

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.

New Laws

March 9 is the opening date of the Northwest Territories Nominee Program's Employer-Driven and Francophone streams. Under the new selection process, employers must submit an Expression of Interest on behalf of a foreign national by registering, creating an online account, and selecting the Employer-Driven. The foreign national must then complete a survey for the GNWT to review and score using a points-based system that takes into account factors like work experience, labour market needs, education, language skills, and ties to the Territories.

Action Point: Expect more of your workforce to speak a language other than English and find out [whether OHS laws require you to provide multilingual safety training](#) to your workers.

Industry Challenges

Mar 2: The GNWT announced that it's eliminating the \$500,000 lifetime Mining Incentive Program (MIP) funding cap for corporate projects. Going forward, projects that rank within the top 30% of applications received in a given year will be eligible to exceed \$500,000 in cumulative funding. Once a project surpasses the \$500,000 threshold, applicants will be limited to two funded projects at any one time. The annual corporate funding cap will remain at \$240,000 per project, covering up to 60% of eligible costs.

Industry Challenges

Feb 9: DeBeers and its joint-venture partner Mountain Province Diamonds announced that they've put their planned expansion of the [Gahcho Kué](#) mine on pause, citing concerns about the "prevailing market environment." Although the economic impacts will likely be limited in the near-term, the announcement, which the GNWT described as "serious news," is a reminder of the territory's dependence on the diamond industry which makes up roughly 20% of the Northwest Territories' gross domestic product.

Industry Challenges

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.

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

Feb 9: Fuel price increases took effect in 14 communities serviced by the GNWT's Department of Infrastructure's Petroleum Products Program, including Tsiigehtchic, Colville Lake, Fort Good Hope, Délı̄ne, Tulita, Wrigley, Jean Marie River, Samba K'e, Whati, Gameti, Łutsël K'é, Sachs Harbour, Ulukhaktok, and Paulatuk. The next price change is scheduled for July 2026.

Drugs & Alcohol

April 24 is the deadline 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: Find out how to use the [OHS Insider Substance Abuse Compliance Game Plan](#) to curb drugs and alcohol at your workplace.