



NORTHWEST TERRITORIES FLYING ASSOCIATION

Action Plan 2024-2025

Introduction

The Northwest Territories Flying Association (NWTFA) was formed in 2004 by local aviation enthusiasts who envisioned an organization which would support general aviation and air safety, showcase the rich aviation history of the Northwest Territories, and promote the region as an “aviation friendly” destination. NWTFA has become a prominent voice for private pilots, aircraft owners and supporters of general aviation and regularly engages in consultation and advocacy on matters impacting general aviation in the Northwest Territories.

NWTFA is affiliated with the Canadian Owners and Pilots Association which extends access to quality programs and provides the NWT’s general aviation community with a common voice relating to matters of mutual interest discussed at a national level.

In 2021, the NWTFA adopted a two-year Action Plan to support the objectives contained in its constitution. The purpose of the Action Plan is to identify priorities and establish clear direction for the executive and membership, evaluate progress concerning key initiatives, and provide an efficient means of soliciting the views of the general aviation community on current and future interests. Despite events outside NWTFA’s control between 2021 and 2023, such as COVID and wildfires, good progress has been made in key areas. This updated Action Plan is intended to guide NWTFA’s activities in 2024 and 2025 and provide a brief description of accomplishments over the past two years.



NWTFFA ACTION PLAN 2024-2025



Goal	Action	Measurement	Progress	Next Steps
<p>Foster increased interest in general aviation in NWT</p>	<p>Delivery of programming to introduce public to general aviation and aircraft ownership</p>	<p>Increased participation in and demand for training and services in the general aviation sector in NWT</p>	<p>In fall 2021, NWTFFA organized a fly-out luncheon for senior citizens.</p> <p>In 2022, NWTFFA amended its bylaws and name to better reflect the NWT's general aviation community as a whole. This resulted in increased membership and participation particularly from those operating wheel equipped aircraft.</p> <p>In summer 2023, NWTFFA partnered with the Prince of Wales Northern Heritage Centre to host a public slide show by Dominique Prinnet, author of "Flying to Extremes: Memories of a Northern Bush Pilot". This event was very well attended.</p>	<p>Utilizing COPA resources, a "Discover General Aviation" program will be developed for delivery in spring 2024 to help grow interest in general aviation. If successful, the program will also be delivered in future years.</p> <p>Further opportunities will be explored to involve seniors and youth in general aviation activities.</p>



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Goal	Action	Measurement	Progress	Next Steps
<p>Promote NWT as an attractive destination for general aviation</p>	<p>Provide information on travel routes, available resources, and local amenities and destinations</p>	<p>Increased itinerant traffic at local airports and waterdromes; increased traffic on NWTFFA website and/or growth in subscription to electronic newsletter</p>	<p>In 2022, NWTFFA was successful in securing grant funding for the acquisition of a visitor floatplane in Yellowknife. In summer 2023, the dock was placed in the water in Back Bay and made available for use through an online reservation system maintained by NWTFFA. User data will be collected to inform future decisions concerning need for additional visitor dock space.</p> <p>In spring 2023, a marketing campaign was launched by NWTFFA to promote the visitor dock and the region as an attractive aviation tourism destination.</p> <p>Due to COVID and wildfires, itinerant traffic was low between 2021 and 2023.</p>	<p>Advertising will continue in 2024 and 2025 to further promote the visitor dock and the region as an attractive aviation tourism destination.</p> <p>NWTFFA will continue to create and publish on-line information about NWT fly-in destinations of interest to southern aviators.</p> <p>Website content will be updated and amended using user and member feedback. Visitor suggestions will be conveyed to YZF Airport as appropriate.</p> <p>NWTFFA will encourage the GNWT and YZF Airport to improve web-based information available to aviation tourists and itinerant pilots.</p>



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	Improvement of sites and placement of amenities at remote lakes	Positive feedback from outdoor adventurers	<p>A clean-up at Lower Pensive Lake was completed in summer 2022, making the site an ideal destination for wilderness travellers. Details on this destination were added to the “Places To Fly” section on the NWTFFA website.</p> <p>A remote site clean-up was completed in 2023 at the North Arm Trailhead near Boundary Creek.</p>	<p>A remote clean-up will be planned for summer 2024.</p> <p>NWTFFA will continue to actively solicit information from members about new places to fly that can be shared through the website.</p>
Liaise with government and external agencies to provide effective advocacy on matters impacting general aviation in NWT	Solicit views of general aviation community on current issues	Positive feedback concerning effective communication; mutually acceptable resolution of issues	<p>NWTFFA executive met with YZF airport management in 2022 and 2023 on topics raised by members. Results were reported to members via newsletter.</p> <p>NWTFFA executive met with COPA’s Alberta/NWT regional director in July 2023 in Yellowknife to discuss COPA resources and NWTFFA interests.</p>	<p>NWTFFA will continue to liaise with Parks Canada and NavCanada on topics of mutual interest (examples: Aircraft access to Thaidene Nene National Park Reserve access; ADS-B). Takeaways and guidance will be reported to members.</p> <p>Input will be sought from members to help inform annual meetings with YZF airport managements in 2024 and 2025. Results will be reported to members.</p>
	Strive to resolve matters of common interest with NWT airports and related authorities			
	Serve as communications conduit between airports and related authorities and the general aviation community			



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Strengthen partnerships with other agencies and organizations	Liaise with tourism organizations and operators to promote aviation tourism	Increased visitation to NWT by visiting pilots	NWTFFA sponsored and organized a successful fly-out to Plummers Great Slave Lake Lodge during the 2023 Midnight Sun Fly In. Participants included both NWTFFA members and pilots/passengers of visiting aircraft.	NWTFFA has been in contact with two North Slave lodges to explore fly-out opportunities for members in 2024 and 2025. The goal is to include both float and wheel equipped aircraft. A poker rally involving several remote lodges will be considered for summer 2025.
	Encourage participation in search and rescue and other activities related to general aviation	Increased volunteerism and interaction between organizations	CASARA representatives attended the 2023 annual rust remover which included a seminar on air search and rescue. CASARA members also participated in NWTFFA fundraising events.	CASARA will be invited to participate in the 2024 “Discover General Aviation” program to educate participants on civil air search and rescue activities and opportunities.
Advocate for adequate resources for general aviation in NWT	Seek opportunities to improve availability of general aviation services including parking, fuel and maintenance	Feedback from local and visiting pilots; increased visitation to NWT via private aircraft	In 2022, an alternative bulk 100LL source was secured in response to Bassett Petroleum exiting the field. NWTFFA continued efforts to advocate for private hangar land lease opportunities and electrical power on the Kilo Apron at the YZF airport. Progress has been slow	NWTFFA will survey members in 2024 concerning current and future resource needs that the Association may be able to assist with. NWTFFA will also continue to advocate for inclusion of general aviation in the



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			<p>allegedly due to the pending YZF Airport Master Plan.</p> <p>Inquiries regarding status of the Master Plan have been made to territorial politicians on several occasions over the past 2 years, including during the fall 2023 territorial election.</p>	<p>pending YZF Airport Master Plan.</p>
<p>Maximize aviation safety by building skills and awareness among the public and general aviation community</p>	<p>Facilitate delivery of safety programming to aviation enthusiasts and the public through events such as water egress and recurrent pilot training</p>	<p>Healthy participation in available programming and quality feedback on future needs</p>	<p>Pilot training “<i>Rust Removers</i>” qualifying for the requisite two-year Transport Canada recurrent training requirement were provided to members in 2022 and 2023. The 2023 event included two SmartPilot seminars focused on search and rescue and critical piloting skills during takeoff and landing.</p> <p>An aircraft underwater egress course was delivered to members in winter 2023 and generated good participation.</p> <p>Fundraising in 2022 and 2023 produced good results, providing financial resources</p>	<p>Discussion is underway with Transport Canada (TC) which is interested in participating in the 2024 spring rust remover in a training capacity. TC has been advised that pilot decision-making is a topic of interest.</p> <p>Members will be surveyed in 2024 to determine future education and training interests.</p>



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			to help fund future recurrent training for members. Members will be asked to inform future decisions in this regard.	
Assist in communication of rules and regulations impacting general aviation in NWT	Utilize NWTFA website to convey helpful information to local and visiting pilots.	Positive feedback on information provided through website and newsletter	NWTFA published aviation - related COVID and wildfire related guidelines on its website between 2021 and 2023.	NWTFA will maintain a one-stop general aviation portal on its website that provides easy access to information that assists in planning a visit to the NWT.

Additional Information

As with any action plan, it is important for the general aviation community and public to remain engaged on current and future initiatives and we therefore encourage your feedback. An electronic copy and future updates of the Action Plan will be made available on the NWTFA website at. <https://www.flyingnwt.com/>.