



QUESTIONS & ANSWERS | PROCUREMENT REVIEW REPORT

1. Why choose an independent panel for this work?

The Procurement Review Panel was formed in December 2020 in response to the priorities established by the 19th Legislative Assembly, noting that the GNWT 2019-2023 Mandate commits to:

Strengthen GNWT procurement policy and practices (by) working with NWT businesses to identify recommendations to strengthen GNWT procurement policies and practices, including the Business Incentive Policy (BIP), P3 projects, and the Northern Manufactured Products Policy (NMPP).

While the GNWT had committed to complete the procurement review by 2022 in response to concerns raised by Members of the Legislative Assembly, the GNWT advanced the completion to spring of 2021. To achieve this timeline and to ensure that the Northwest Territories (NWT) business community and Indigenous governments were meaningfully involved in the process, and in identifying recommendations to the GNWT, a Panel was established.

The GNWT believes that a Panel provided confidence to the business community and Indigenous governments that their views were reflected in the procurement review.

2. What was the objective of the panel?

The objective for Panel members was to undertake an independent review of GNWT Procurement Policies. The Panel was expected to place a focus on procurement policies and provide recommendations to strengthen local and northern content and supports the growth of the NWT economy. This also included advice on procurement processes and procedures, building awareness of GNWT contracting opportunities, and improving participation in the Business Incentive Policy by NWT companies.

3. How was feedback solicited?

Input was gathered through interviews, written submissions, targeted engagement opportunities and online surveys. Indigenous Governments and Organizations, elected leaders, the business community, stakeholders and residents had an opportunity to



share their perspectives and ideas in support of the GNWT's mandated priority. A discussion paper was also shared to guide the GNWT's engagements and is available online.

4. When will the GNWT provide a response to the report?

The public engagement process did not include feedback and perspectives from all Indigenous governments. In order to have a fulsome understanding of perspectives on government procurement to supplement the public engagement process, the GNWT needs to hear from all Indigenous governments prior to responding to the report.

5. Are there any recommendations that can be implemented immediately that will maximize benefits to residents and businesses?

There are several recommendations that align with GNWT priorities and work that is currently underway to improve internal procurement processes.

Prior to any potential policy changes, the GNWT is required to consult with the Sahtu Secretariat Incorporated, Gwich'in Tribal Council and Tłı̨chǫ Government when developing modifications to preferential contracting policies, procedures and approaches in accordance with their respective land claim and self-government agreements. Engagement through the panel process does not meet consultation requirements per these Agreements.

The GNWT will consider a wide range of implications and interests when considering policy changes such as revenue limitations, current net debt, future capital planning processes, trade agreements and current legislation.

6. Do you anticipate that any recommendations from the report will be implemented by Summer 2022 as identified in the GNWT mandate?

It is too early to speak to implementation timelines as the GNWT still needs to hear from Modern Treaty holders and Indigenous Governments, and undertake consultation requirements prior to determining what modifications will be made and when.

7. What are the next steps?

The GNWT will continue to work collaboratively with Modern Treaty holders and Indigenous Governments to understand their perspectives on challenges and a process



for advancing this work. We will not be responding to the independent panel's report until we have a better understanding of this after discussions this fall.

8. When will you commence the development of an Indigenous procurement policy?

While the review is about improving procurement policies in the best interests of all NWT businesses, we believe there are also opportunities to work with Indigenous Governments to develop policies that would further benefit Indigenous businesses.

Support for Indigenous businesses may be accomplished through a variety of mechanisms by considering the effectiveness of models already in place in other jurisdictions and how they may apply in the NWT.

Government – to – government dialogues are underway to collaboratively develop and implement an approach to advance Indigenous participation in procurement and to identify opportunities to maximize the benefits from procurement for Indigenous people and businesses within NWT.