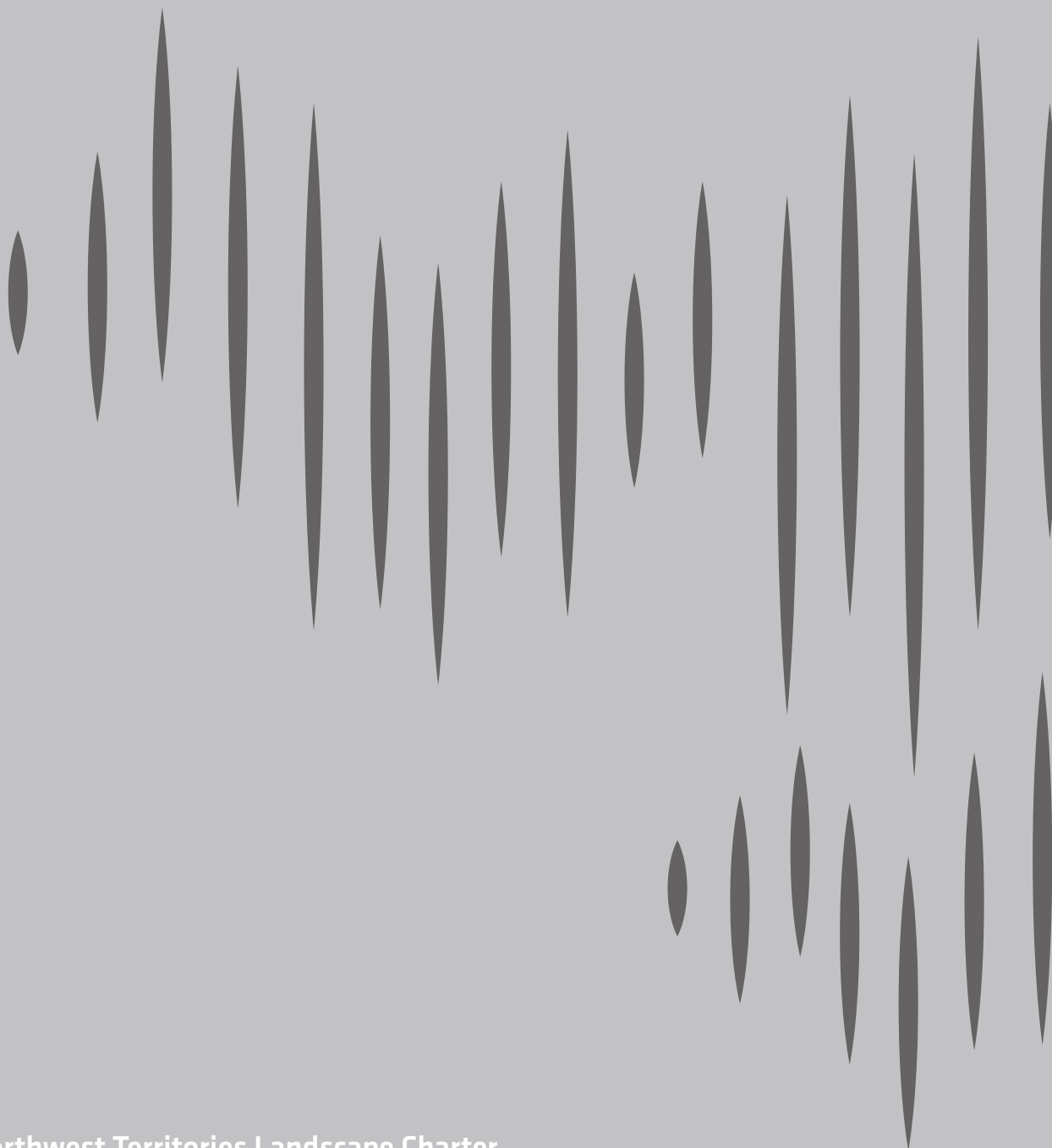


# NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LANDSCAPE CHARTER (NWTLC)



Northwest Territories Landscape Charter

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#### NWTLC ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As a member of the CSLA Canadian Landscape Charter Initiative Task Force, the NWTALA presented a Regional Characteristics document during the 2013 Congress in Regina, SK. This document provided the context for the development of northern value statements, and formed the basis for the preparation of this Landscape Charter.

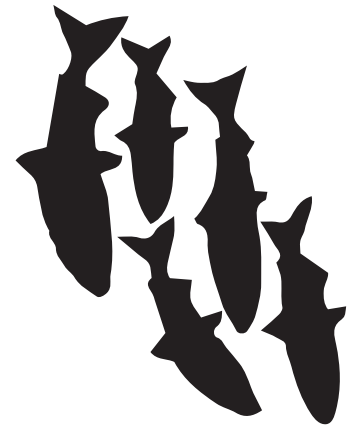
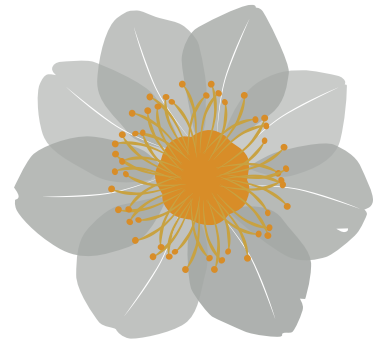
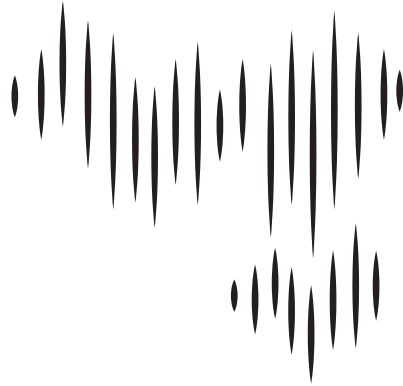
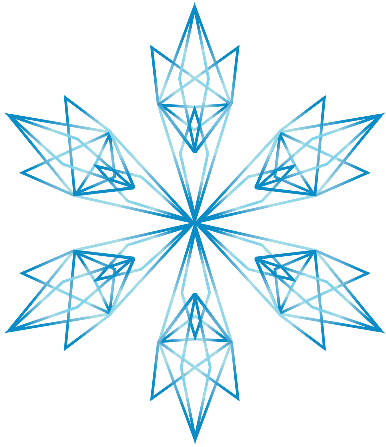
Principal writing and co-ordination of the background document and this charter was by Margaret Ferguson (NWTALA) with assistance from Karen LeGresley Hamre (NWTALA), Peter Briggs (NWTALA) and Alan Vaughan (NWTALA). It is with gratitude that comments and support was provided by Jean Landry (AAPQ), the lead coordinator of the Canadian Landscape Charter.

Graphic design services were provided by Corvus Design, Inc based on the template developed by Wendy Graham (AAPQ) for the series of Canadian Landscape Charter documents.

The illustrations created by Fanny Perras (snowflake) and Corvus Design, Inc. (all others) reflect iconic northern landscape typologies.

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*Northwest Territories Landscape Charter* | recognize, value, protect, plan and sustain northern landscapes.

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# NORTHWEST TERRITORIES LANDSCAPE CHARTER (NWTLC)

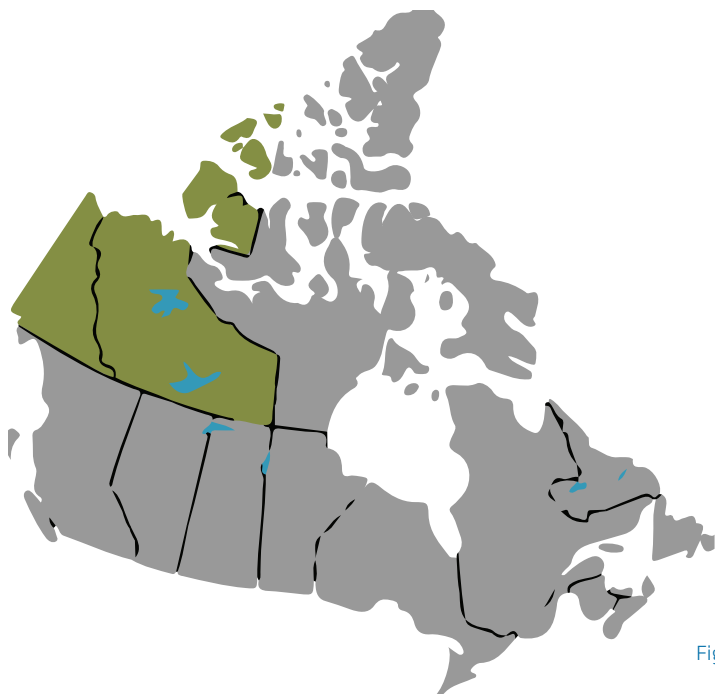


Figure 1 \_ NWTALA AMONG CSLA COMPONENT ASSOCIATIONS

## 1. PREAMBLE

Landscape architects are skilled at planning and designing outdoor spaces through the application of ecological, cultural, social and aesthetic principles. They respect and value the landscape and aim to protect, enhance and where needed, repair ecological processes. Landscape architects support holistic planning practices, apply design innovation and management solutions, and encourage participation and cooperation amongst allied professions and stakeholders throughout planning and design processes. Landscape architects design for the future and incorporate science-based research and traditional knowledge to achieve sustainable outcomes.

In the NWT, landscapes are the outdoor places where people live, work and play. They are a source of identity, enjoyment, inspiration and sustenance. Landscapes contribute to our sense of place, influence our perceptions and inspire residents and visitors alike. Landscapes are ingrained in Aboriginal culture and survival, and define our cultural heritage. Landscapes are also recognized as a vital resource that contribute to the economy through tourism and development.

The NWT Association of Landscape Architects (NWTALA) is one of nine component associations of the Canadian Association of Landscape Architects (CSLA) and a member of the International Federation of Landscape Architects (IFLA). The NWTALA has been an active association of professional members since 1991. We have contributed to studies, plans and constructed projects throughout North America both as project leaders and as part of inter-disciplinary teams. We believe that landscapes encompass terrestrial, freshwater, marine and air environments. Landscapes include urban and industrial areas, natural spaces, and cultural and spiritual places throughout the territory.

This landscape charter affirms our role and commitment to the recognition, valuation, protection, planning and sustainable design and management of the landscapes in which we live. It is an expression of the values that guide our practice and complements the Canadian Landscape Charter ratified by the CSLA and adopted by the NWTALA in 2015. Each of the following eight core values is supported by a practice philosophy that we strive to incorporate in our work.

## 2. NWTALA LANDSCAPE VALUES

*Aboriginal culture is closely tied to the land. NWT residents have an important relationship with the land and draw their spiritual and cultural identity from the landscape and its resources.*

The landscape architect has a responsibility to be sensitive to the Aboriginal cultures of the NWT, both in striving to understand those cultures and in communicating work to all residents of the NWT. They will endeavour to integrate cultural, social and traditional practices in land use and management design.

*Aboriginal peoples have used traditional knowledge and skills that have sustained and supported them for centuries. This traditional knowledge is recognized by all levels of government and is valued when resource management decisions are being considered.*

The landscape architect recognizes that the planning and development processes must respect and value traditional and local knowledge.

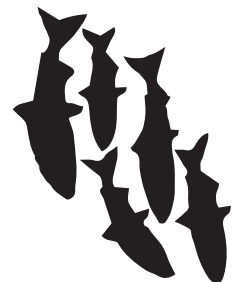
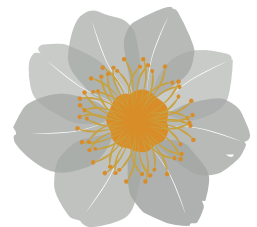
*In the NWT, we continue to have free-ranging species with extensive home and migratory ranges that cross borders. Wildlife is one of the main links between people and the landscape. Subsistence harvesting and ecotourism require a healthy environment.*

The landscape architect will exert every effort toward the preservation and protection of our natural environment and toward understanding the interaction of human economic and social systems with the environment.

The landscape architect will endeavour to take into account and protect the home and migratory ranges of all species.

*The NWT landscape is defined by its geography including the iconic landscapes of the tundra, the taiga and the cordillera ecoregions.*

The landscape architect has a responsibility to be sensitive to the varied landscapes of the NWT, striving to understand the ecosystems and to ensure sustainability of those systems.



*Environmental stewardship recognizes that people are an integral part of the environment.*

Landscape architects are accountable for their role in the responsible conservation and ecologically sustainable development of the biomes and resources. Land use decisions will be guided by the environmental stewardship principles of conservation and sustainable practices.

The landscape architect has a social and environmental responsibility to reconcile human needs and the natural environment with minimal disruption to the natural systems over the short and long term, and respect for the diversity of northern cultures.

*Significant ecosystem impacts are anticipated to plant and wildlife species due to climate change.*

The landscape architect will strive to incorporate the latest research and technologies to mitigate climate change impacts when considering changes to the natural environment.

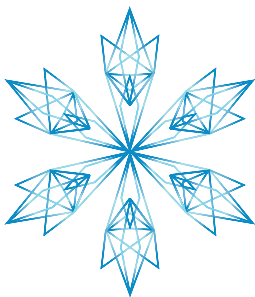
The landscape architect will endeavour to use design and construction methods that can adapt to, or even mitigate, climate change impacts.

*Distances between communities are vast; and some have no road access or access is limited to a brief period in the winter. Business services are often difficult to obtain and are costly. Of the 33 communities in the NWT, many are over 90% Aboriginal and only 6 have a population of more than 1,000.*

The landscape architect will adapt current best practices and standards appropriate to northern communities through research and consultation with community members.

*Seventy-five percent of the NWT population resides in the 6 communities with a population of more than 1,000. Well planned public and private green spaces and streetscape amenities are essential features of community development for the welfare, health and safety of its residents.*

The landscape architect will assist all levels of government (federal, Aboriginal, territorial and municipal) apply current planning standards, such as winter cities and smart growth principles in the progressive design of the urban environment.



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### 3. COMMITMENT TO THE LANDSCAPE CHARTER

Members of the NWTALA have adopted the Canadian Landscape Charter and the NWT Landscape Charter and thereby commit to the principles, values and practice philosophies contained therein.

Members of the NWTALA commit to an annual review of this Landscape Charter to reaffirm its use and utility respecting the practice of landscape architecture in the NWT. Further, NWTALA members commit to examining annually what can be done as an association to further advance the principles and values of the NWTALA Landscape Charter.



