



1. Statement of Policy

The Government of the Northwest Territories will establish a department called the Department of Health and Social Services, under the direction of a Minister.

Mandate

The mandate of the Minister and the Department of Health and Social Services is to promote, protect and provide for the health and well being of the people of the Northwest Territories.

2. Principles

In directing the Department of Health and Social Services to carry out its mandate, the Minister will adhere to the following principles:

- (1) All residents of the Northwest Territories should have access to the services they need, and be treated fairly and with respect in the health and social services system (Principle of Universality);
- (2) Individuals and families should have personal responsibilities to address their health and social needs (Principle of Personal Responsibility);
- (3) Publicly funded programs and services should address basic health and social needs when these needs cannot be met by an individual or family (Principle of Basic Needs);
- (4) The health and social services system should operate in a way that does not threaten its ability to meet basic health and social needs over the long term (Principle of Sustainability);
- (5) Programs and services should fit together as seamlessly as possible and be integrated with other GNWT services wherever possible (Principle of Continuum of Care);



- (6) All activities of the health and social services system should support the maintenance of physical, social and mental health, in addition to the treatment of illness and injury (Principle of Prevention-oriented System); and
- (7) All activities of the health and social services system should support an approach which places the needs of people first (Principle of People-oriented System).

3. Scope

This Policy applies to all employees of the Government of the Northwest Territories and employees of Health and Social Services Boards of Management and other organizations contracted to provide health and social services.

4. Authority and Accountability

(1) General

This Policy is issued under the authority of the Executive Council. The authority to make exceptions and approve revisions to this Policy rests with the Executive Council. Authority and accountability is further defined as follows:

(a) Minister

The Minister of Health and Social Services (the Minister) is accountable to the Executive Council for the implementation of this Policy.

(b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister of Health and Social Services (the Deputy Minister) is accountable to the Minister and responsible to the Minister for the administration of this Policy.



(2) Specific

(a) Executive Council

The Executive Council may approve a change to the mandate of the Department of Health and Social Services.

(b) Minister

The Minister is:

- (i) responsible for carrying out the mandate of the Department of Health and Social Services and shall preside over the operation of the Department; and
- (ii) authorized to carry out the duties described in this Policy in a manner the Minister deems appropriate for the efficient and effective fulfilment of the Department's mandate.

(c) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister is:

- (i) responsible for the management of the Department of Health and Social Services including the planning, administration and other functions necessary to further the Department's mandate; and
- (ii) accountable to the Minister of Health and Social Services for the proper conduct of the business of the Department.



5. Provisions

(1) Mandate Establishment

Pursuant to the Government Organization Policy, the mandate, including the authority, responsibilities and functions, of the Minister and the Department of Health and Social Services is established in this Policy.

(2) Duties of the Minister

The Minister shall develop and carry out programs and services in the Department as may be appropriate to fulfil the mandate of the Minister and Department.

The Minister shall have charge of and be responsible for:

- (a) Ensuring eligible residents have access to health and social programs and services.
- (b) Promoting the importance of wellness through education and training.
- (c) Supporting wellness programs at the community level to assist those affected by family violence, addictions and other health and social problems.
- (d) Monitoring and evaluating the physical, emotional and mental well being of the people of the Northwest Territories to determine the effectiveness of health and social programs and services.
- (e) Providing family life education resources that encourage individuals and communities to seek solutions to their health and social problems.
- (f) Providing quality facilities for regional and community-based health and social programs and services.



- (g) Working with health and social service professions to develop standards for licensing and practice.
- (h) Administering all health and social service legislation assigned to the Department.
- (i) Developing, evaluating and recommending amendments to health and social services legislation and policies.
- (j) Protecting children and families in a manner that is in the best interests of children and fostering an environment which supports independent family life.
- (k) Promoting and supporting the independence of aged, disabled, chronically ill and mentally handicapped persons.
- (l) Developing strategies and programs, in cooperation with other departments, to reduce or eliminate the spread of infectious and communicable diseases and to protect the public from environmental health hazards.
- (m) Providing public health advice and consultation to all departments of the Government of the Northwest Territories and related agencies.
- (n) Sharing information and cooperating with other jurisdictions regarding the delivery of health and social programs.
- (o) Registering and licensing health care professionals.
- (p) Maintaining records of births, deaths and marriages.

(3) Administration

The Department of Health and Social Services shall be administered in such a manner as to ensure that government requirements and the requirements as expressed in statutes, regulations, agreements, policies and directives are satisfied.



6. Prerogative of the Executive Council

Nothing in this Policy shall in any way be construed to limit the prerogative of the Executive Council to make decisions or take action respecting the Department of Health and Social Services outside the provisions of this Policy.

Premier and Chairman of the
Executive Council