



Intergovernmental Council
of the Northwest Territories

ANNUAL REPORT IGC SECRETARIAT 2024 – 2025

November 6, 2025

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1.0 Introduction

The Secretariat to the Intergovernmental Council (IGC) presents this activity report to the IGC for the period of November 2024 to November 2025.

2.0 Background

The following parties are signatories to the *Northwest Territories Intergovernmental Agreement on Lands and Resource Management* (the Agreement):

- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation,
- Northwest Territory Métis Nation,
- Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated,
- Gwich'in Tribal Council,
- Tłıchǫ Government,
- Denínu Kúé First Nation,
- Acho Dene Koe First Nation,
- Salt River First Nation,
- Kátł'odeeche First Nation, and
- Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT).

The Agreement is a schedule to the 2014 *Devolution Agreement*, with a purpose to formalize “the government to government relationships among GNWT and the Indigenous governments for cooperative and coordinated Management of Lands and Resources.”

3.0 Administration

The Agreement established the IGC Secretariat (IGCS), and mandates that it possess appropriate technical, professional, and administrative expertise and capacity to fulfill its duties. The IGC approved the Secretariat's Terms of Reference in 2014 (updated in 2021), which further outlines IGCS roles and responsibilities and created the position of IGCS Coordinator.

The IGCS Coordinator position provides administrative support to the IGC and IGCS, and currently located in the Indigenous Intergovernmental Relations division of the GNWT's Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs.

4.0 Activities

Between November 2024 And November 2025, the Secretariat advanced the following activities:

- Held 6 videoconferences and two in-person all day meetings to conduct IGCS business.
- Conducted 32 meetings for six legislative initiatives (maximum of four per month) across three departments.
- Discussed the following lands and resources issues:
 - Approved a workplan for the year;
 - Discussed Oil and gas benefit plans;
 - Discussed an approach to Indigenous-owned cabins;
 - Evaluated the 2021-2025 IGC Strategic Plan;
 - Confirmed decision to fund Indigenous government caucus support services from the Special Purposes Fund;
 - Establishing the 7-year review internal committee to develop a scope of work for the internal review,
 - Explored options related to establishing an independently coordinated IGCS;
 - Confirmed amendments to Tourism Legislation will occur primarily outside the legislative development protocol until it reaches Step G, due to its limited context associated with TDN;
 - Discussed the importance of appropriately addressing potential areas of overlap between the IGC and the NWT Council of Leaders;
 - Advanced the Thaidene Nënë Regulations, Mineral Resources Act Regulations, the Public Lands Act Regulations Legislative Development Protocol;
 - Initiated the targeted amendments to the Waters Regulations, the NWT Land Regulations and the development of the Heritage Resources Act using the Legislative Development Protocol;

- Disbursed the 2024-25 regular resource revenues (\$27, 249) under the *NWT Intergovernmental Agreement on Lands and Resources*; and
- Discussed the impacts of Diamond mine closures.

5.0 IGC Secretariat

The Agreement creates the IGC Secretariat (IGCS) to support the IGC and operates under the **IGCS Terms of Reference**. These Terms of Reference mandate that the Secretariat which consists of one senior official from each IGC member government.

The Secretariat held 7 videoconferences and two in-person meetings during the reporting period, on:

- December 6, 2024
- February 4, 2025 (in-person)
- April 11, 2025
- May 9, 2025
- June 20, 2025
- August 15, 2025
- September 17, 2025 (in-person)
- October 17, 2025

In addition to the above meetings, the IGCS also participated in another 32 videoconferences to advance lands and resources legislative initiatives under the IGC Legislative Development Protocol.

6.0 GNWT Lands and Resources Legislative Initiatives

The GNWT's three lands and resources departments are:

- Industry Tourism and Investment (ITI),
- Environment and Climate Change (ECC), and
- Education, Culture and Employment (ECE).

These departments are responsible for developing or amending lands and resource management legislation. For the 20th Legislative Assembly (2023-2027), the following legislative initiatives are planned to be advanced:

Environment and Climate Change

- *Forest Act Regulations* (not initiated)
- *Waters Act and Regulations* (initiated November 2025)
- *Thaidene Nënë Protected Area Regulations* under the *Protected Areas Act* (initiated December 2020)
- *Public Land Act Regulations* (initiated December 2020)
- *Northwest Territories Lands Regulations* (initiated September 2024)

Industry, Tourism and Investment

- *Mineral Resources Act Regulations* (initiated December 2020)
- *Tourism Act* (not initiated)
- *Freshwater Fish Marketing Act* (not initiated)
- *Petroleum Resources Act and Oil and Gas Operations Act Regulations* (not initiated)

Education, Culture and Employment

- *Heritage Resources Act* (initiated May 2025)

7.0 IGC and IGCS Working Groups

The following Working Group has been active during the reporting period:

- 7-Year Review Working Internal Committee
 - Three meetings were held to develop the scope of work for the 7-year review.

When meetings are held, meeting minutes are prepared. A copy of the Internal Committee meeting minutes is circulated to members after meetings and posted to the IGCS Teams repository.

9.0 Report on the Intergovernmental Council's Priority Items

The 10th meeting of the Intergovernmental Council took place on November 19, 2024 in Yellowknife. The IGC heard a summary of work in the preceding year and gave recommendations for future work by approving the following meeting outcomes. The following list outlines the outcomes from the November 19, 2024 IGC meeting and progress where applicable:

1. The Intergovernmental Council approves the 2023–2024 IGC Annual Report.

Update: The report was posted to the IGC website.

2. The Intergovernmental Council authorizes the Intergovernmental Council Secretariat to reach consensus on and implement the funding of Indigenous Government Caucus support services from the Special Purposes Fund, taking into account other possible uses of the fund.

Update: Tłıchʼo Government drafted an RFP for the Indigenous government caucus support services. The contract will be housed by the Tłıchʼo Government and will end March 31, 2026. The IGCS agreed to set aside \$70,000 from the Purpose Fund for this contract.

3. IGC members commit to continue to work collaboratively with the GNWT on the development of a new approach to the administration and management of traditional use cabins on public land and that the GNWT ask each Indigenous Government to share their proposed solutions in writing.

Update:

- ECC has been engaging with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations to work collaboratively towards the development of a new approach to the administration and management of Indigenous owned cabins on public land.
- In May 2025, the GNWT hosted a workshop to provide an opportunity to hear from Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and advance development of the new approach.
- The GNWT is considering the information shared at the workshop with the information shared in previous engagement sessions and written submissions provided by Indigenous governments. A response and a proposal path forward is being prepared for further consideration by Indigenous governments.

- The GNWT is supportive of changing its administrative and management practices to better align with the interests expressed by Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations which includes to better support traditional use and the exercise of Aboriginal and treaty rights.

4. IGC members commit to bring any items to the IGC Secretariat relating or possibly relating to lands and resources management to make a determination if that item falls under the IGC mandate.

The GNWT commits to inform and engage IGCS where there is uncertainty of mandates to determine which forum should be leading discussions on a particular issue.

Update: Meeting materials relating to lands and resources management on the agenda of the June 2025 NWT Council of Leaders was reviewed and developed in collaboration with the IGCS.

5. The Intergovernmental Council directs the Intergovernmental Council Secretariat to initiate the 7-year review of the Intergovernmental Agreement and provide an update on progress made at the 2025 Intergovernmental Council meeting.

Update: A scope of work has been developed for the 7-year review and will also include a lessons-learned review for the legislative initiatives progressing through the Legislative Development Protocol.

6. The Intergovernmental Council directs that once a draft Terms of Reference is reached with Canada through the Transitional Review Working Group, that these draft Terms of Reference be provided through the Intergovernmental Council Secretariat to Intergovernmental Council leadership for review and approval.

Update: The GNWT has been in regular contact with CIRNAC and is ready to re-initiate advancing this review with the IGCS once CIRNAC is available to resume its participation.

10.0 Conclusion

The Intergovernmental Council and its member governments continue to show leadership in collaborative lands and resources management in Canada.

Our collaborative government-to-government relationships remain strong and our successes are the result of the hard work, cooperation, and willingness of all Devolution partners to build and maintain the framework for a bright and prosperous future for the Northwest Territories.