

# Northwest Territories 2014

## 1. GOVERNANCE

**Table 1.1 Northwest Territories: Governance Structure Early Childhood Education**

<b>Lead Ministry/ Department</b>	Department of Education, Culture and Employment
<b>Related Ministry/Department</b>	Department of Health and Social Services
<b>Policy Framework</b>	<i>Right from the Start: A Framework for Early Childhood Development in the Northwest Territories</i> (2013) <sup>1</sup> <i>A Framework for Early Childhood Development: Action Plan</i> (2014) <sup>2</sup>
<b>Legislation</b>	<i>The North-west Territories Child Day Care Act and the Child Day Care Standards and Regulations</i> (amended 2012) <sup>3</sup> <i>Education Act</i> , R.S.N.W.T. 1995, c. 28 <sup>4</sup>
<b>Related Legislation</b>	
<b>Common ECE Supervisory Unit</b>	Early Childhood Development and Learning
<b>Local Authority</b>	8 educational jurisdictions 6 regions supporting licensed child care
<b>Public Advisory</b>	

### Background

The Northwest Territories has released its second 10-year ECD action plan, which builds on the 2001 Framework for Action, Early Childhood Development.<sup>5</sup> The new plan, like its predecessor, was jointly developed by the departments of Education, Culture and Employment, and Health and Social Services. Among the highlights is the expansion of full day kindergarten to include 4 year olds.

### Department Organization

The Department of Education, Culture and Employment (Early Childhood and School Services) supports both kindergarten and regulated child care in the Northwest Territories. Two divisions are responsible for education. The Early Childhood and School Services Division provides direction, standards, program and curriculum development for children from kindergarten through to Grade 12 completion. The Education Operations and Development Division supports, monitors and reviews kindergarten to Grade 12 education authority operations and service delivery.

The Early Childhood Development Program licenses, monitors and funds early childhood programs.

### Policy Framework

*Right from the Start: A Framework for Early Childhood Development in the Northwest Territories* is a guiding framework outlining the territory's goals and commitments. It will serve as a reference for the government's investments and activities over the next 10 years.

The Action Plan outlines detailed plans, timelines and deliverables. The Action Plan will be regularly updated to reflect results from evaluations (The Accountability Plan).

### Service Design

- **Kindergarten:** Kindergarten is delivered in both public and Catholic schools. It is a full-day program available to all children who turn 5 years of age by December 31. Beginning in September 2014, kindergarten is offered to 4-year-olds in selected remote and rural communities. It will be available throughout the Northwest Territories in 2016.
- **Child care:** Licensed child care serves children from infancy to 11 years and includes full- and part-time centres, preschool programs and after-school programs. All regulated child care is non-profit, with several part-day programs operated by school boards. Regulated family daycare providers may care for up to eight children under the age of 12 years (including the caregiver's own children).
- **Family Resource Centres:** Child and Family Resource Centres provide parenting education, nutrition programs, rehabilitation services, respite, toy lending, library resources and home visiting programs.

### Community Involvement/Oversight

#### Local Service Delivery

Eight educational jurisdictions are responsible for kindergarten and six regions support licensed child care and family resource programs.

## 2. FUNDING

**Table 2.1 Northwest Territories: Provincial Allocations for Regulated Child Care (2014–15)<sup>6</sup>**

Child care fee subsidies	\$60,000
Operating funds (includes wage and training grants)	\$4,457,000
<b>Total regulated child care</b>	<b>\$4,517,000</b>

### Overall Funding

**Table 2.2 Northwest Territories: Funding Early Childhood Education/Child Care<sup>7</sup>**

Kindergarten <sup>a</sup>	\$11,767,075
Licensed child care	\$4,517,000
<b>Total ECE spending</b>	<b>\$16,284,075</b>
<b>Total budget estimate 2013–2014</b>	<b>\$1,466,824,000</b>
<b>ECE as percent of provincial budget</b>	<b>1.1%</b>

<sup>a</sup>Estimated from student enrolment of 660 x per student public spending \$17,169<sup>8</sup>

## 3. ACCESS

### Population

**Table 3.1 Northwest Territories: Child population 0–5 years (2013)**

Child population 0–5 years	3,994
0–1 years	1,283
2–4 years	2,036
5 years	675
<b>Total population of Northwest Territories</b>	<b>43,537</b>
<b>Children 0–5 years as percentage of total population</b>	<b>9.2%</b>

Statistics Canada. Table 051-0001. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, 2013 Canada, provinces and territories (accessed: August 20, 2014).

**Table 3.2 Northwest Territories: Workforce Participation of Mothers by Age of Youngest Child (2013)**

	Number mothers in workforce (000s) by age of youngest child	LF participation rate of mothers in workforce by age of youngest child
0–1 years	n/a	n/a
2–4 years	n/a	n/a
5 years	n/a	n/a
<b>Total mothers in workforce with child 0–5 years</b>	<b>n/a</b>	
<b>Average workforce participation of mothers with youngest child 0–5 years</b>		n/a

**Table 3.3 Northwest Territories: ECE School Programs (2013–14)**

Children attending 5 year old kindergarten <sup>a</sup>	660
Child population	675
% of child attending kindergarten	97.7%

<sup>a</sup>2011–12 actual enrolment<sup>9</sup>

**Table 3.4 Northwest Territories: Licenced Child Care Programs**

<b>Spaces by age group in centre-based programs</b>	
Infants (0–1 years)	273
Preschool-aged (2–4 years)	1,057
Out of school (5–11 years)	567
<b>Total spaces centre-based programs</b>	<b>1,897</b>
Family child/care/home and group	464
<b>Total capacity regulated child care</b>	<b>2,361</b>
<b>Facilities by type</b>	
Centre-based programs	26
Family child care providers	58
Nursery school	25
<b>Total facilities</b>	<b>109</b>

**Table 3.5 Northwest Territories: Percentage of Children Attending ECE Programs by Age Group**

Child Ages	Number of children <sup>a</sup>	Child care/ preschool	Kindergarten enrolment	Other ECE programs <sup>b</sup>	% children with access to ECE programming
0–1 years	1,283	273			21%
2–4 years	2,036	1,057	150	200	69%
5 years	675		660		98%

<sup>a</sup>Statistics Canada, Table 051-0001. Estimates of population, by age group and sex for July 1, Canada, provinces and territories (accessed: August 20, 2014); <sup>b</sup>Estimated enrolment in eight Aboriginal Head Start Programs.

## Affordability

Northwest Territories assesses eligibility for child care fee subsidies using a needs test.

## Inclusion

Kindergarten: Early Childhood and School Services (ECSS) provides guidance to Northwest Territories schools for both assessment and support of diverse student needs within regular classroom settings. The Ministerial Directive on Inclusive Schooling (2006) defines the standards, processes and supports required by educational jurisdictions in meeting these diverse needs.<sup>10</sup>

Care providers receive additional funding and parents are eligible for fee assistance for their children with special needs even if they are not employed or at school. A medical referral from a recognized health care official is required.

## 4. LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

**Table 4.1 Northwest Territories: Curriculum Frameworks**

Program	Framework Document
Kindergarten	<i>Integrated Kindergarten Curriculum: A Holistic Approach to Children's Early Learning</i> (2014) <sup>11</sup>
Child care	

## Work Environment

Kindergarten class size: There is no class size limit.<sup>12</sup>

**Table 4.2 Northwest Territories: Group Size and Staff Child Ratio in Licenced Child Care Centres <sup>13</sup>**

Age of child	Staff: Child Ratio	Maximum Group Size
Infants (birth to 12 months)	1:3	6
Infants (12–24 months)	1:4	8
Toddler (25–35 months)	1:6	12
Preschool 3 years	1:8	16
Preschool 4 years	1:9	18
5+ years	1:10	30

## Educators

**Table 4.3 Northwest Territories: Educator Qualifications**

Kindergarten Teachers <sup>14</sup>	Early Childhood Educators <sup>15</sup>
<p>Each person must hold a valid teacher's certificate. Acceptable degrees are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A 4- or 5-year Bachelor of Education</li> <li>2. A 4-year acceptable degree, which includes a minimum of one year of teacher training (e.g., Bachelor of Arts (in Education), Bachelor of Home Economics, Bachelor Physical Education)</li> <li>3. A 3-year acceptable degree (e.g., Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Science, etc.) plus a minimum of one year of professional teacher training (teachers' college, one year Bachelor of Education after degree program, Diploma in Education, etc.)</li> </ol> <p>OR one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim kindergarten teaching certificate: two-year diploma in ECE plus 25 hours of teacher training</li> <li>• Standard kindergarten teaching certificate: interim certificate in addition to two academic years of teaching</li> <li>• Kindergarten specialist certificate: standard certificate in addition to a one-year teacher training program approved by the registrar</li> </ul>	<p>Primary staff require post-secondary qualifications in child development, or the approval of the Director.<sup>16</sup></p>

## Professional Standards

**Table 4.4 Northwest Territories: Professional Recognition and Development**

	Qualified Teachers	Qualified ECE
Professional Requirement	Teachers must be certified by the Teacher Certification Branch of Education, Operations & Development, Education, Culture & Employment, which evaluates all applications for teacher certification in the Northwest Territories <sup>a</sup>	
Professional Development Required	<p>Different levels of professional development (PD) are required based on bargaining units:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. GNWT Bargaining Unit – This unit governs all teachers outside of Yellowknife. PD is 2.5 days per year of in-service. The Northwest Territories Teacher's Association (NWTTA) also offers five days of PD over a year. In-service is mandatory.</li> <li>2. Yellowknife Catholic School – three days of in-service PD over each year and the NWTTA offers two days every 2nd year. In-service is mandatory.</li> <li>3. Yellowknife District #1 – three days of in-service PD over each year and the NWTTA offers two days every 2nd year. In-service is mandatory.<sup>b</sup></li> </ol>	Annual professional development is required but the amount is not specified.

<sup>a</sup> [www.ece.gov.nt.ca/files/publications/newteachers/application\\_package.pdf](http://www.ece.gov.nt.ca/files/publications/newteachers/application_package.pdf); <sup>b</sup> Collen Eckert - NWTTA Professional Development Coordinator. Website: [www.nwtta.nt.ca/en/Central\\_Office\\_Staff\\_24/Central\\_Professional\\_Development\\_Coordinator\\_649.html](http://www.nwtta.nt.ca/en/Central_Office_Staff_24/Central_Professional_Development_Coordinator_649.html)

**Table 4.5 Northwest Territories: Density of Qualified Staff in Child Care Centres**

At least half of staff on duty at any given time must be qualified primary staff.
Regulation 61 (1) and (2)

**Table 4.6 Northwest Territories: Teacher and ECE Average Annual Salaries**

Teachers <sup>a</sup>	Early Childhood Educators	ECE salary as % of teacher salary
\$110,204	Not available	Not available

<sup>a</sup> Salary grids from collective agreements provided by Northwest Territories Teacher's Association.

## 5. ACCOUNTABILITY, MONITORING AND EVALUATION

### Monitoring and Evaluation

**Progress Reports:** N/A

**Program Standards:** The Early Childhood Environmental Rating Scale (ECERS) and the Infant/Toddler Environmental Rating Scale

(ITERS) are used to license child care programs.<sup>17</sup>

**Population monitoring:** In March 2012, the Early Development Instrument (EDI) was used across the Northwest Territories for the first time. The information from the EDI guides decision-making and provides schools with information to help with planning for children in the primary grades. The EDI is now administered yearly.

## CITATIONS

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