

Northwest Territories

LAWS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Laws

Feb 25: The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) reminded business owners across the territories that [business licence](#) renewals are due April 1, 2026. Business licences are issued on April 1 and expire on March 31 of the following year. There are annual renewal fees. Many communities in the territories also issue their own business licences.

Labour Relations

Mar 16: The GNWT released a [What We Heard Report](#) summarizing feedback gathered during engagement on modernizing parts of the *Public Service Act* dealing with union representation for GNWT public servants. While many supported greater employee choice and sector-specific representation, others raised concerns about government involvement, potential risks, and uncertainty.

New Laws

Mar 1: The GNWT and federal Department of Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Regulatory Coordination. The MOU strengthens collaboration and alignment in their respective regulatory roles in the Northwest Territories, in partnership with Indigenous governments and organizations.

New Laws

Mar 2: The GNWT eliminated the \$500,000 lifetime Mining Incentive Program (MIP) funding cap for corporate projects meaning that projects ranking within the top 30% of applications received in a given year may get MIP funding beyond \$500,000. The annual corporate funding cap will remain at \$240,000 per project, covering up to 60% of eligible costs.

New Laws

Mar 3: The GNWT issued an updated assessment of mineral potential across the eastern Northwest Territories, specific to the area known as the Slave Geological Province. The updated assessment confirms that the Slave Geological Province remains one of Canada's most abundant regions for mineral exploration and development, with broad potential for critical minerals such as lithium, cobalt, copper, and zinc, alongside well-established potential for gold and diamonds.

Drugs & Alcohol

April 24 is the final day to [comment](#) on a GNWT online survey gathering public

feedback and ideas for improving the territory's mental wellness and addictions recovery services, including the effectiveness of the 811 line.

Action Point: Drug and alcohol addictions are recognized as disabilities that employers must accommodate but only to the point of undue hardship. Find out [how far employers must go to accommodate an employee's drug addiction](#).