

# Tłįcho Community Services Agency

ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22

Do Nàke Lani Nàts'etso | Strong Like Two People





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French

Kīspin ki nitawihtīn ē nīhīyawihk oma ācimowin, tipwāsinān.

Cree

Tłįcho yatı k'ę̀ę̀. Di wegodi newo dè, gots'o gonede. Tłįcho

?erıhti'ís Dëne Suliné yatı t'a huts'elkër xa beyáyatı thezą zat'e, nuwe ts'ën yóltı. Chipewyan

Edi gondi dehgáh goť je zhatié k'ę́ę́ edatł'éh enahddhę nide naxets'ę́ edahłí. South Slavey

> K'áhshó got'ıne xədə k'é hederı ⁊edı̯htl'é yerınıwę nídé dúle. North Slavey

Jii gwandak izhii ginjìk vat'atr'ijąhch'uu zhit yinohthan jì', diits'àt ginohkhìi. Gwich'in

> Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqluta. Inuvialuktun

Ċŀdd ∩∩ŀŀbdr Adlanr dobnoc ŀŀdun, Þ&ribude dobno. Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit. Inuinnaqtun

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 Government of Northwest Territories
 Gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest

Do Nàke Lani Nàts'etso | Strong Like Two People



## Message from the Chairperson





We are pleased to present you with the Tł<sub>1</sub>chǫ Community Services Agency's Annual Report for 2021-2022.

You will read more about our success in strengthening our programs by leveraging our integrated services model to support education, health, and wellness in the region.

The TCSA's Board members are appointed by their respective community governments so that each community in the Tłįchǫ region is represented on the TCSA Board. By adhering to strong governance practices, the Board ensures the Agency has the

capacity and resources to meet both its short and long-term goals. The 2021-2022 annual report illustrates our work of putting community members first. It highlights our commitment to innovative integrated services and new partnerships that support individuals and families.

Masi,

Ted Blondin Chairperson, Thcho Community Services Agency Board

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# Message from the Chief Executive Officer



This has been a particularly challenging year as we continued to adapt and navigate our way through a global pandemic. The hard work and dedication of staff across our organization resulted in the Tłįchǫ Community Services Agency's (TCSA) ability to provide quality programs and services to the Tłįchǫ region during these unprecedented times. We are committed to the health and safety of our employees and communities.

The TCSA remains dedicated to providing programs and services that enable all people to achieve personal well-being within healthy, educated families. We are committed to

enhancing our programs and services through the strengths of our communities. Integrating Tłįchǫ language, culture, and way of life in all areas, immersing Tłįchǫ identity through the agency. We are committed to enriching an integrated continuum of education, health, and social programs and services.

The TCSA recognizes the importance of working in unity, of ensuring our efforts are part of larger partnerships with other organizations, governments, and communities. By working together, we bolster one another's strengths and fill individual gaps, all for the benefit of the people we serve.

We remain committed to developing our current workforce just as we remain committed to improving the experiences of our patients, students, and families.

Masi,

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Kevin Armstrong Chief Executive Officer, Thcho Community Services Agency



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## **STRATEGIC OVERVIEW**

The Tł<sub>i</sub>chǫ Community Services Agency (TCSA) was established under the Tł<sub>i</sub>chǫ Agreement effective August 4, 2005, and it is a unique organization in the Northwest Territories in two significant ways. Firstly, it is a Government of the Northwest Territories Agency while incorporating the values and principles of the Tł<sub>i</sub>chǫ people. Secondly, the Agency is the only one in the Northwest Territories to deliver both Health and Social Services as well as Education programs under one entity as defined under the *Th*<sub>i</sub>chǫ *Community Services Agency Act*. (A copy of this legislation is available in the GNWT website at <u>http://www.justice.gov.nt.ca/</u>.)

The TCSA's 2022-26 Strategic Plan is grounded in current research and best practice for health and social programs serving Indigenous communities, it is built upon the strengths and successes of our programs and services to date, and it reflects the new and continuing priorities of the Tł<sub>i</sub>chǫ Government and of the Government of the Northwest Territories. We look forward to continuing the intergovernmental and territory-wide partnerships that serve to strengthen the TCSA's program delivery in the service of those who live in the Tł<sub>i</sub>chǫ region. Our strategic priorities guiding our work include:

- Developing strong, capable, healthy Tłįchǫ individuals, families, and communities,
- Supporting the best health and wellness of people in the Tłįchǫ region,
- Improving the quality of services provided to vulnerable children, families, and communities, and
- Enhancing organizational sustainability by developing our people and enhancing our organizational processes.

Our staff members are at the heart of our programs and services: we remain committed to supporting their continued development and learning. Creating a workplace culture that is safe, inspiring, and collaborative remains a priority area and goal of the agency. Only by investing in our workforce can we provide truly excellent services for our communities.

The strategic priorities, operational objectives, and key actions of our 2021-22 Operating Plans for the agency provide the foundation to pursue excellence in the education, service, and care of clients, students, families, and communities. They are ambitious plans that provide the agency opportunities to grow and improve in our strategic priorities.

The Tłįchǫ language, culture, and way of life are integral to all that we do in the Tłįchǫ region. The Agency continues to be committed to Indigenous ways of knowing, being, and doing, embracing Chief Jimmy Bruneau's vision of being "Strong like Two People".



## STRATEGIC DIRECTION



The TCSA at a Glance

As a result of the TCSA delivering both the Health and Social Services as well as the JK-12 Education program, it is accountable to the Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Health and Social Services and the Department of Education, Culture and Employment. The deliveries for both health and education programs operate under two different year ends: March 31 and June 30, respectively. The Agency prepares annual audited financial statements for the combined health and education programs as of March 31 for the Government of the Northwest Territories fiscal year end, as well as audited statements solely for the education program year ending June 30.

The TCSA, unlike other Education and Health & Social Services authorities in the NWT, has three dimensions, as outlined in Figure 1.



#### Figure 1: Three Dimensions of the TCSA



The Agency is governed by a Board made up of four members and a chairperson. The Tł<sub>i</sub>chǫ Community Governments (Behchokǫ̀, Gamètì, Wekweètì and Whatì) each appoint one member to represent their community on the Agency Board. The GNWT Minister of Indigenous Affairs appoints the chairperson after consultation with the Agency appointees and the Tł<sub>i</sub>chǫ Government. The term for Agency Board members is determined by the entity appointing them and may not exceed four years. Members may be reappointed for consecutive terms. The TCSA Board meets quarterly throughout the year: additional meetings are scheduled as/when the need arises.

The current TCSA Board members include:

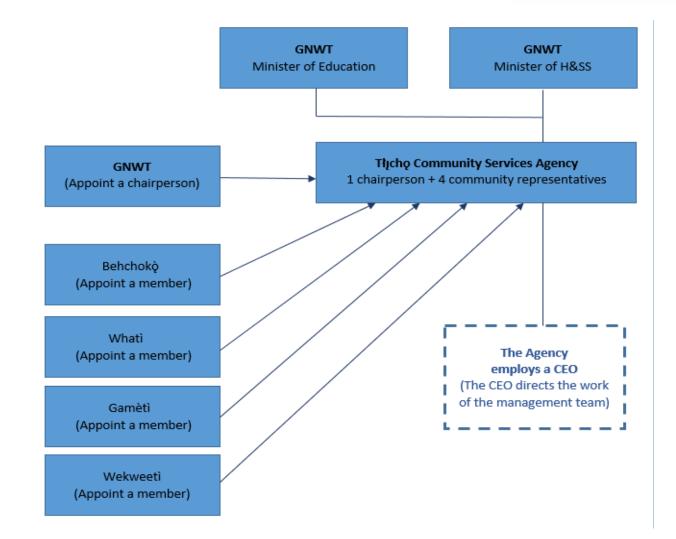
- Chairperson Ted Blondin
- Behchokò Representative Rosa Mantla
- Whatì Representative Alex Nitsiza
- Gamètì Representative Irene Mantla
- Wekweètì Representative Marie Adele Football



Ted Blondin, Rosa Mantla, Irene Mantla, Marie Adele Football, and Alex Nitsiza



Figure 2: Governance Structure of the Thcho Community Services Agency



The TCSA is an intergovernmental services agency delivering programs in the areas of Education, and Health and Social Services. The Agency employs a Chief Executive Officer who is responsible to direct the work of a management team consisting of a Director of Education, a Director of Health and Social Services, and a Director of Finance and Corporate Services.

The CEO fulfills legislated roles under GNWT legislation including that of "Deputy Head" for the public service and "Superintendent" under the Education Act. The Early Childhood and First Nations Social Programs, initially transferred to the TCSA by the Płįchǫ Government, were returned to the Tłįchǫ Government in 2012 as a step towards self-government.



Figure 3: Management and Program Function Structure of the TCSA



The core programs and services delivered by the Tłįchǫ Community Services Agency include the following:

- *GNWT Child and Family Services*: The TCSA provides child protective services, foster care and adoption services, out-of-territory placement services, and adult services including Elder support. The Agency assist families in need through Voluntary Service Agreements (VSAs) and family violence programming. Family support and child protection also includes child welfare, early intervention, investigations, apprehensions, and court work. Rotational monthly visits are provided to the communities of Whatì, Gametì and Wekweètì.
- *GNWT Mental Health and Addictions Services*: TCSA provides a community mental health and wellness program for both adults and youth through individual and family counsellors, and child and youth care counsellors (in schools). The Agency provides individual counselling sessions, group sessions, addiction services, and assess for treatment packages / placements to territorial and out-of-territory treatment facilities as needed. Community counselling is provided on a rotational basis to the communities of Gametì and Wekweètì.



*GNWT K-12 Education:* Schools from Junior Kindergarten to grade 10 in Wekweèti and Junior Kindergarten to grade 12 programming in Behchokò, Gamètì, and Whatì. Inclusive schooling services for school age children include assessment, intervention, and counseling support. There are also home boarding accommodation services for high school students from Wekweètì when they attend school in Behchokò, Gamètì, or Whatì.

- *GNWT Community Healthcare:* Primary health and public health care services are available in all communities and include well adult, well child, prenatal care, communicable disease, school health, chronic disease management, emergency / after-hour care, laboratory and diagnostics, and health promotion. Dental services are provided through contracted services providers, Ambulance and Emergency Services are provided in Behchokò.
- *GNWT Continuing Care and Independent Living:* TCSA is responsible for an 18-bed long term care facility (est. 2016), located in Behchokò, with one bed designated for respite and another for palliative care. The Agency provides residential care, recreational programming, and community & Elder day programming. The TCSA also has established home care programs in three communities (Behchokò, Whatì, and Gametì) through which home support, nursing, and palliative support to those requiring the service are provided.





The purpose of the Tł<sub>i</sub>ch<sub>Q</sub> Community Services Agency (TCSA) is to improve the health, wellness, and education of the people in Tł<sub>i</sub>ch<sub>Q</sub> communities by providing a range of accessible, integrated programs and services. The Agency manages the delivery of education, health, wellness and social programs and services for the NWT communities of Behchok<sub>Q</sub> (Rae-Edzo), Gamètì (Rae Lakes), Wekweètì (Snare Lake) and Whatì (Lac La Martre).

Our Agency is both new and old: established on August 4, 2005, the Agency is a creation of the *Tł*<sub>1</sub>*cho Agreement*. Section 7.10 of the Tł<sub>1</sub>*cho Agreement* called for an *Intergovernmental Services Agreement* (ISA) between the Government of Canada, the Government of the NWT, and the Tł<sub>1</sub>*cho* Government. The ISA creates the Agency and ensures that it continues to perform the educational, health and social programs and services of the organizations from which it emerged, including the former Dogrib Community Services Board (1997-2005), the Dogrib Divisional Board of Education (1989-1997) and the Rae-Edzo School Society (1967-1989).







TCSA Nàowoò Weghàà Eghàlageeda: "Dọ Nàke Lani Nàts'etso"

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Yatı Negıhrò Wet'a Nàowo Hòèlį	Įneè edlàtł'o lemì xo gots'ǫ, Tłįchǫ dǫne sìı, ts'eehwhì laanì edeoèt'į xè, kǫ̀ta eyıts'ǫ ndè k'e nezį nàgiįdė. Goet'iį ginà t'à, nàowo k'egeezǫ, edaanì asìı weghàlats'eda eyıts'ǫ nàowo wet'a? aà hanì hazhǫ chekoa hoghàgogehtǫ eyıts'ǫ gonàowo wet'à? aa t'à, goèt'iį edegeehdà-ha dıì-le ajà. Dìı įłeakw'enǫ gots'ǫ, yahtı eyıts'o ndèts'ǫ̀ K'àowo gut'ǫ ts'endą ajà t'à, gots'ǫ hoeliį-le įłè, edaanì goètiį, kǫ̀ta, goyatı eyıts'ǫ gonàowo hazǫ wexè ho? ǫ weghǫ hoèjiį lajà. Dǫne ts'įlıį t'à ts'endà-ha dıì lagòjà. Eyıt' àlıì
Nàowo Weghàà Eghàłageeda	Gahxı Thcho Nèk'e Ełets'ats'edı Gha K'àodèe ts'ılıı siı, enıhtł'èkò, nàèdı k'èezoo ts'oòhk'e eyıts'o do gha enıhtl'è hohłè nàowo kòta yàzhıèla done gıts'o k'àode-ha ts'ıwo t'à, edaani do ts'àhoèhdı ılè nezı weghàlaeda-ha siı gots'ò hoèhlı t'à nezı weghàlats'eda-ha ts'edı. Ełeot'u gulu t'à ełexè nàgetso-ha gıts'àts'edı-ha, dıdzęè edaani chekoa genda gha asıı k'egeezo- ha eyıts'o edanni ası weghàlats'eda nàowo guniedı-ha hoghàgıts'eto-ha eyii nàowo wet'à? aà weghàà lani ts'èwhi edeot'u xè nàgedè-ha, kòta nezı ełexè nàgedè-ha eyıts'o gonèk'e nezı nàgedè-ha.
	"Do Nake Lani Nats'etsoStrong like Two People"
Įdaà Nàowo Edànì Weghat'į ha	1971, ekò Kw'ahtıdeè eneèkoa Bınoù wetł'aà Edzo enıhtł'èkoù wegoò wızi wek'e werooù adle ha siı wets'odaàxàato. Ekò k'e nàowo nàke eyıts'oy yatı nàke ełèt'eè chekoa hoghàgeeto gha wet'àarà gho xàyaıhtı ılè. Idaà 1991 ts'où nahoòwo ekò enıhtł'èkoù gha k'àodèe wegoò ełegeèhdiı t'à dàani edılaà ghàlagedaa gho ełexègogedoò ekò Behchokoù gots'o rohdah naweet'ıı Elizabeth Mackenzie, Kw'ahtıdeè Bınoù ıda gha xàyaıhtı gho hadı, ıdaà nèhoıwo nıdè wets'o do "Do Nàke Làani Nagetso, ha."



The Mission of the TCSA: "Do Nàke Lani Nàts'etso ... Strong like Two People"

Preamble Mission of	For thousands of years, Thcho people have lived in harmony with their families, their communities and with the land. Our people took pride in passing on our knowledge, skills, and values to each generation and in the excellence of this tradition, our survival as a people was assured. In this century we became dependent on the church and the government and in this loss of control, we find that our families, the community, language, and culture are threatened. Our very survival as a people is at stake. Thus
the Agency	We, the members of the Tł <sub>i</sub> chǫ Community Services Agency are committed to the development of a continuum of care that will return control of education, health and social programs and services to the people of our communities, support them in the task of strengthening their families, promote the knowledge and skills they need to survive today and model the values they need to live in harmony with their families, our communities, and our land.
<i>Vision of the</i> <i>Agency</i>	"Dọ Nàke Lani Nàts'etsoStrong like Two People" In 1971 a frail Chief Jimmy Bruneau officially opened the new Edzo school that was to bear his name. On this occasion, he spoke of the importance of a model of bicultural and bilingual education where equal emphasis must be given to educating children in two cultures. Some years later in 1991 at a meeting to discuss the work of a new Board of Education, a respected Behchokồ elder, Elizabeth Mackenzie, commented on her understanding of the words of Chief Jimmy Bruneau. She described his vision as asking for his people to be "Strong Like Two People".

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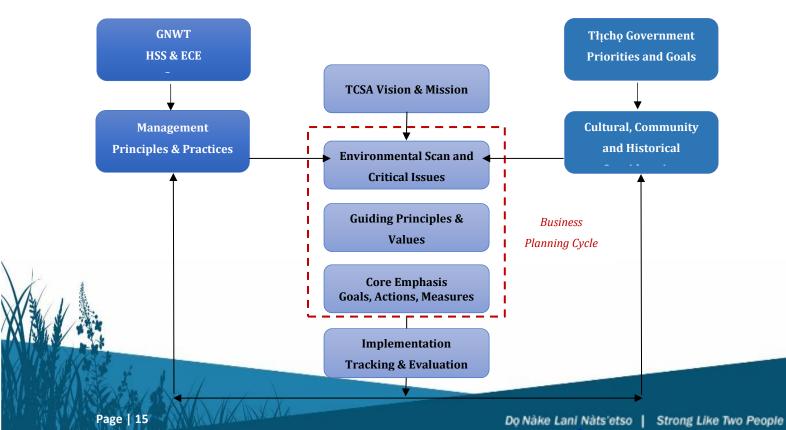
#### <sup>(2</sup>), Rinning Framework: A Developmental Approach

The Tłįchǫ Community Services Agency is amidst ongoing development at every level—the governance, administrative, and programming and service delivery levels. This is best understood as areas of transition that support the Agency's unique evolution:

- From a needs-based approach to a community development approach.
- From an individual service approach to an integrated services approach.
- From a model of professional dependence to a wellness model of health.
- From dependence upon transient staff to developing capacity locally and long-term staff.
- From a western medical model toward a respectful, culturally appropriate model of services.

In most respects the Agency is currently a GNWT agency, established under GNWT legislation and reporting primarily to the GNWT. Eventually, the Agency is to evolve into a "Tlicho Agency" with its own unique identity while remaining part of an integrated system of territorial programs and services. As part of that transformation, the Agency will continue to be immersed in developing territorial systems, policies, procedures, and structures while also developing lateral connections to Tłįcho Government systems.







# **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Health & Social Services**

#### **COVID 19 Pandemic Response**

In response to COVID-19, the Tł<sub>i</sub>chǫ Community Services Agency in collaboration with the Tł<sub>i</sub>chǫ Government, Northwest Territories Health & Social Services Authority (NTHSSA) and under the direction of the Department of Health & Social Services, Office of the Chief Public Health Officer, implemented multiple best practices and procedures to ensure the safety of our clients and staff during the 2021-22 year.

The following actions were undertaken as part of our response to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Development of the Territorial Pandemic Plan in collaboration with the NTHSSA.
- Comprehensive education and information sessions for all staff regarding pandemic planning, infection, prevention, and control protocols, in addition to clinical guidelines and recommendations.
- Establishment of triaging and screening criteria for all Health & Social Services facilities.
- Establishment of dedicated COVID screener positions for the public facing facilities.
- Implementation of an outdoor "parking lot" testing process for COVID-19 in Behchoko and Whati Health Centres.
- Implementation of additional safeguards for our residents of the Jimmy Erasmus Seniors Home.
- Partnerships with Tłįchǫ Government to increase activities with Elders in addition to facilitating health promotion and communication.
- Establishment of Virtual Care using telephone and video conferencing systems for all clients requiring health services and/or mental health supports.



Implementation of Point of Care COVID
 testing (COVID ID Now and PanBio) in each
 Health Center and in offsite locations to facilitate preliminary testing and
 management of suspected COVID patient



#### **COVID 19 Vaccination Program**

Vaccination is one of the most effective ways to protect our families, communities and ourselves against COVID-19. Evidence indicates that the vaccines used in Canada are very effective at preventing severe illness, hospitalization, and death from COVID-19.

In collaboration with Tłįchǫ Government, Territorial Government, and the Health Authorities several communication processes were introduced to raise vaccination awareness in our region. The success of the vaccination campaign is outlined in the table below:

Community	5+	12+	18+	Total Population
Behchoko	73%	82%	84%	68%
Whati	81%	92%	94%	75%
Gameti	86%	91%	90%	80%
Wekweeti	82%	89%	90%	78%

#### Figure 5: Percentage of eligible population fully vaccinated against COVID-19





The first doses of the Moderna vaccine to protect against COVID 19 were administered to the residents and staff of the Jimmy Erasmus Seniors Home.



Accreditation

In September 2019, the Tł<sub>i</sub>chǫ Community Services Agency successfully completed the Accreditation Canada Survey and achieved Accreditation with Commendation. This meant that the TCSA surpassed the fundamental requirements of the Accreditation program.

Accreditation is a four-year cycle of assessment and improvement, where healthcare organizations work to meet standards and raise the quality of their services. The program identifies and rewards competence and innovation, helping organizations to be more efficient.

In providing high quality care for clients, the TCSA continues to work in collaboration with the Department of Health and Social Services, the Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority, and the Hay River Health and Social Services Authority to develop policy and best practice which continues to support our ongoing accreditation status in the following Standard areas:

- 1. Leadership
- 2. Governance
- 3. Child and Family Services
- 4. Community Based Mental Health Services

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- 5. Rural and Isolated Health Services
- 6. Infection, Prevention, and Control Standards
- 7. Point of Care Testing
- 8. Medication Management
- 9. Long Term Care
- 10. Home Care Services

During 2021-22, the TCSA continued to meet and maintain compliance with Accreditation Canada's standards, including preparation for the next Accreditation Canada onsite survey scheduled to take place in 2023.





# **LOOKING AHEAD in Health & Social Services**

Peer Support Program

Peer Support Workers can offer a variety of services for mental health and wellness within the school and community setting that can assist with facilitating enhanced access to mental health supports for school-aged youth and their families. Peer support workers

offer students the opportunity to connect with others who have similar life experiences and to learn from them directly.

According to the GNWT Child & Youth Care Counselling (CYCC) Annual Report for 2021-22, Tłįchǫ youth accessed CYCCs over 900 times for individual support, with over 400 hours a month of sessions. By far, the most common presenting concerns were anxiety, depression, and family conflict, followed by trauma, self-esteem, and stress management.

The TCSA will implement the use of peer support workers to enable students to more effectively navigate the system (reach the 'right' level of care and service), find community so they don't feel alone, and to improve the likelihood of them reaching out for help.



Peer support encourages peer connections throughout the school and assists students in developing practical skills to enhance social, emotional well-being and reduce stress. The Middle Years Instrument (MDI) given to grade 4 and grade 7 students is indicating a need to strengthen peer relationships especially as students move from upper elementary into junior high. Peer support workers will act as a coach or mentor to guide peers to other resources within the school or community and build a sense of community to create meaningful connections.

The TCSA has been awarded third party funding from Jordan's Principle for seven Peer Support Workers who will work with our students in the school setting.



#### Mental Health & Wellness Strategy

The spring of 2021, the Tłįchǫ Community Services Agency committed to working collaboratively with the Tłįchǫ Government to develop a long term, comprehensive Mental Health and Wellness Strategy: The Tłįchǫ Healing Path.

**What is the Tłįchǫ Healing Path?** The Tlichǫ Healing Path is a multi-year, communitybased approach to help people overcome addictions to alcohol, drugs, and gambling. It is a community-based strategy whereby Tłįchǫ people help one another to move from addictions to wellness.

The strategy will be developed in consultation with community members, including Elders and youth and will focus on the following:

- Effective youth education, programming, and services both in and out of school,
- Develop a continuum of care that assists clients with identifying the root problems of addictions, and supports them on a path to an addiction-free lifestyle,
- Establish relationships with other departments, organizations, and authorities in the communities to help with education and training, income and employment, health and legal issues, housing, and other needs of the people on a healing path to wellness,
- Create a campaign focusing on supporting year round, family-oriented, healthy living, and
- The strategy will be built on a foundation of Tłįchǫ language, culture, and way of life to restore health and wellness in our communities through on-the-land activities.

#### **Recruitment & Retention**

Throughout the duration of the pandemic, healthcare workers continued to provide care to patients despite exhaustion, risk of infection, fear of transmission to family members, and the loss of patients. The higher than normal workloads have attributed to employee burnout.

There is a national shortage of available health care providers, resulting in the reduction or closure of services in various jurisdictions across Canada, including the Northwest Territories.

The Tłįchǫ region is experiencing retention and recruitment challenges related to health care professionals, ultimately, impacting the delivery of quality programs and services. The majority of vacancies are seen in nursing, social work, and mental health.



Finance, Human Resources and the Northwest Territories Health & Social Services, the Department of Authority to develop a strategy to address the staffing challenges and mitigate risk to the communities we serve.





# **KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Education JK-12**

#### **Culturally Responsive Programs and Services**

Indigenized education programs reflect the culture, language, and histories of the Tłįchǫ citizens our schools serve. Supporting the development of capable Tłįchǫ students through culturally responsive spaces, pedagogies, and programs continue to be the foundation of the education system in the Tłįchǫ region.

#### Specific targets:

- Support for Our Language Curriculum Implementation – mentoring for every ILE through onsite planning, modeling, and coaching with the resources and assessments developed to support the OLC. (Met)
- Strengthen ILE teams in every school to support whole school approaches to language – fully functional ILE teams in every school that develop and enhance the whole school approach to Tłįchǫ language. (Met)
- Develop local resources and courses to support high level of cultural instruction – developed a Locally Developed Course (LDC) on Tłįchǫ parenting (Truth and Reconciliation Commission Call to Action #5) (Partially met – 1 of 2)



In addition to the stated targets, the TCSA has completed several other notable projects and initiatives related to language and culture:

- School cultural programming such as Heritage Fairs, Culture Based Integrated Programming, Tłįchǫ History Project resources, high school course work in language, culture, drumming, and Tłįchǫ Agreement.
- Support for staff to participate in language development programs including with a Linguist to develop reading and writing skills of Indigenous Language Teachers.
- Translation services to support Tłįchǫ language and immersion programs in schools.
- Increased pre and post camp activities to develop student skills and knowledge, with more hands-on activities and integration between camps and classrooms.



#### **Student Achievement**

n Provincial Assessment

Based on a variety of age-appropriate literacy assessments from Provincial Assessment Tests (PATs or AATs), Fountas and Pinnell reading, and Teacher Rating of Oral Language (TROLL) there is significant evidence that Tłįchǫ students underperform in oral language, early literacy, and reading. In recognition of this, reading and literacy continue to be a priority. Mathematics including reasoning and critical thinking is also a key element of student achievement. As oral language is required before a student is ready to learn to read, we use the measures of TROLL as an indicator of 'reading readiness' as well as school level phonological assessments that support pre-reading behaviours.

#### Specific targets:

 Oral Language (measured by Teacher Rating Oral Language and Literacy (TROLL)) Goal: by Spring 2022, 60% of kindergarten students at or above the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile – Results: 42% of kindergarten students are at or above 25<sup>th</sup> percentile and 19.4% above 50<sup>th</sup> percentile. Although, the target is not met, there has been consistent growth particularly in oral language and reading levels for over 4 years. Students who have strong oral language and speech in JK-2 are better positioned to learn to read. (Not met)



- Reading (measured by Fountas and Pinnell) Close the Gap Goal: by Spring 2022, 50% of students will close their reading gap by improving more than one grade level – Result: 35% of students improved more than one grade level in reading (impacted significantly by poor attendance region wide). (Not Met)
- 3. Math Close the Gap **Goal:** by Spring 2022, 50% of students will close their numeracy gap by improving more than one grade level **Result:** in 2021 12.9% of students were at grade level in mathematics. (In progress as 2022 results are not available till Sept)

On oral language, reading, writing, and mathematics measures Tłįchǫ students are preforming below Canadian standards, this has worsened during the COVID pandemic.

• Attendance – Improved attendance will be the result of a comprehensive strategy between schools, community partners, parents, and students. Thcho students have an average attendance rate of 40-70% depending on the school, well below the territorial average. For an average student this means that they lose one whole *year* of school every 3 years, and by grade 12 are at least 4 *years behind*.



#### Wellness and Student Support

An increased number of students are entering the school system with "vulnerabilities" as identified by the Early Development Instrument (EDI). The Middle Years Development Index (MDI) for grade 4 and 7 students also points to a large majority of Tłįchǫ students in the "low well-being" category (which uses 5 dimensions to measure a population's health and well-being). Finally, many students in the Tłįchǫ region require supports through Inclusive Schooling to provide Individualized (IEP), modified, and accommodated educational programs.

#### Specific targets:

 Access to Counselling (CYCC) - Goal: Continue participation in the territorial CYCC and NCTS program – Result: in addition to professional counselling services available to all students, the Indigenous Health and Wellness Elders (IHWE) are also available in every school. (Met)



- Regular review of SSPs and IEPs Goal: The RISC will review all IEPs and audit the SSPs – Result: the RISC will work with PSTs to establish and provide on-going monitoring protocols. (Met)
- 3. **Goal:** Increase support for IEP and MEP students **Result**: Increase access to services that support the delivery of SSP, MEP and IEP goals such as SLP, OT, educational psychologists, self regulation, ASD, etc. (Met)

In addition to the stated targets, there are other related considerations to student wellness and support:

- Indigenous Health and Wellness Elders Through partnerships with HSS and third party funding the TCSA was able to secure Elders positions in each school to support Mental Health and Wellness. The IHWE plays an integral role in supporting children and youth with complex mental health needs, and their families, to build community and identity in the school. The IHWE is responsible for engaging with students to use traditional mental, social, cultural, and spiritual supports.
- Jordan's Principle Thanks to continue support from Jordan's Principle the TCSA will continue to offer increase SLP services, increase access to counselling, a tutor at CJBS, alternative high school program at CJBS (transition program), behavioural supports (learning centers), one-on-one supports for many students, and continued support for the Indigenous Health and Wellness.





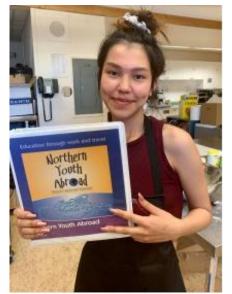
To support every Tł<sub>i</sub>chǫ student to become a capable and contributing member of our communities, the Agency prioritizes developing programs, structures, and processes that develop lifelong learners. This includes career focused programs, inquiry and project-based learning, and support for educators to improve their teaching practice.

#### Specific targets:

- Purposeful coaching and in-servicing for teachers Goal: Ensure every teacher receives onsite coaching throughout the year – Result: extensive coaching was provided to every teacher and school staff to support their professional development from mentoring language instructors to in-servicing. (Met)
- Quality career path support for students in grades 7-12 Goal: to participate in the territorial career education advisory (CEA) pilot project Result: in addition to the participation in the CEA pilot the TCSA is a partner in collaborative work between Thcho Government and GNWT to support career focused programs for grades 7-12 students. (Partially met as some actions were not met due to COVID)
- 3. **Goal:** Support and expand on IT instruction and capacity **Result:** improved bandwidth at 3 of 5 schools, move to the Google platform, information technology skills integrated into all subjects in all grades. (Met)



MANY





# **LOOKING AHEAD in Education**



At this time, it is expected that we will be returning to normal. This means a return to:

- Extra-curricular activities including drumming and hand games, as well as sports like soccer and volleyball;
- Celebrations like Tł<sub>1</sub>chǫ Language Speaking Contests, graduations, Christmas concerts, and feasts;
- In person interventions and supports such as reading, SLP, OT, counselling, and many others;



- School events like namesake days, literacy nights, field trips, guest speakers, travel clubs, home visits, Parent Advisory Committees, and clubs (like sewing, and cooking); and
- In person learning everyday.

Schools will still have regular cleaning, encourage students to use proper hand and respiratory hygiene, and staff/students may continue to wear a mask if they choose.

#### Staffing

Despite a nationwide teacher shortage, the TCSA is nearly fully staffed for 2022-23. Many teachers and school support staff are returning for another year. Thank you to our partners who continue to advocate for housing in our region. Housing continues to be one of the top reasons teachers leave the region (lack of available and maintained housing – based on NWTTA survey).

#### Graduation

Student attendance is the single most critical factor to student success and achievement regardless of age and grade level. Students who attend regularly (90% - less than one absence a week) are more likely to have academic success and graduate. Now that schools are 'returning to normal' the TCSA is looking to parents and other community partners to establish routines and expectations for all students JK-12 to attend school everyday.



### APPENDIX A: AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The TCSA will ensure our programs and services are sustainable and supported by strong financial management processes and controls. To that end, the following activities were foundational to our 2021-22 operations:

- Enhanced accountability through continuously improved financial policies, processes and internal controls procedures.
- Enhanced financial management through more frequent financial reporting and periodic variance review.
- Enhanced operational and workforce planning through strategic review and oversight.

The financial results of our 2021-22 Fiscal Year *Health & Social Services* operations are summarized as below:

	2021-22 Budget	2021-22 Actual
REVENUE	\$	\$
Contribution from GNWT	19,974,251	21,342,252
Revenues from Other Sources	735,000	765,120
	20,709,251	22,107,372
EXPENSES		
Administrative & Support Services	2,207,362	1,640,953
Ambulatory Care Services	1,266,307	1,211,732
Community Health Programs	6,741,386	7,584,166
Community Social Programs	7,249,073	6,188,676
Long Term & Continuing Care	5,225,242	4,926,460
Emergency Response (COVID-19)	-	1,334,386
	22,689,370	22,886,373
Annual Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(1,980,119)	(779,001)



Enancial results of our 2020-21 School Year *Education* operations are summarized as

	2020-21 Budget	2020-21 Actual
REVENUE	\$	\$
Contribution from GNWT	17,747,436	19,318,505
Contribution from Gov't of Canada	5,263,070	4,309,794
Revenues from Other Sources	198,906	358,466
	23,209,412	23,986,765
EXPENSES		
Aboriginal Language/Cultural	2,171,696	2,182,724
Administration	1,357,674	1,066,758
Inclusive Schooling	3,272,123	3,281,313
School Programs	11,619,577	12,634,727
Amortization	56,565	56,565
Jordan's Principle	5,204,301	4,309,794
	23,681,936	23,531,881
Annual Operating Surplus (Deficit)	(472,524)	454,884

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