

Northwest Territories

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minimum Wage

Feb 27: The GNWT completed its minimum wage survey. While the annual rate adjustments for 2025 that will take effect on September 1 will be based on the Consumer Price Index, the government will use the public feedback to guide future decisions about the minimum wage in the Territories, which currently stands at \$16.70 per hour.

Immigration

Feb 27: The Northwest Territories Nominee Program [application](#) intake period will close on March 6. During this intake, the Program will accept 90 of its nomination allotment of 150 for 2025, including 70 applications under the Employer-Driven Stream from Yellowknife employers, 10 under the same Stream from employers outside Yellowknife, and 10 under the Francophone Stream or Employer-Driven Stream.

Action Point: Find out about the 10 things employers [need to know about hiring temporary foreign workers](#).

New Laws

Feb 4: The GNWT inked a new deal with the federal government under which it will receive \$5.3 million over 5 years to bolster the recruitment and retention of vital personal support workers (PSWs) across the territories.

New Laws

Feb 6: The federal government announced that it's investing over \$13.9 million to support 4 transportation improvement projects in the Northwest Territories, including Liard Access Road Rehabilitation project, purchase of a wheelchair accessible passenger vehicle in Fort Providence, construction of a 2-km multipurpose path system around Little "Ma" MacDonald Park, and Airport Road flood upgrades in Hay River.

New Laws

Feb 20: The federal government announced that it will provide the GNWT over \$23 million under the Disaster Financial Assistance Arrangements (DFAA) program to assist with response and recovery costs associated with the wildfires of 2024 and 2023, and extreme flooding of spring 2021.

CASES

Labour Relations: “Temporary” Contract with Paramedics Violates Collective Agreement

The union claimed the Tlicho Community Services Agency (TCSA) violated the collective agreement by improperly contracting in paramedic services in Behchokö. The Northwest Territories arbitrator upheld the grievance, finding that the contracted-in paramedics provided the same essential services that the collective agreement required TCSA to use union members to perform. “What began as a purportedly temporary measure in response to COVID-19 pressures is now in its fourth year with no clear end date,” the arbitrator reasoned. The permissible duration of these kinds of arrangements “is measured in weeks not months, let alone years” [[Northwest Territories \(Government\) v Public Service Alliance of Canada](#), 2025 CanLII 12006 (NT LA), February 12, 2025].