



REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROFILE

► TŁİCHQ



The Tłıch'ı Region is situated within the boundaries of the North Slave Region and is home to four communities: Wekweètì, Whatì, Gamètì, and Behchokò. The total population is 2,901 distributed from the smallest, Wekweètì, with 150 people, to the largest, Behchokò with 1,983 people. Behchokò is the administrative center for the area and itself is comprised of two separate settlements – formerly known as Edzo and Fort Rae.

There is one modern comprehensive treaty, the Tłıch'ı Land Claims and Self-Government Agreement (Tłıch'ı Agreement), which was concluded in 2003 and came into effect in 2005. It is the first combined land, resources, and self-government agreement in the NWT. The agreement was signed by representatives of the Dogrib Treaty 11 Council, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) and the Government of Canada.

The Tłıch'ı economy can be considered small or underdeveloped. With three of the four communities having populations of 500 or less, opportunities for economic development in these communities are limited. Businesses are few and are typically limited to essential services, such as small grocery stores or basic hotels.

Behchokò, the only community with a population large enough to support a self-sustaining economy, is situated only 100 km from the territorial capital of Yellowknife. Any development in the community would have to compete with stores and businesses located in Yellowknife on both prices and variety of products. The economies of scale in the community would make this very difficult. Presently, residents of Behchokò tend to travel to Yellowknife for most goods and supplies.

The largest employers in the region are government and administration, including the Tłıch'ı Government and the GNWT, as well as the mining industry. Mining is the largest private sector employer in the Region, with hundreds of Tłıch'ı residents working at the three operating diamond mines in the North Slave region. Those employed in the sector tend to work shiftwork with two- or three-week rotations at the mine site with the corresponding two or three weeks back in their respective home community.

Although the number of businesses and services provided in the Tłıch'ı area are limited, there are areas of the local economy to examine to determine whether there may be new economic and employment opportunities in the region.

The Regional Economic Development Plans (REDPs) are a part of the Government of the Northwest Territories' (GNWT) mandate to diversify the Northwest Territories (NWT) economy. The profiles for each of the six NWT regions are designed to continue the discussion with key partners, invested northerners, and interested groups and organizations during the July to October 2022 engagement sessions.

These profiles are not complete. They provide basic overviews of initial research and conversations with Indigenous Governments and community leaders. We are looking for meaningful discussions and suggestions on additional opportunities and challenges as we work to finalize the profiles through the engagement sessions.

SECTORS WITH GROWTH POTENTIAL

Remediation and Site Reclamation

The Tłıchǫ Region has been home to mining activities for decades. Past producing mines have recently become a focus of both the federal and territorial governments for reclamation and remediation work.

- There are several sites either in the Tłıchǫ Area or adjacent areas that are scheduled for reclamation. The Rayrock, Discovery, Tundra and Colomac sites are all past producing mines needing reclamation.
- There are also three producing diamond mines northeast of the Tłıchǫ Area that will require remediation once they cease operations, expected in the next few years.
- Tłıchǫ companies already have experience in the reclamation of past producing mines, so the new reclamation work presents a great opportunity for both Tłıchǫ businesses and citizens.

Tourism

Tourism in the Tłıchǫ Area is largely underdeveloped despite the striking natural assets that could help grow and expand the sector.

- There are many lakes, rivers and lands occupied by several types of different animal species, and the region's location within the Aurora Oval which makes it a prime aurora borealis viewing location.
- There are challenges that need to be addressed in the Area, like a lack of tourism infrastructure, a lack of trained and skilled tourism operators, the high cost of getting to the smaller, remote communities that lack road access, and access to adequate funding need to be addressed for the industry to grow in the region.

SECTORS WITH GROWTH POTENTIAL

Construction and Related Services

The Tłıchǫ Investment Corporation is an active participant at all levels of the economic development spectrum through its numerous subsidiary companies and joint ventures.

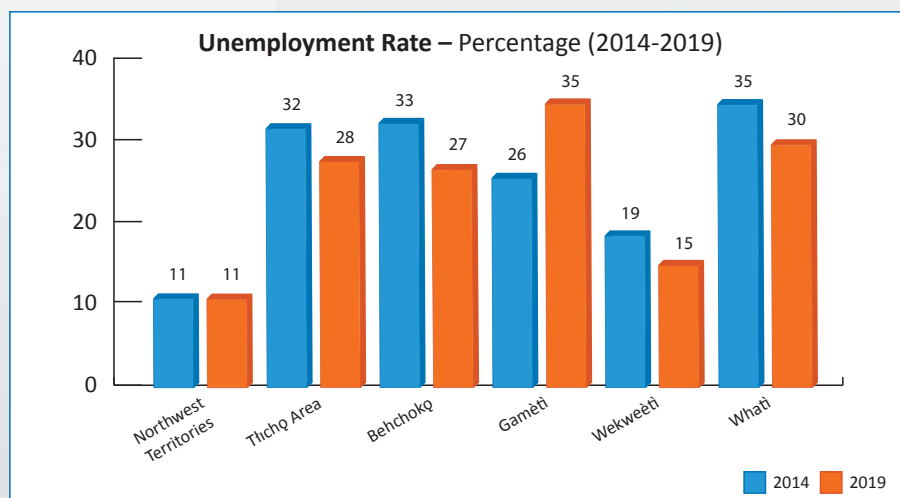
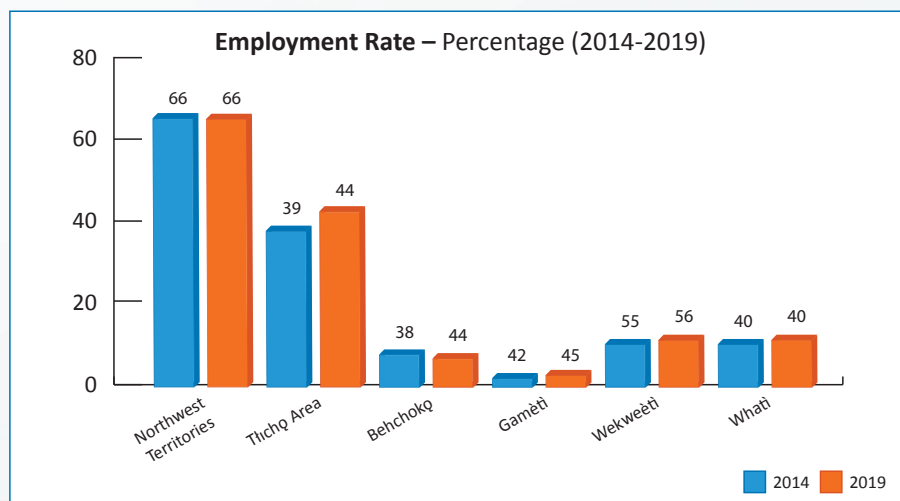
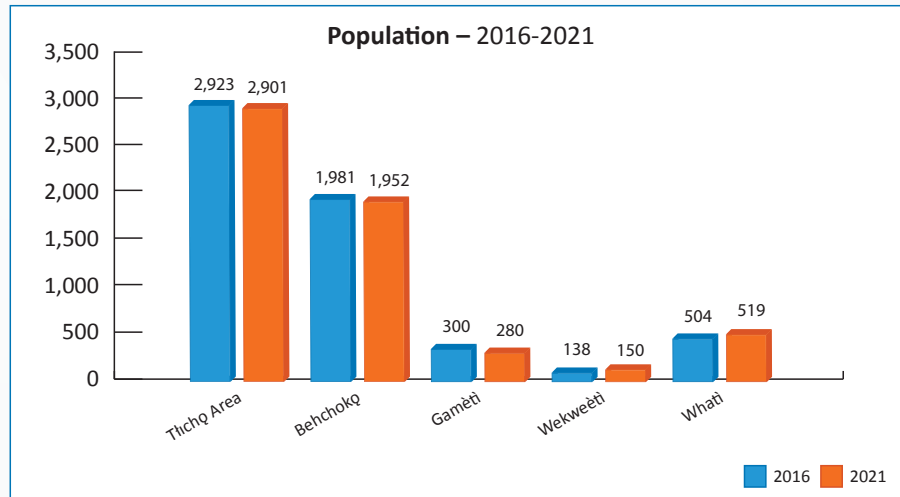
- Tłıchǫ Community Builders (TCB), an amalgamation of three previously independent entities – Tłıchǫ Construction, Lac La Martre Development Corporation, and DLFN Holdings Ltd. – provides residential and commercial construction services throughout the Tłıchǫ Region and the NWT.
- There remains potential for further capture of economic benefits from the provision of goods and services to all sizes of projects taking place in the Tłıchǫ Region. Recent funding announcements for construction of new housing in Tłıchǫ communities will employ the TCB.
- A new procurement policy developed by the GNWT for negotiated preferential contracts with Indigenous-owned companies will also benefit the TCB and its employees. The TCB could be involved in construction of new mining developments or expansion at existing mines and could also partner with companies from other regions to expand its business throughout the NWT.

Traditional Economy

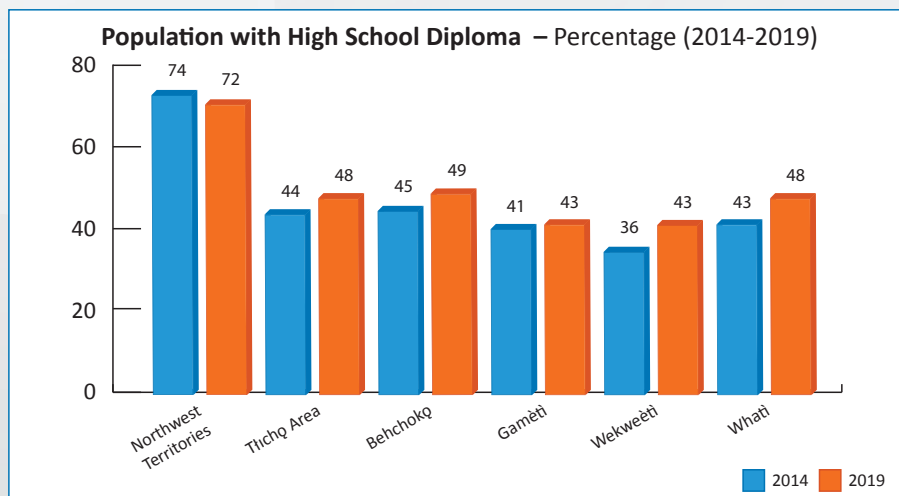
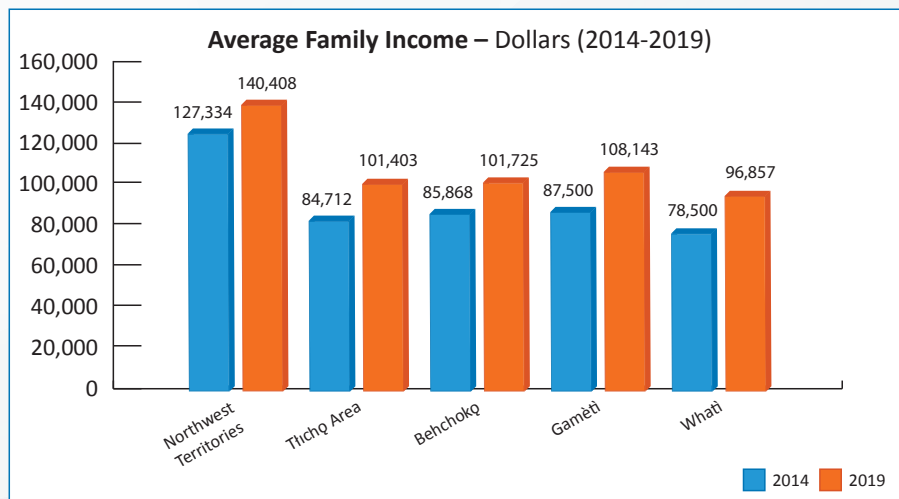
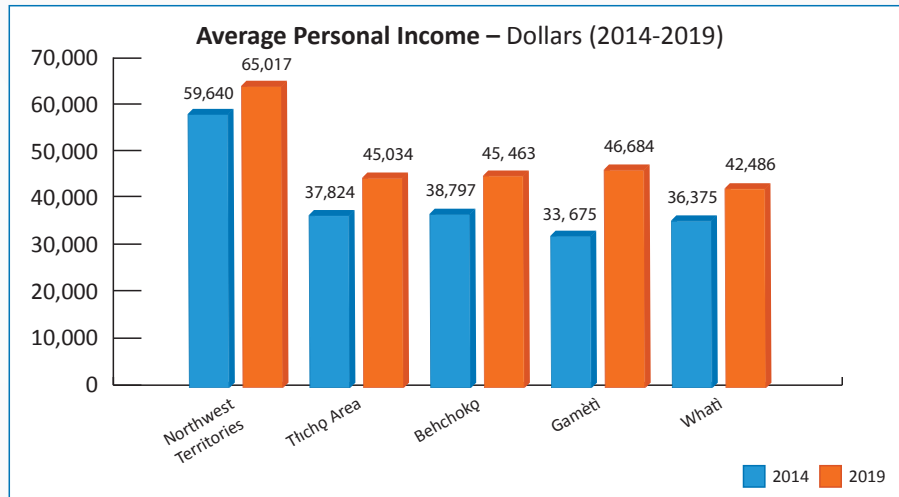
The Traditional Economy has historically been important in the Northwest Territories. In the Tłıchǫ Region, hunting, trapping, foraging or participating in other cultural activities all reflect the commitment of the Tłıchǫ people as they preserve and promote their heritage and culture.

- The Traditional Economy can be defined as the harvesting of local resources for personal use or for commerce. Whether it is picking chaga mushrooms, berries, or other plants for direct sale in markets, promoting traditional activities like hand games and the creation of traditional crafts, these activities can provide economic growth and expansion for communities and residents.

TŁİCHO REGION ECONOMIC INDICATORS



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NOTES

