

Proposed Poverty performance measures – for the Anti-Poverty Strategy

DRAFT Poverty Performance Measures (long term outcome measures with 10-20 year change horizon)

Background: Poverty is a complex issue with many contributing factors and no single solution. Poverty is made up of different dimensions, which interact in different ways for different individuals and communities. These *dimensions of poverty*, or different aspects of NWT residents’ lives that make up poverty, are interrelated. Part of what makes poverty so complex is that poverty dimensions are typically non-linear; there are no simple cause and effect categorizations. However, by regularly monitoring the poverty dimensions through their indicators, NWT poverty partners can better understand the type and intensity of poverty in the NWT, and use this information to make decisions about poverty reduction strategies, and services.

****Highlighted indicators were NOT included in the Anti-Poverty Strategy document**

****Blue indicators need more research/ confirmation with NWT Bureau of Statistics or otherwise**

Poverty Dimensions	Poverty Indicators	Definition	Reason for including	Availability of Data
Income	Low Income Measure	The proportion of the population with less than 50% of the NWT median income	Poverty involves a lack of income that prevents families and individuals from fully participating in their communities and making independent choices.	Survey of Income and Labour Dynamics, Statistics Canada
	Low income Cut-Off (%)	The proportion of the population who will devote a larger share of income on necessities of food, shelter and clothing than the average family ¹	This measure provides a before and/or after-tax picture of how far family incomes go towards covering basic needs. It is prepared by Statistics Canada and also used internationally, allowing for broad comparisons with other regions.	Survey of Income and Labour Dynamics, Statistics Canada
Housing	Estimated unsheltered rate (%)	The proportion of the population estimated to be without shelter, living in a public or private open space, without consent, except in extreme weather circumstances	“Aboriginal people in their own homeland should not be homeless.” - Grace Blake, Anti-Poverty Roundtable, December 2013	NWT Community Survey , NWT Bureau of Statistics
Food Security	% of families with moderate or severe food insecurity	The proportion of families who lack adequate access to nutritious food to support their health and wellness, either due to lack of means to purchase, or lack of food choices	Access to affordable, nutritious food, including country foods, can be hampered by lack of income and unequal distribution of services across NWT communities.	NWT Community Survey , NWT Bureau of Statistics
Health	% with very good or excellent perceived mental health	The proportion of the population over the age of 15 who self-identifies as in ‘very good’ or ‘excellent’ mental health	Mental health is a high priority challenge identified by leaders across NWT as contributing to the continued impoverishment of individuals and communities.	Canadian Community Health Survey, Statistics Canada
	Premature death rate	The proportion of the population that dies prematurely and of unnatural causes	Poverty creates unequal health outcomes in the population, including early death.	Canadian Community Health Survey, Statistics Canada
	% healthy birth weight babies	The proportion of babies born who fall within healthy birth weight ranges.	Poverty creates unequal health outcomes starting from before birth, when poor nutrition in pregnant mothers leads to underweight newborns are more likely to have long term health and wellness challenges.	Birth Database, NWT Bureau of Statistics
Social Inclusion	% satisfied or very satisfied with life	The proportion of the population who self-identify as ‘satisfied’ or ‘very satisfied’ with life	Those in poverty are often unable to participate in their communities and achieve their full potential.	Canadian Community Health Survey, Statistics Canada
	% with somewhat or very strong sense of community belonging	The proportion of the population who self-identify as have a ‘somewhat’ or ‘very strong’ sense of community belonging	Those in poverty are often excluded from full participation in the social life of their communities.	Canadian Community Health Survey, Statistics Canada
Education	% with high school diploma or more	The proportion of the population with a high school diploma, or higher education	A high school education leads to greater employment opportunities, and overall health and wellness outcomes.	National Household Survey, Statistics Canada

¹ Low income cut-offs (2013) <http://www.statcan.gc.ca/pub/75f0002m/2012002/lico-sfr-eng.htm> Statistics Canada

Proposed Anti-Poverty Goal Performance Measures

DRAFT medium term measures with 5-10 year change horizons

Background to the Anti-Poverty Strategy Goal performance measures: In *Building on the Strengths of Northerners: A Strategic Framework toward the Elimination of Poverty in the NWT*, participants in the round-table discussions identified five Priorities to focus anti-poverty programs, services, and approaches. These Priorities are interrelated, like the poverty dimensions identified above. However, the Anti-Poverty Priorities and performance measures are meant to provide more specific information and feedback on the Anti-Poverty Strategy Priorities, so that Anti-Poverty partners can monitor progress in the priorities, and hopefully make long term changes in the Poverty Dimensions.

	Baseline level (2013 or otherwise noted)	Definition	Reason for including	Availability of data	Responsible within GNWT	
Priority 1 Child and Family Support – Children and families lead healthy lives free from poverty in a safe and nurturing environment						
1	% of kindergarten students vulnerable in two or more domains	2012-2014 baseline NWT: 25.4% Yellowknife: 14.8% Regional Centers: 18.8% Small Communities: 37.4%	The percentage of children who show vulnerabilities in readiness-to-learn in two or more of the five domains; physical health and wellbeing, social competence, emotional maturity, language and cognitive development, and community skills & general knowledge.	Family poverty affects early childhood development and reduces a child's capacity to learn once they enter school. By monitoring vulnerability in children entering kindergarten through the Early Development Instrument, NWT can provide responsive supports that children most require to be ready for school and better succeed.	Department of ECE, Early Development Instrument Report (September 2014)	ECE
2	% physically active	2012 NWT: 56.7%	The percentage of NWT residents aged 15 and over who self-report that they are moderately active or active.	Poverty creates unequal health and wellness outcomes in children that are exacerbated throughout the lifecycle. It can also prevent children and adults from participating in organized and unorganized sport and recreation opportunities. However, physical activity through organized or unorganized opportunities counters the negative health and wellness effects of poverty, and even has the potential to create resiliency and support mental wellness in children in particular. By monitoring the percent of the NWT population that self-reports as moderately physically active, or physically active, NWT can ensure that it offers physical activity opportunities that are accessible to all NWT residents so they can take advantage of health and wellness health benefits associated with physical activity.	Canadian Community Health Study, Statistics Canada	MACA
Priority 2 Healthy Living and Meeting our Potential – NWT residents have access to the supports they need for healthy living and reaching their full potential						
3	Rates of harm from addictive substance	Alcohol (harm caused by self): 20% Alcohol (harm caused by others): 46% Illicit drugs (harm caused by self): 39% Gambling (in the last year): 69% Smoking (daily): 26%	The percentage of NWT residents who reported harm caused by themselves, or harm caused by others to themselves by addictive substance use. The percentage of NWT residents who smoked or gambled, over the time intervals indicated.	NWT poverty partners, community leaders, and individuals have repeatedly pointed to the use and abuse of substances as a contributing factor to, and result of, poverty. Activities targeting addictions, recovery and prevention are a high priority for all levels of governments, and all community members. This measure helps poverty partners track the severity of addictions issues.	NWT Addictions Survey, NWT Bureau of Statistics	HSS
4	Employment rate (%)	2013 91.9%	The percentage of NWT residents who are employed.	Poverty involves a lack of income, which is often a result of unemployment, underemployment, or poor employment opportunities. Many NWT leaders have pointed to the limited	Labour Force Survey, NWT Bureau of	ITI

				employment options in their communities as a driver of poverty, and this measure helps NWT poverty partners assess how their efforts to support local employment opportunities are working.	Statistics	
5	Employment rate by highest level of schooling (%)		The percentage of NWT residents who are employed, broken down by their highest level of schooling.	Education is strongly linked to employability, positive health and wellness outcomes, and thus, to avoiding or leaving poverty. This measure helps NWT poverty partners track how employability efforts affect the population, and how education affects employability.	Labour Force Survey, Statistics Canada	ITI/ECE
6	Income assistance beneficiaries rate	2010 Income Assistance - Beneficiaries (monthly avg): 2,313 - Cases: 1,429 - Total payments made \$15,074,000	The percentage of NWT residents who receive income assistance.	The cost of addressing poverty is high. This measure helps NWT poverty partners understand the direct cost of income assistance programs in the context of real and potential spending on the various social programs and systems that help to counter poverty needs and provide services for those lacking income.	Tax information compiled by Statistics Canada	ECE
7	Graduation rate	2009 Yellowknife: 68% Regional Centers: 26% Small communities: 37%	The number of NWT graduates divided by the number of 18 year olds in the population.	Educational attainment is strongly linked to employability, positive health and wellness outcomes, and thus to avoiding or leaving situations of poverty. This measure provides NWT poverty partners with an idea of how the educational system is meeting the needs of students and supporting them to achieve future success through educational attainment.	Student Records, NWT Bureau of Statistics	ECE
Priority 3 Safe and Affordable Housing – Everyone has a roof over their head and a safe and affordable place to call home						
8	% households with affordability problems	2014 NWT: 12.2% Beaufort-Delta: 8.6% Sahtu: 8.4% Nahendeh: 10.3% South Slave: 10.3% North Slave: 15.1%	Affordable housing costs less than 30% of household income where shelter costs include utilities, water, heat, insurance, property taxes land lease costs and rent or mortgage payments.	Affordable housing is important to the long-term well-being of NWT residents and communities. Housing is also a key piece of the cost of living – a critical factor in considering poverty.	NWT Community Survey, NWT Bureau of Statistics	NWT HC
9	% households with suitability problems	2014 NWT: 4.1% Beaufort-Delta: 6.0% Sahtu: 5.4% Nahendeh: 4.7% South Slave: 2.3% North Slave: 4.0%	Suitability is defined as having the appropriate number of bedrooms for the characteristics and number of occupants as determined by the National Occupancy Standard requirements.	Suitable housing is important to ensuring families and individuals are comfortable and safe in their own homes.	NWT Community Survey, NWT Bureau of Statistics	NWT HC
10	% households with adequacy problems	2014 NWT: 7.8% Beaufort-Delta: 9.4% Sahtu: 15.5%	Adequate housing must have running water, an indoor toilet, bathing and washing facilities and must not require major repairs.	Adequate housing is also important to ensuring families and individuals are comfortable and safe in their homes.	NWT Community Survey, NWT Bureau of Statistics	NWT HC

		Nahendeh: 12.9% South Slave: 7.8% North Slave: 6.01%				
11	% households in core need	2014 NWT: 19.8% Beaufort-Delta: 20.0% Sahtu: 23.3% Nahendeh: 24.2% South Slave: 15.4% North Slave: 20.6%	If a dwelling does not meet one or more of the above three conditions, suitability, adequacy or affordability, the dwelling is considered to have a housing problem. If a dwelling has a housing problem and a total household income below the Core Need Income Threshold, it is considered to be in core need.	Housing is linked with overall well-being. It contributes to and is an outcome of activities related to the other priorities that have been identified as critical to eliminating poverty.	NWT Community Survey, NWT Bureau of Statistics	NWT HC
12	Number of transitional housing spaces available and in use		The number of temporary and transitional bed spaces that support individuals in transitioning from being homeless, to being residents of permanent, affordable housing.	Housing is linked with overall well-being. Transitional housing spaces support segments of the homeless or near homeless population, particularly the working homeless, to leave or avoid homelessness and find ways to access stable, permanent housing.		
13	# of women and children admitted to shelters	2011 NWT: 5653/10000 (5.7%)	The number of women and children admitted to shelters in the NWT, every year.	The NWT Anti-Poverty Strategy noted that shelter use by women and children in NWT was significantly higher than the rest of Canada. Supporting children and families means creating safe environments for women and children in their own homes and communities, as well as ensuring support exists for emergency situations.	Transitional Home Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada	HSS
Priority 4 Sustainable Communities – Sustainable communities managing their resources based on current need while ensuring that adequate resources are available for future generations						
14	% 15+ who hunt and fish	2008 39%	The percentage of NWT residents over the age of 15 who self-report that they hunt or fish.	Aboriginal peoples in NWT have a history of subsistence harvesting, hunting and trapping. Forced settlement, resettlement and residential schooling has distanced people from their culture and created poverty. These activities can help individuals and communities counter and mediate results of poverty, and prevent poverty, through food security, income, and employment.	Community Data, NWT Bureau of Statistics	ITI/MACA/ECE
15	% 15+ who spent time trapping	2008 6%	The percentage of NWT residents over the age of 15 who self-report that they trap.	Aboriginal peoples in NWT have a history of subsistence harvesting, hunting and trapping. Forced settlement, resettlement and residential schooling has distanced people from their culture and created poverty. Trapping can help individuals and communities counter and mediate results of poverty, and prevent poverty, through food security, income, and employment.	Community Data, NWT Bureau of Statistics	ITI/MACA/ECE
16	% able to converse in an Aboriginal language	2009 39%	The percentage of NWT residents whose parents report, or who self-report, that they speak an Aboriginal language.	Aboriginal culture in the NWT includes 9 Aboriginal languages, many of which also include regional and community variations. This measure of the percent of NWT residents able to converse in an Aboriginal language recognizes the important link between poverty and cultural wellness. This measure helps NWT poverty partners to understand the role of cultural wellness in poverty.	Community Data, NWT Bureau of Statistics	ITI/MACA/ECE
17	% of households	2008	The percentage of NWT households that	Family poverty can reduce access to nutritious food, but NWT	Community Data,	HSS

	consuming country foods (1/2 or more)	NWT: 28%	consume country foods as 50% or more of their overall diet, every year.	is rich in natural resources. This includes traditional country foods and community harvests that can alleviate food insecurity, connect families to traditional cultural activities, and reduce the percentage of income spent on high priced foods found in some NWT stores. Many early programs conceived of through Anti-Poverty Strategy consultations revolve around, or relate to, the harvest, preparation and provision of country foods in communities. By monitoring the percentage of households consuming country foods as half or more of their diet, NWT can judge the effectiveness of these programs and make adjustments as needed.	NWT Bureau of Statistics	
18	Average family income	2012 NWT: \$113,934 Yellowknife: \$138,620 Regional Centers: \$109, 135 Other communities: \$78,638 Personal: \$56,930 Families: \$120,898 Couple-families: \$142,023 Lone-parent families: \$52,304	The average income each family unit in the NWT has, before tax, every year.	Poverty involves a lack of income that prevents families and individuals from fully participating in their communities and making independent choices. By monitoring family income levels in different parts of NWT, and in different family structures, governments and community organizations can provide appropriate supports and target those with critical income insecurity.	Community Data, NWT Bureau of Statistics	ECE
19	% of families with income less than \$30,000	2012 NWT: 16%	The percent of families in the NWT that have less than \$30,000 as an income, every year.	Poverty involves a lack of income that prevents families and individuals from fully participating in their communities and making independent choices. By monitoring the percentage of families with income below \$30,000, governments and community organizations can track whether their anti-poverty efforts are reach those with the most critical levels of income insecurity.	Community Data, NWT Bureau of Statistics	ECE
20	Minimum wage	Pre 2015: \$10.00 June 2015: \$12.50	The lowest legal hourly wage an employer can pay their employee.	Poverty is often directly tied to income levels, and the minimum wage is an indication of how much the lowest earners can expect to earn hourly. Minimum wages are set provincially and territorially in Canada, and as a result, minimum wages can be reflective of both regional cost of living variations, and how the territorial government supports its lowest wage earners. This also provides an indication of how fully the lowest earners can participate in their communities.	Public record	ECE
21	Economic Diversity Index	2012-2013 All: 100% Agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting: 0.8% Mining and oil and gas extraction: 27% Utilities: 1.9% Construction: 7.7% Manufacturing: 15.2 Wholesale trade: 3.5%	Measures the state of economic diversity by calculating the proportions of each of 20 industry sectors in the total GDP.	NWT is more heavily reliant on some industries than others, notably resource development and mining. Knowing which industry sectors are most closely tied to overall GDP can help NWT poverty partners plan, forecast and respond to changes in industry to better support community development and sustainable resource management.	Industry Accounts Division, Statistics Canada	ITI

		<p>Retail trade: 5.1%</p> <p>Transportation and warehousing: 6.7%</p> <p>Information and cultural industry: 2.5%</p> <p>Finance and insurance: 3.1%</p> <p>Real estate and rental leasing: 8.6%</p> <p>Professional, science and technical services: 2.5%</p> <p>Management of companies and enterprises: 0.8%</p> <p>Administrative and support, waste management, etc: 2%</p> <p>Educational service: 4.9%</p> <p>Health care and social assistance: 6.6%</p> <p>Arts, entertainment and recreation: 0.2%</p> <p>Accommodation and food services: 1.8%</p> <p>Other services: 1.1%</p> <p>Public admin: 15.1%</p>				
22	% who volunteered	<p>2013</p> <p>NWT residents aged 15+: 38%</p>	The proportion of the population who contributes time to an organization or cause, without pay.	Volunteerism is closely linked to feelings of community connectedness and social inclusion. Many poverty related programs and services also rely on community support through volunteerism. This measure tells NWT poverty partners how well they are nurturing community connectedness and social inclusion through meaningful volunteer opportunities, and indicates how much community support there is, through volunteerism, for community based poverty programs and services.	Canadian Community Health Survey, Statistics Canada	MACA
23	Violent crime rate	<p>2013</p> <p>3,233 violent criminal code violations</p> <p>15.3% of all violations</p>	The rate of violent crime incidents.	Safe, healthy communities are by definition, free from violent crime. Poverty contributes to, and is an outcome of, various types of crime including violence. This measure tells NWT poverty partners whether or not there are incidences of violence in the community that suggest deeper problems, including poverty.	Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada	DOJ
24	Property crime rate	<p>2013</p> <p>10,533 property crime violations</p> <p>49.7% of all violations</p>	The rate of property crime incidents.	Safe, healthy communities are by definition, free from property crime. Poverty contributes to, and is an outcome of, various types of crime including violence. This measure tells NWT poverty partners whether or not there are incidences of violence in the community that suggest deeper problems, including poverty.	Uniform Crime Reporting Survey, Canadian Centre for Justice Statistics, Statistics Canada	DOJ
25	Average cost of goods (MBM)		A measure of low income based on the cost of a specific basket of goods and services representing a modest, basic standing of living.	Income, employment and other measures of wealth are not meaningful unless they are contextualized by an understanding of the cost-of-living. Market basket measure provides this context to the discussion of income, employment and other measures of wealth. This measure is important for NWT poverty partners to provide the context required for interpreting other measures of poverty.		ITI
26	Level of		<i>The number of community wellness plans</i>			

	development and implementation of community wellness plans		completed. <i>The level of implementation of community wellness plans, as reported by community wellness committees.</i>			
Priority 5 Integrated Continuum of Services – NWT residents receive a continuum of integrated services according to their needs						
27	Client satisfaction with supports and services offered through service organizations					
28	Coordinated services between service organizations within and external to government					
29	Wellness Courts caseload and services					