

## 3.12 Northwest Territories (NT)

*Population: 43,672*

*Number of K-12 Schools: 49*

*Number of K-12 Students: 8,204*

*Number of K-12 Distance Education Programs: 2*

*Number of K-12 Distance Education Students: 228*



### K-12 Distance Programs

Currently a distance learning pilot is being conducted that involves five small Northwest Territories community high schools located across three regional boards of education. The teachers are based in Inuvik and each class also includes a few Inuvik students. Support personnel for the pilot include volunteers, educational assistants and teachers who, as part of their teaching assignment, are located in each high school that has a distance learning student group.

During the 2013-14 school year 200 students were enrolled in courses offered through the Alberta Distance Learning Center (ADLC). These courses will continue to be a viable solution for some Northwest Territories students in the future. Francophone students regularly take print-based, self-paced ADLC courses through *Centre francophone d'éducation à distance* (CFED) in Alberta. Support for these courses is coordinated through the school principal, and parents are closely involved.

### Governance and Regulation

*The Education Act, 2009* allows various educational bodies to “authorize, supervise and evaluate the use of distance learning programs in the provision of the education program” (p. 72).

Since 2004 the Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE) has had a Memorandum of Understanding with the ADLC for Northwest Territories students to use their courses. In 2010 the regional boards of education took on the funding of these courses.

Additionally, Section 3.3 of the *Northwest Territories School Handbook* outlines a series of requirements for distance learning that schools must compile with.

Finally, the Northwest Territories are currently renewing its system of education through a process called Education Renewal and Innovation (ERI). One commitment under ERI is to improve the learning experience of students in its smallest communities, regardless of geographical location. Distance learning is one way to do so by providing equitable learning opportunities to small community high schools that cannot offer a wide-range of courses.