

# **OFFICIAL LANGUAGES POLICY**

January, 1998  
Official Languages Unit  
Government of the Northwest Territories

## 1. Statement of Policy

It is the policy of the Government of the northwest Territories that members of the public have reasonable access to its programs and services in the official languages.

## 2. Principles

The Government of the Northwest Territories will adhere to the following principles when implementing this Policy:

- (1) A government's ability to communicate in the official languages of the public it serves is an important part of the operation of good government.
- (2) In order to understand and benefit from government's programs and services, the public requires information in the official languages.
- (3) A government's provision of services in its official languages recognizes and support the efforts of communities in maintaining and developing those languages.

## 3. Scope

This Policy applies to all departments of the Government of the Northwest Territories and to those boards and agencies listed in Schedule 1.

## 4. Definitions

The following terms apply to this Policy:

Deputy Head – the deputy minister of a department, the chief executive officer of a public committee, board or council, or such person as may be appointed as deputy head.

Official Languages – as established under the *Official Languages Act*. The official languages of the Northwest Territories are Chipewyan, Cree, Dogrib, English, French, Gwich'in, Inuktitut, Inuvialuktun, Inuinnaqtun, North Slavey and South Slavey.

Official Languages Guidelines – written instructions that establish specific responsibilities with respect to the use of official languages in the delivery

of the programs and services of the Government of the Northwest Territories.

## 5. 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 Education, Culture and Employment (the Minister) is accountable to the Executive Council for the implementation of this Policy.

#### (b) Deputy Minister

The Deputy Minister of Education, Culture and Employment (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 the Official Languages Guidelines and amendments to the Guidelines.

#### (b) Minister

The Minister:

- (i) is responsible for coordinating the delivery of official languages services throughout government;
- (ii) may recommend amendments and exceptions to the Official Languages Policy to the Executive Council; and

(iii) may recommend Official Languages Guidelines and amendments to the Guidelines to the Executive Council.

(c) Ministers

Ministers are responsible for the delivery, in accordance with the Official Languages Policy and Guidelines, of programs and services of departments, boards and agencies for which they have responsibility.

(d) Deputy Heads

Deputy Heads are accountable to their respective Ministers for the application of the Official Languages Policy and Guidelines within their areas of responsibility.

#### **6. Prerogative of 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 actions respecting Official Languages outside the provisions of this Policy.

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Premier and Chairman of the  
Executive Council

Schedule

Boards and Agencies

Schedule 1

## SCHEDULE 1

### BOARDS AND AGENCIES

The Official Languages Policy applies to the following boards and agencies:

- (1) Legislative Assembly
- (2) Assessment Appeal Tribunal
- (3) Divisional Education Councils
- (4) District Education Authorities in Yellowknife
- (5) Hospital / Health Boards of Management
- (6) Labour Standards Board
- (7) Liquor Licensing Board
- (8) Northwest Territories Housing Corporation
- (9) Northwest Territories Power Corporation
- (10) Social Assistance Appeal Board
- (11) Territorial Board of Revisions
- (12) Workers' Compensation Board