, now into its tenth year, growing.

Internal Services

An effective and responsibly managed and operated organization, positioned to achieve its strategic objectives.

Strategy

Key Activities

Objective: Responsible management through integrated planning and risk management strategies.

Complete and implement an integrated planning framework, including fiscal, human resource and information management and technology planning.

- Integrated NT Region business plan completed by all units to account for their financial, human and information management resources.

Objective: Improved efficiency and effectiveness of the Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada NT Region.

Update and implement a recruitment, retention and succession planning process.

- Created a Recruitment and Retention Task Team to develop a strategy for recruiting and retaining a representative and highly functioning Northern workforce.

In the face of reduced resources, seek new and more efficient ways to conduct our business.

- Performed 183 spot audits of travel claims, and regular monthly audits on cell phones and 100 acquisition cards. Implemented correction and training where required.
- Assessed and reviewed priorities and allocation of available funds through the Regional Budget Management Framework. This resulted in a 99.4% use of the budget.



Look Ahead at 2011-2012

In all respects, 2011-2012 promises to be a challenging year as we move forward on a number of fronts.

In 2011, our Department's name changed to Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC). The name change better reflects the scope of departmental responsibilities to First Nations, Inuit and Métis in Canada, and to all residents. These responsibilities are clearly defined and met by the Northwest Territories Region.

We will be working hard with other signatories to develop a framework for devolution. Main table meetings will take place and an Implementation Planning Committee will be formed, along with several working groups.

Coordinating the work of devolution with other important AANDC activities such as regulatory improvement and land, resource and governance negotiations will be necessary for the success of all initiatives.

As well, there are a record number of environmental and regulatory processes under way in the Region, including the Giant Mine Environmental Assessment. These processes will require an unprecedented level of engagement and partnerships if they are to succeed.

Budget restraints are anticipated over the next few years and this will be a challenge to many organizations in the North.

Regardless, we will move forward on Canada's Action Plan to Improve Northern Regulatory Regimes, implementation of the *NWT Water Stewardship Strategy* and evolving actions related to consultation and engagement, which are all necessary elements towards fulfilling the Northern Strategy's vision of providing Northerners with more control over their economic and political destiny.



Northwest Territories

Main Office
Box 1500
Yellowknife, NT X1A 2R3
Tel: (867) 669-2500

North Mackenzie

District Office
Box 2100
Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0
Tel: (867) 777-8900
Fax: (867) 777-2090

Fort Simpson

Sub-District Office
Box 150
Fort Simpson, NT X0E 0N0
Tel: (867) 695-2626
Fax: (867) 695-2615

Norman Wells

Sub-District Office
Box 126
Norman Wells, NT X0E 0V0
Tel: (867) 587-2911
Fax: (867) 587-2928

South Mackenzie

District Office
16 Yellowknife Airport
Yellowknife, NT X1A 3T2
Tel: (867) 669-2761
Fax: (867) 669-2720

Hay River

Sub-District Office
41 Capital Drive, # 203
Hay River, NT X0E 1G2
Tel: (867) 874-6994
Fax: (867) 874-2460

Fort Smith

Sub-District Office
Box 658
Fort Smith, NT X0E 0P0
Tel: (867) 872-2558
Fax: (867) 872-3472