

The Northwest Territories Volunteer Support Initiative

The Vision

The vision of the Northwest Territories Volunteer Support Initiative (VSI) is strong volunteers and voluntary organizations, who actively participate with, and are respected and supported by governments, businesses and others in the voluntary sector to:

- Advocate for and respond to local needs;
- Improve social, economic, cultural and environmental conditions; and
- Enhance the quality of life in the Northwest Territories (NWT).

The Principles

The following principles underlie the NWT VSI.

1. Every NWT resident has the opportunity and support to volunteer for the betterment of his or her community.
2. The personal, family and community benefits of volunteering are promoted widely.
3. Volunteers are developed, nurtured and encouraged by families, communities and organizations, who take responsibility for, and reinforce the ethic of sharing, giving and helping.
4. Every voluntary action or contribution is valuable whether given formally or informally, individually or through an organization, sometimes or all of the time, in big or small ways, or visibly or invisibly.
5. Every voluntary action or contribution is honoured and respected.
6. Voluntary action or contribution is as valuable as action that is financially compensated or contributions that are required.
7. Volunteers and voluntary organizations are recognized and valued by governments, businesses and other members of the voluntary sector, and the general public.
8. The voluntary, public and private sectors play equally important roles in maintaining healthy communities.

Scope

The scope of the NWT VSI includes individual volunteers and voluntary organizations that serve and benefit NWT residents. It also recognizes the informal but important contribution people make in giving of their time to make their communities better places to live.

The Goals and Objectives

The NWT VSI Action Plan has four goals.

1. Address the challenges of recruiting, retaining, recognizing and rewarding volunteers by:
 - raising public awareness and understanding of volunteering, and
 - promoting active participation and good citizenship through volunteering.
2. Build capacity among volunteers and voluntary organizations to advocate and respond to community and social service needs by:
 - strengthening and expanding the skills and knowledge of volunteers and voluntary organizations, and
 - seeking financial stability within voluntary organizations.
3. Promote and strengthen healthy and equal relationships within the voluntary sector and with the government and business sectors including Aboriginal organizations in each sector by:
 - launching new ways of working with communities, and
 - recognizing and protecting the voluntary sector's basic role in promoting active citizen participation in society, and advocating for and influencing change in public policy, programs and legislation.
4. Facilitate connections and relationships within the NWT's voluntary sector and connect the sector with federal initiatives that support volunteers and voluntary organizations by:

- linking GNWT and federal government voluntary sector support initiatives.

The NWT VSI Action Plan will be the vehicle through which these objectives will be implemented. An annual report will measure the outcomes of the NWT VSI Action Plan and report on the success to NWT residents.