



Government of  
Northwest Territories

# COVID-19 Economic and Social Recovery - Developing An Economic and Social Recovery Plan




April 29, 2020

# Economic and Social Impacts

- Economic shockwaves already being felt – unprecedented nature of the economic downturn makes modelling uncertain
- Social well-being tied to economic well-being
- Initiatives responding to the pandemic may need to be continued.
- The way the GNWT is expected to work and provide services has changed



# Three Phases of Planning

	Response	Recovery	Resiliency
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Flatten curve (social distance/travel restrictions)</li> <li>Boost capacity</li> <li>Test and trace</li> <li>Address shortages</li> <li>Provide info</li> <li>Relax regulations to allow tele-health and expedited hiring</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor for “second wave”</li> <li>Assess the health of the health system</li> <li>Support healthcare workers post-crisis</li> <li>Work with community and intergovernmental partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review legislative framework?</li> <li>Implement new screening?</li> <li>Support vaccination efforts</li> <li>??</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide economic relief</li> <li>Enhance IA</li> <li>Secure funding support for key industries and essential services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue and expand support for individuals and businesses</li> <li>Enhance support for particular sectors (eg airlines)?</li> <li>Stimulus spending?</li> <li>Tax changes?</li> <li>Work with community and intergovernmental partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enhance and strengthen essential supply chains</li> <li>Diversify economy</li> <li>Boost local production</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Close offices – remote work</li> <li>Redeploy staff</li> <li>Ensure public workforce safety</li> <li>Extend deadlines</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Track and control spending</li> <li>Partially restart “normal” operations</li> <li>Address backlogs</li> <li>Work with community and intergovernmental partners</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accelerate digital government?</li> <li>Enhance and improve telework capacity</li> <li>Improve social care?</li> <li>Improve data and anticipatory capability?</li> </ul>



# Measures Taken To Date

- Isolation centres established
- Homelessness supports added
- For some managed alcohol has been implemented
- Income Assistance rules have been changed and supports added
- Tele-health expanded, as has remote learning, and video-appearances for courts
- Workers have been tele-commuting
- Weekly meetings with community governments and Indigenous governments



# What is expected to be different

- International tourism definitely gone short term and will take long time to recover – whether NWT tourism industry can shift to domestic tourism is unknown
- Some businesses will fold or be scaled down. Many small NWT businesses will have more debt.
- Some businesses will have adapted and become more competitive and resilient
- Mining sector and oil and gas sector externally focussed on global market
- NWT airlines – ridership linked to tourism and business travel
- Consumer behaviour may change – less travel? More online shopping? Different in entertainment choices? More debt and efforts to pay down debt
- Workplace changes – flexible hours/more remote work? – implications for where people choose to work



# Role of Government in Economic Recovery

- Government is large and stabilizing part of the territorial economy but in this case intentionally created the economic downturn for public health reasons. These public health concerns do not go away, especially for remote communities and some public health measures will continue indefinitely.
- Support to revive and re-build the economy includes:
  - encouraging economic activity in private sector
  - Encouraging entrepreneurship, competition and innovation,
  - Seeking partnerships with business to support GNWT objectives including employment opportunities, low carbon economy, and economic diversification.
- Recognize and plan for shifts including the digital economy, remote learning and working, declining oil and gas sector, rise in labour saving/reducing technology.



# Role of Government in Social Recovery

- Economic well-being is integral to social well-being
- Economic recovery subsidies usually temporary – changes to existing programs and the way GNWT does business can be long lasting.
- Proposed changes should be well researched, data driven and developed with engaged stakeholders, including NGOs, Communities, Indigenous Governments, and the Federal Government



# Setting Up For Success

- Recovering and emerging stronger from the pandemic will require unified approach.
- There is an opportunity to focus the NWT on a common objective and goal that has not existed previously.
- Prior attempts to engage stakeholders collaboratively have been frustrated by competing interests, goals and objectives. This should not be the case with a shared commitment to successfully recovering from the pandemic.
- The business community, the social sector, communities, Indigenous governments all need to be part of our longer term planning.





# First Ministers' Shared Approach

- On the April 28<sup>th</sup>, the Prime Minister announced the First Ministers' statement on shared public health approach to restarting the economy.
- All First Ministers participated in the development of the principles.
- This will be a guiding document for all jurisdictions, recognizing that we are all unique.
- All recognize the importance of reopening the economy through a gradual and phased approach.



# First Ministers' Shared Approach

- Guiding Principles include:
  - Science and evidence based decision making
  - Coordination and collaboration among governments
  - Accountability and transparency
  - Flexibility and proportionality
- The Shared Approach also identifies criteria that will inform decisions around the relaxing of measures.
- The NWT, with the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer, will outline a plan to relax measures guided by shared principles and based on the NWT's circumstances.



# Creating an Emerge Strong Plan

- Engagement required
- The plan should be more than an economic recovery plan
- Relaxation of health protection measures will be guided by the Chief Public Health Officer – an Emerge Safe Plan
- Beyond the relaxation of the public health measures that will help reopen the economy will be a broader – Emerge Strong Plan
- We will continue to engage MLAs, the business community, the social sector and Indigenous governments to secure support for a more collaborative shared effort moving forward.

