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## Delegates from across NWT gather to create action plan to target poverty

**Yellowknife, October 11, 2013:** Publicly-funded early childhood programs, piloting the ‘Housing First’ model to reduce emergency shelter use and creating an Aboriginal anti-poverty roundtable are just some priorities agreed to at a territory-wide gathering of anti-poverty advocates yesterday. The priorities will be provided as advice to the GNWT as it creates an implementation plan for the NWT Anti-Poverty Strategic Framework.

59 delegates from 19 NWT communities attended the one-day meeting. Delegates came from all regions. Many represented front-line agencies providing food and housing to people in need, while others represented wellness services delivered by First Nations.

“We got advice about what action to take from the people who know best, the people who see the need in their communities every day,” said meeting organizer Julie Green. “There was a lot of consistency in priorities for action with those identified by the No Place for Poverty coalition in 2010.”

“To paraphrase a saying I like, ‘how much more information do we need to know a hungry child does not do well in school? Stop admiring the problem and get to work.’ That’s where we are at right now,” she added.

The priorities correspond to the five pillars in the “Building on the Strengths of Northerners: A Strategic Framework Toward the Elimination of Poverty in the NWT.” The government tabled the framework in the Legislative Assembly in June.

Delegates participated in a talking circle on Tuesday night where they talked about the needs they see in their communities – as well as approaches that are producing positive change. A poverty-reduction specialist from the Tamarack Institute in Waterloo, Ontario, provided a national perspective on the content and results of anti-poverty strategies in the provinces.

The No Place for Poverty coalition was created in 2009 to work for an anti-poverty strategy. It now has 31 members in communities across the NWT.

For more information about the Targeting Poverty meeting, please contact Julie Green at [juliegreen@theedge.ca](mailto:juliegreen@theedge.ca) or at 446-1665.