

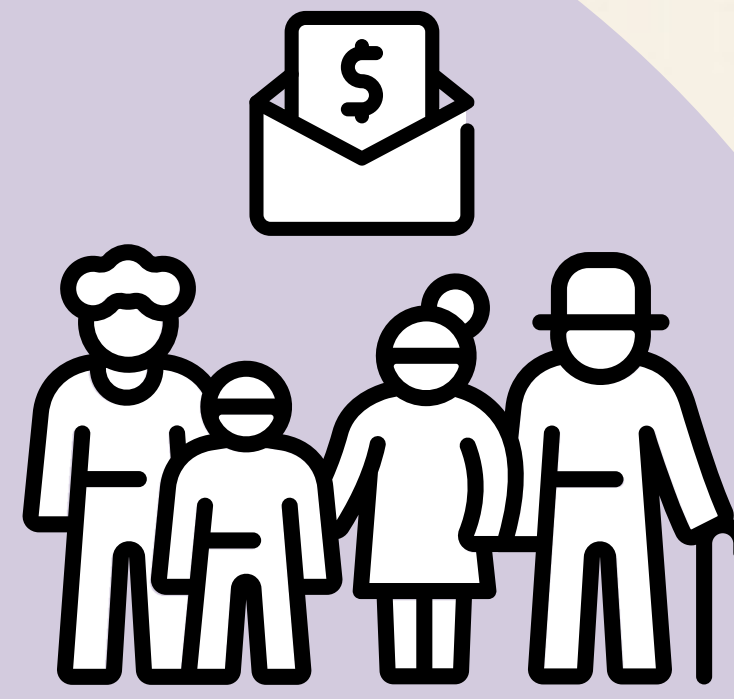
Economic well-being

Changes to economic well-being have been monitored since the opening of the Tłı̨chų Highway, November 30, 2021.

The highway opening coincided with COVID-19, followed by 2023 fire evacuations. Data should be considered within this context.

INCOME

Family income levels have increased in Whatı̨ and Behchokò. In 2021, more families earned more than \$75,000 compared to 2016 income levels.



In Whatı̨

57% of families earned \$75,000 or more in 2021, an increase ↗ from 43% in 2020

In Behchokò

59% of families earned \$75,000 or more in 2021, an increase ↗ from 40% in 2020



Low income

In Whatı̨ and Behchokò, the number of people who are considered low income decreased ↘ from 2019 to 2021.

In Whatı̨

21% of the population were considered low income in 2021 down ↘ from 26% in 2019

In Behchokò

23% of the population was considered low income in 2021 down ↘ from 33% in 2019

However, in 2023 Behchokò and Whatı̨ saw an increase in income assistance recipients, which could be related to the search for funds as COVID-19 supports ended. In 2023, there were 393 income assistance recipients in Behchokò and 74 in Whatı̨.

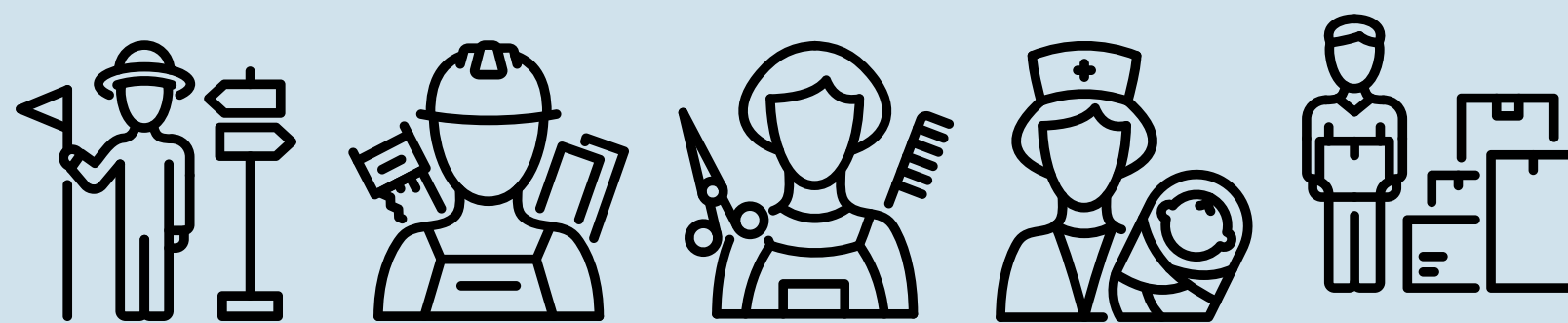
FOOD SECURITY

In a community survey in 2018, prior to the opening of the highway, nearly 48% of the population in Behchokò and just under 39% in Whatı̨ reported sometimes having concerns about enough money for food, with 60% for Behchokò and 48% for Whatı̨ saying they always worried. It remains to be seen how the the Tłı̨chų Highway has impacted food security.



EMPLOYMENT

Between 2016 and 2021, the employment rate for the population over the age of 15 declined ↘ from 44% to 40% in Whatı̨ and increased ↗ from 36% to 41% in Behchokò



This may be due to increased opportunity for work related to highway construction, which ended when the road opened in 2021. There could also be job loss due to COVID-19.

Programs to support the traditional economy and offset the costs of harvesting include:

- GNWT Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program
- GNWT Hide and Fur Program
- GNWT Industry, Tourism, and Investment small business grants
- TG Caribou Harvest / Fur Harvest Gas Subsidy.

PROGRAMS & SERVICES

In 2022 and 2023, Tłı̨cho Government introduced new programs and services to support economic well-being.

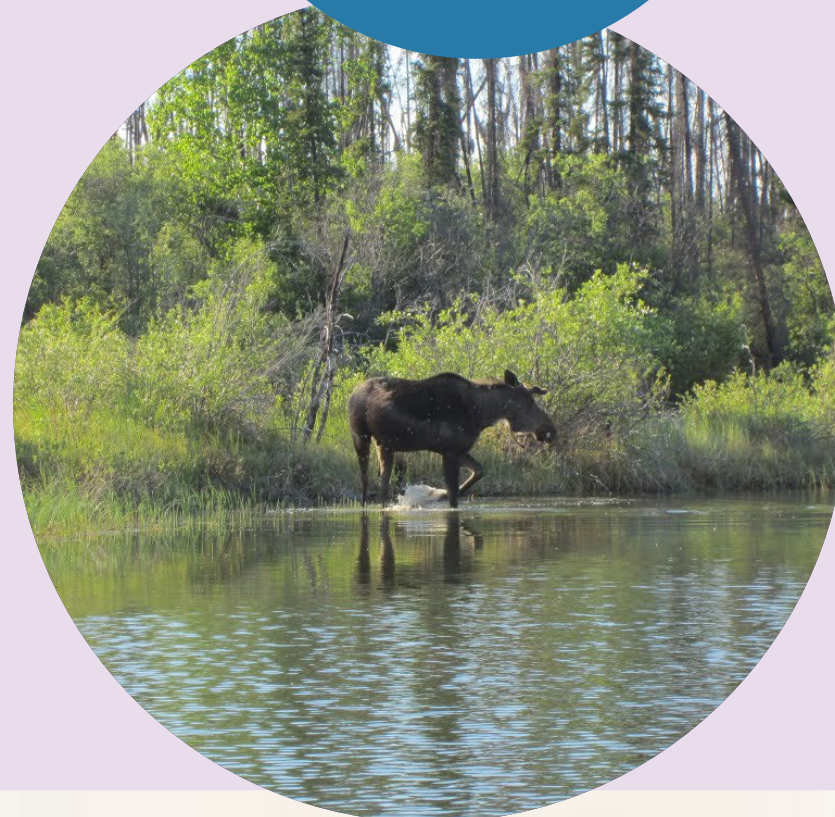
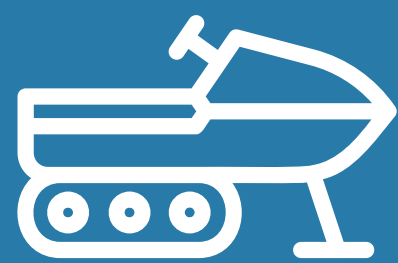
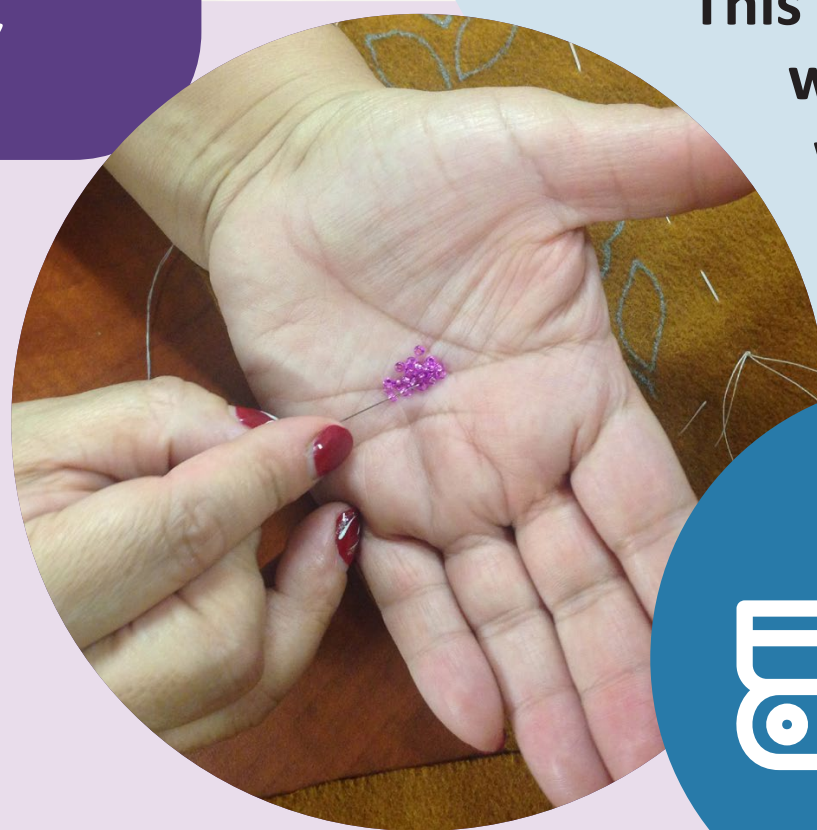
- Tłı̨chų Apprenticeship Services Program
- Career open houses
- Tłı̨chų Arts online store
- Tłı̨chų holiday showcase and art sale
- Traditional skills sewing workshops
- Giant Mine remediation project training and internships
- Economic development supports, such as helping clients secure over \$30,000 in aid from GNWT for entrepreneurs and small business
- The Hoghàdets'heetò – Ełexè Eghàlats'eeda/Learning and Working Together Gathering in Behchokò for youth, mine workers, and others to explore apprenticeship opportunities, build employable skills, and celebrate achievements in various northern industries.



TRADITIONAL ECONOMY

In 2024, Tłı̨chų citizens reported that:

- High (and rising) costs of equipment, maintenance, and gasoline can be barriers to hunting, fishing, and trapping.
- Low cost of furs and associated expenses of running a business can prevent people from pursuing trapping as a livelihood activity.
- The monetary value of crafts in comparison to the time, cost of materials and equipment, and hard work has led to a decline in people pursuing crafting as a business.



Tłı̨chų Ndek'áowò



Tłı̨chų Government

The Tłı̨chų Highway Socio-Economic Working Group was established in 2019 to monitor the impacts of the new highway on overall health and well-being in Whatı̨ and Behchokò. With representatives from the community governments of Whatı̨, Behchokò, the Tłı̨chų Government and the Government of Northwest Territories, the working group releases progress reports once per year. This series of posters — on child & family services, community safety, cultural well-being, early childhood education & student support, economic well-being, and health & well-being — highlights what the working group has found.

SOURCES: TG AND GNWT | PHOTOS: TG AND FIRELIGHT