



Government of
Northwest Territories Gouvernement des
Territoires du Nord-Ouest

2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework

DRAFT 2025-2029 ACTION PLAN FOR PUBLIC
ENGAGEMENT

October - November | 2024

Cadre stratégique sur le changement climatique des TNO pour 2030

ÉBAUCHE DU PLAN D'ACTION 2025-2029 POUR LES
ÉCHANGES AVEC LE PUBLIC

Octobre - novembre | 2024

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Introduction to the Draft Action Plan

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) is developing the 2025-2029 NWT Climate Change Action Plan (Action Plan) to support the implementation of the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework (Framework), the GNWT's long term plan to address climate change.

Northwest Territories (NWT) residents are increasingly navigating and building resilience to the impacts of a changing climate. Climate change-influenced extreme weather events led to significant flooding in NWT communities in 2021, 2022, and 2023, while drought conditions contributed to a wildfire season that caused the evacuation of nearly two thirds of NWT residents in 2023. The 2023 wildfires had a devastating impact on several communities and strained supply chains across the entire territory. Sustained smoky conditions from wildfires impacted air quality and likely health. Although not accounted for in Canada's GHG emission calculations, smoke from wildfires in 2023 contributed 277 times more greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions¹ to the atmosphere than the NWT's annual human-caused emissions.

Further, the economic impacts of many cargo barges being cancelled in both 2023 and 2024 due to historic low water levels have been significant. Two subsequent years of the cancellation of some barge services to NWT communities that are not accessible by all-season road has created supply chain issues around the delivery of fuel, dry goods, food, construction materials, and machinery. Low water levels influenced hydropower generation, nearly cutting by half the amount of hydroelectricity available in one of the NWT's two hydropower grids. Warming temperatures are making for shorter winter road seasons in the NWT, reducing the window available to resupply NWT communities that are otherwise accessible only by plane. These impacts, in addition to record low water levels, drought conditions, and wildfire threats continued across much of the NWT during the drafting of this Action Plan. The need to act on climate change is clear.

This draft Action Plan is linked to the Mandate Priorities of the 20th Legislative Assembly of the Government of the Northwest Territories. Climate change linkages to Mandate Priorities include:

- Sustainable housing resilient to climate change
- A resilient economy and strong economic foundation
- Supporting community health and wellness²
- Enhancing emergency management

The Northwest Territories is committed to addressing the impacts of climate change and doing its part to reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions that contribute to climate change. With a large landmass and a small and spread-out population, meaningful adaptation and mitigation action will require focused and coordinated effort across community, territorial and federal levels of government, including community governments, Indigenous governments, and Indigenous organizations, as well as non-government organizations

(NGOs). Much work has been done over the past three years to inform the contents of this draft Action Plan in collaboration with these partners. See Appendix B for a full list of partners referenced in the draft Action Plan. The actions in the draft Action Plan have been informed by the initiatives listed below, including:

- Recommendations from an [**Independent Evaluation**](#) of the Climate Change Strategic Framework and previous 2019-2023 Action Plan, informed by interviews with numerous NWT partners.
- The results of the first **NWT Climate Change Risks and Opportunities Assessment** that identifies the most pressing climate change risks and prioritizes adaptation options. The Assessment was fully informed by a two-year engagement process with partners, including a public survey, two conferences, and five thematic workshops.
- Inputs from the **NWT Climate Change Council** and the **NWT Climate Change Youth Council**.
- [**Feedback**](#) received during a public **review of the Climate Change Strategic Framework and Energy Strategy**, that included a three-day gathering in July 2023 on emissions reduction, clean energy, and climate change that brought together nearly 150 participants from across the NWT.

What is the NWT Climate Change Council and the Climate Youth Council?

The NWT Climate Change Council is a forum for the sharing of information, collaboration, and engagement between non-elected staff of Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, representatives of NWT communities and the GNWT, with input from NWT stakeholders such as non-government organizations and industry. The Council provides guidance and advice to inform and advance GNWT climate change and environment programs in alignment with Indigenous government and organizations, and community perspectives, interests, and knowledge. Further, the Council provides an opportunity to build and strengthen relationships, shared understandings, and trust, which supports the GNWT's commitment to implement the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).

The Climate Change Council met in February 2024 to inform shared NWT climate action priorities. Their input guided the drafting of the 2025-2029 NWT Climate Change Action Plan, and they have expressed the desire to enable and guide coordination and collaboration for climate change action in the NWT. This coordination role provides an opportunity to build on and strengthen relationships, shared understandings, and trust.

The Climate Change Youth Council (CCYC) brings together the critical perspectives of youth from all NWT regions and provides input and advice to the NWT Climate Change Council on all matters pertaining to climate change.

The goals of the Climate Change Youth Council are to understand key climate-related issues and challenges, develop youth priorities, and empower its group members to influence and mobilize other youth to act. CCYC goals also include amplifying the voices of NWT youth to influence policy and action by decision-makers; and overall, to build the capacity, experience, and networks of engaged youth to be the next generation of NWT climate leaders. See the [NWT Climate Change Council website](#) for more information on the Council and its members: gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/services/climate-change/climate-change-council

Many things make Canada and the world a different place from 2019, when the NWT's first 2019-2023 Climate Change Action Plan was released. Canada has developed a strengthened climate change plan that includes enhanced emissions reduction targets and a commitment to achieve net-zero GHG emissions by 2050. A National Adaptation Strategy has also been developed to help “mobilize resources, identify gaps, and tailor the most effective local solutions” for climate change adaptation. These federal initiatives have an increased focus on increasing capacity for Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations to advance their climate change planning and action. The 2025-2029 draft Action Plan acknowledges these changes and indicates where there is alignment with these broader federal initiatives to support further collaboration and resource sharing between the NWT and Canada. See Appendix C for a list of potential funding sources for this Action Plan.

The NWT's climate will continue to warm and change in the coming decades. The NWT needs a coordinated approach to address these challenges, maintain a healthy environment and resilient economy, and ensure that people and communities are prepared to take action and adapt where needed. Despite its small population and limited resources, the NWT will continue to advocate nationally and internationally to highlight the significant climate change impacts felt in the territory. By implementing the 2025-2029 NWT Climate Change Action Plan, sharing powerful accounts of climate change impacts in the North, and valuing traditional, Indigenous, local, and scientific knowledge in our work, the NWT will demonstrate leadership in taking climate change action.

Présentation de l'ébauche du plan d'action

Le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (GTNO) élabore actuellement le plan d'action 2025-2029, sur lequel reposera la mise en œuvre du Cadre stratégique sur le changement climatique des TNO pour 2030, le plan à long terme du GTNO pour lutter contre le changement climatique.

Les habitants des Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO) sont de plus en plus nombreux à essayer de gérer les effets d'un climat changeant et à s'adapter à la situation. Les phénomènes météorologiques extrêmes, que le changement climatique influence, ont provoqué d'importantes inondations dans les collectivités ténoises en 2021, 2022 et 2023, tandis que des conditions de sécheresse ont contribué à une saison de feux de forêt qui a entraîné l'évacuation de près des deux tiers de la population du territoire en 2023. Les feux de forêt de 2023 ont eu un impact dévastateur sur plusieurs collectivités et ont mis à rude épreuve les chaînes d'approvisionnement sur l'ensemble du territoire. La fumée persistante des feux de forêt a nui à la qualité de l'air et probablement à la santé. Bien qu'elle ne soit pas prise en compte dans le calcul des émissions des gaz à effet de serre (GES) du Canada, la fumée des feux de forêt de 2023 a produit 277 fois plus de GES dans l'atmosphère que les émissions générées par les activités humaines sur une année aux TNO³.

Par ailleurs, les conséquences économiques de l'annulation de nombreuses barges de transport de marchandises en 2023 et 2024 en raison d'une diminution record des niveaux d'eau ont été importantes. L'annulation pendant deux années consécutives de certains services de transport par barges vers les collectivités ténoises qui ne sont pas accessibles par une route toutes saisons a perturbé la chaîne d'approvisionnement en carburant, en cargaison sèche, en denrées alimentaires, en matériaux de construction et en équipement. Les faibles niveaux d'eau ont affecté la production d'hydroélectricité, réduisant presque de moitié la quantité d'hydroélectricité disponible dans l'un des deux réseaux des TNO. La hausse des températures écourtée la saison des routes d'hiver aux TNO, ce qui réduit les possibilités de réapprovisionnement des collectivités qui sont alors seulement accessibles par avion. Ces effets, auxquels s'ajoutent des niveaux d'eau historiquement bas, des conditions de sécheresse et des risques de feux de forêt, ont continué de se faire sentir dans une grande partie des TNO pendant la rédaction de ce plan d'action. La nécessité d'agir contre le changement climatique est évidente.

Cette ébauche du plan d'action est en adéquation avec les priorités du mandat de la 20^e Assemblée législative du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest et comprend notamment :

- Des logements durables et résistants au changement climatique
- Une économie résiliente et des bases économiques solides
- Le soutien de la santé et du bien-être communautaire⁴
- L'amélioration de la gestion des urgences

Les Territoires du Nord-Ouest sont déterminés à s'attaquer aux effets du changement climatique et à faire leur part pour réduire et atténuer les émissions de gaz à effet de serre qui contribuent au changement climatique. La masse terrestre des TNO est importante et sa population est faible et dispersée. Pour prendre des mesures d'adaptation et d'atténuation intéressantes, il faudra cibler et coordonner les efforts des différents ordres de gouvernement communautaire, territorial et fédéral, notamment les administrations communautaires, les

gouvernements et les organisations autochtones, ainsi que les organisations non gouvernementales (ONG). Au cours des trois dernières années, un travail considérable a été réalisé en collaboration avec ces partenaires pour étayer le contenu de cette ébauche de plan d'action. La liste complète des partenaires mentionnés dans l'ébauche figure à l'annexe B. Les actions prévues dans cette ébauche s'appuient sur les initiatives suivantes :

- Des recommandations formulées à la suite d'une **évaluation indépendante** du cadre stratégique sur le changement climatique et du précédent plan d'action 2019-2023, qui s'appuie sur des entretiens avec de nombreux partenaires des TNO.
- Les résultats de la première **évaluation des risques et des possibilités liés au changement climatique aux TNO**, qui présente les risques les plus alarmants liés au changement climatique et hiérarchise les options d'adaptation. L'évaluation est le fruit d'un processus d'échanges de deux ans avec les partenaires, comprenant un sondage de l'opinion publique, deux conférences et cinq ateliers thématiques.
- L'avis du **Conseil sur le changement climatique des TNO** et du **Conseil jeunesse sur le changement climatique des TNO**.
- **Des commentaires** recueillis dans le cadre d'un **examen public du cadre stratégique sur le changement climatique et de la stratégie énergétique**, qui a rassemblé 150 Ténois sur trois jours en juillet 2023 pour se pencher sur la réduction des émissions, l'énergie propre et le changement climatique.

Que sont le Conseil sur le changement climatique des TNO et le Conseil jeunesse sur le changement climatique?

Le Conseil sur le changement climatique des TNO est un forum consacré au partage d'informations, à la collaboration et aux échanges entre le personnel non élu des gouvernements et des organismes autochtones, les représentants des collectivités ténoises et le GTNO, avec la contribution d'intervenants ténois, tels que des organisations non gouvernementales et des membres de l'industrie. Le Conseil formule des recommandations pour élaborer et faire avancer les programmes sur le changement climatique et l'environnement du GTNO, en respectant les points de vue, les intérêts et les connaissances des collectivités ainsi que des gouvernements et des organismes autochtones. De plus, il permet de développer et de renforcer les relations, les compréhensions communes et la confiance, ce qui appuie l'engagement du GTNO à travailler à la mise en œuvre de la Déclaration des Nations Unies sur les droits des peuples autochtones.

Le Conseil sur le changement climatique s'est réuni en février 2024 pour travailler sur des priorités communes pour lutter contre le changement climatique. Ses recommandations ont guidé la rédaction du plan d'action 2025-2029 des TNO sur le changement climatique. Il a également exprimé le souhait de faciliter et de guider la coordination et la collaboration pour lutter contre le changement climatique aux TNO. Ce rôle de coordination est l'occasion de développer et de renforcer les relations, la compréhension commune et la confiance.

Le Conseil jeunesse sur le changement climatique des TNO (CJCC) rassemble les perspectives critiques des jeunes de toutes les régions des TNO et fournit des informations et des conseils au Conseil sur le changement climatique des TNO sur toutes les questions liées au changement climatique.

Ses objectifs sont de comprendre les principaux problèmes et défis liés au climat, de définir les priorités des jeunes et de donner à ses membres les moyens d'influencer et de mobiliser d'autres jeunes pour les inciter à agir. Il vise également à amplifier les voix des jeunes des TNO afin d'influencer la politique et les actions des décideurs, et globalement, de renforcer les

capacités, d'acquérir de l'expérience et de construire des réseaux de jeunes motivés pour être la prochaine génération de leaders climatiques des TNO. Consultez le [site web du Conseil sur le changement climatique des TNO](#) pour plus d'informations sur le Conseil et ses membres : <https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/fr/services/changements-climatiques/conseil-sur-le-changement-climatique>

De nombreux éléments font que le Canada et le monde sont différents de 2019, l'année où le premier plan d'action sur le changement climatique 2019-2023 des TNO a été publié. Le Canada a élaboré un plan renforcé de lutte contre le changement climatique, qui comprend des objectifs plus importants de réduction des émissions et l'engagement de parvenir à des émissions nettes de GES nulles d'ici 2050. Une Stratégie nationale d'adaptation a également été élaborée pour contribuer à mobiliser les ressources, repérer les lacunes et trouver les solutions locales les plus efficaces pour s'adapter au changement climatique. Ces initiatives fédérales mettent davantage l'accent sur le renforcement de la capacité des gouvernements et des organisations autochtones à faire progresser leur planification et leur action en matière de changement climatique. L'ébauche du plan d'action 2025-2029 tient compte de ces changements et présente les éléments en adéquation avec ces initiatives fédérales plus vastes afin de favoriser la collaboration et le partage des ressources entre les TNO et le gouvernement du Canada. L'annexe C contient une liste des sources de financement potentielles pour ce plan d'action.

Le climat des TNO va continuer à se réchauffer et à changer au cours des prochaines décennies. Les TNO ont besoin d'une approche coordonnée pour relever ces défis, maintenir un environnement sain et une économie résiliente, et veiller à ce que sa population et ses collectivités soient prêtes à prendre des mesures et à s'adapter si nécessaire. Malgré leur faible population et leurs ressources limitées, les TNO continueront à mener des actions de sensibilisation à l'échelle nationale et internationale afin de mettre en évidence les effets importants du changement climatique sur son territoire. En mettant en œuvre le plan d'action 2025-2029 des TNO sur le changement climatique, en présentant des témoignages poignants sur les effets du changement climatique dans le Nord et en valorisant les connaissances traditionnelles, autochtones, locales et scientifiques dans notre travail, nous ferons preuve de leadership dans l'adoption de mesures de lutte contre le changement climatique.

Our Approach

The Vision, Guiding Principles, and Goals of the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework have guided the development of this draft Action Plan. The Vision, Principles and Goals will be further reviewed as a part of the engagement on this draft Plan.

Vision

By 2030, the NWT will enjoy a strong, healthy economy that is less dependent on fossil fuels (compared to 2005) and will have developed the knowledge, tools, and measures needed to increase resilience and adapt to the changing northern climate.

CCSF Guiding Principles

- Taking Action
- Meeting Climate Change Commitments
- Sharing Responsibility for Taking Action
- Strengthening Collaboration
- Respecting Aboriginal and Treaty Rights
- Using Traditional, Local, and Scientific Knowledge
- Being Transparent and Accountable

CCSF Goals

The 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework (Framework) sets out three goals for achieving the Vision:

Goal #1: Transition to a lower carbon economy that uses less fossil fuel, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions (GHGs) by 30% below 2005 levels by 2030 (*under review - see action 1.3*).

Goal #2: Improve knowledge of climate change impacts occurring in the NWT.

Goal #3: Build resilience and adapt to a changing climate.

Actions

The Action Plan highlights these goals in three different ways

- Goal #1 actions are displayed together.
- Goals 2 and 3 actions, are very interconnected, and as such, actions for these goals are described together under six adaptation themes. Five themes were identified in the NWT Climate Change Risk and Opportunities Assessment and are further explained on page 14.
- Cross-Cutting Actions acknowledging the importance of leadership, communication and capacity that supports all three goals, and addressing vulnerabilities that can span multiple adaptation themes

Each action in this Action Plan identifies the Goal(s) it advances.

This draft Action Plan identifies 34 '**NWT Priority Actions**' that will focus territorial efforts over the next 5 years along with 120 GNWT actions to advance the NWT Priority Actions. The GNWT actions include both funded and unfunded actions that will be prioritized as funding is secured over the course of this Action Plan.

Engagement

Stakeholder and public engagement throughout 2024 on the draft Action Plan will further inform the final Action Plan to be released in early 2025. The Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC), as the lead GNWT department for climate change, oversees the development and implementation of the Action Plan, including engagement, and coordinates progress reporting on a regular basis. Engagement opportunities on this draft Action Plan include public input through the *Have Your Say* website, engagement with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations, and a two-day gathering of Climate Change Advisory Group Partners in Fall 2024.

What is the Climate Change Advisory Group?

The Climate Change Advisory Group (CCAG) gathers organizations and people from across the NWT with an interest, expertise, and stake in climate change action. It includes the NWT Climate Change Council and NWT Climate Change Youth Council. This gathering happens annually to share information, discuss solutions, and advance collective action on climate change in the NWT.

Partners

As outlined in the Framework, the responsibility for taking action on climate change is shared by all of NWT society. Alignment and collaboration between NWT partners enable coordinated and comprehensive action on climate change and more effective access to funding and capacity resources.

Many Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations across the North are proactive in identifying climate change action priorities. For instance, the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation has developed and is implementing the [Inuvialuit Settlement Region Climate Change Strategy](#). The North Slave Métis Alliance is working with its membership to identify their climate adaptation priorities, to inform the co-development process of the federal [Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative](#). Many other Indigenous governments are in the process of developing their own similar strategies and pathways shaped by their unique needs and priorities. The GNWT will continue to work with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations where our climate change priorities and actions are aligned.

Partners have an integral role in addressing NWT priority climate change actions. Appendix A, which will be developed based on the results of upcoming engagement, will capture the breadth of climate change actions being undertaken by all partners across the NWT. While local and regional priorities will vary, NWT Priority Actions captured in this Action Plan are intended to guide collaboration among partners to acquire funding and establish partnerships.

During this engagement period, the GNWT is seeking input on work that it should prioritize to support partner-led climate action. The final Action Plan will reflect partner links and responsibilities related to the listed climate actions, and highlight the important work being done by others in the NWT. This has been started in Appendix A.

Key partners in the implementation of the Action Plan include:

- NWT Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations
- NWT Community governments and community organizations
- Government of Canada
- NWT Co-management boards

- Non-government organizations
- Industry
- Academic institutions and researchers

See Appendix B for a full list of partners and associated acronyms referred to in this document.

Goal 1: Transition to a Lower Carbon Economy

The NWT is continually working towards reducing its greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, in alignment with Goal 1 of the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework. A low carbon economy is one that uses fewer fossil fuels and more renewable energy, with the goal of producing fewer GHG emissions. In addition, land-based GHG emissions including those from wildfires and permafrost thaw are significant in the NWT and must be addressed, to the extent possible.

In July 2023, the GNWT hosted a three-day engagement event in Yellowknife to gather feedback on the NWT's energy and emissions reduction future, and on climate change. A comprehensive [What We Heard Report](#) from that event is now available online.

Interconnected Initiatives

While this Action Plan is intrinsically linked with the implementation of the Climate Change Strategic Framework, [Energy Strategy](#) and the NWT approach to carbon pricing, this document does not include specific actions defined within those initiatives. Actions to reduce NWT's GHG emissions related to energy systems are included within the Energy Strategy Action Plan (renewed every three years) and the [NWT approach to carbon pricing](#) (introduced in 2019 and currently set at \$80 per tonne of GHG emissions). These two policies contribute significantly to meeting Goal #1 of the Climate Change Strategic Framework through mitigation of greenhouse gases (GHGs). The GNWT Departments of Environment and Climate Change, Infrastructure, and Finance will continue to work collaboratively to ensure coordination and implementation of these three interconnected initiatives. A joint initiative to review the NWT's GHG target and prioritize actions to reduce GHG emissions in the NWT (through the Energy Strategy and Climate Change Strategic Framework) is underway and is captured as an action in this Action Plan.



Actions: Transition to a Lower Carbon Economy						
Transition to a strong, healthy economy that uses less fossil fuel, thereby reducing greenhouse gas emissions.						
NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners			Resources	Status
1. Transition to a lower carbon economy.	INF, ECC, FIN, ITI, EIA, MACA, Housing NWT	1.1. Implement actions and initiatives outlined in the Energy Strategy , and associated action plans.	Partially Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1	
	FIN, ECC, INF	1.2. Continue implementing NWT approach to federal Carbon Pricing	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1	
	ECC-CCU, INF, ITI, FIN, EIA, IGIO	1.3. Review and update NWT greenhouse gas emission reduction targets.	Funded	Initiated	1	
	ECC-FM	1.4. Increase carbon sequestration from NWT forests through enhanced silviculture including planting trees and vegetation by evaluating and selecting areas that have not returned to forest after disturbances.	Partially Funded	Initiated, funding ending 24/25	1	
	ECC-WRM	1.5. Develop a GNWT greening government strategy to advance the NWT Waste Resource Management Strategy and Action Plan, and reduce GHG emissions, energy and water use, and solid waste.	Funded	2027-2028	1	
	ECC-WRM, FIN, INF, EIA	1.6. Identify resources and coordinate the implementation of the GNWT greening government strategy.	Funded	2028-2029 and Ongoing	1	
	ECC-FM	1.7. Enable regional forest harvesting of fuelwood and biomass to replace fossil fuels, for personal dwellings and district heating.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	3	

NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners	Resources	Status	Goal 1,2,3
2. Identify and advance opportunities for biological and geological carbon sequestration, including opportunities to benefit from carbon offset programs.	ECC-CCU, ECC-Wildlife, ECC-FM, ECC-CSL, ITI	2.1 Develop the NWT Landscape (biological) Carbon Management Road Map towards managing and mitigating landscape carbon emissions inclusive of the potential to leverage carbon offsets.	Funded	2025-2026 and ongoing	1,2,3
	ECC-CCU, ECC-Wildlife, ECC-FM, ECC-CSL, ITI	2.2 Secure resources and implement the Landscape (biological) Carbon Management Roadmap	Unfunded	Not initiated, ongoing	1,2,3
	ITI	2.3 Identify potential formations within the NWT's Mackenzie Delta with commercial carbon storage potential.	Funded	Initiated	1
3. Identify and enhance opportunities for tracking of GHG emissions.	ECC-CCU, ECC-FM, INF	3.1 Calculate NWT emissions and compare them to the annual federal National Inventory Report and recommend improvements.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1
	ECC-CCU	3.2 Report GHG emissions generated by the GNWT and identify and advance opportunities to enhance and refine reporting.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1
4. Track, monitor and mitigate emissions from landfills	ECC-EPWM, MACA	4.1 Facilitate monitoring of methane emissions from the Yellowknife landfill to inform the best methodology to reduce landfill emissions.	Unfunded	Not initiated	1,2

Goal 2 & 3 – Increasing Knowledge and Building Resilience to Adapt to Climate Change

The Actions that follow address the following to Goals from the 2030 Climate Change Strategic Framework and have been informed by the NWT Climate Change Risks and Opportunities Assessment.

Goal 2: Increase our Knowledge of Climate Change Impacts

Addressing current climate change impacts and predicting future impacts requires increased and well-managed knowledge of changes to the natural environment, human health, public safety, culture and heritage, and infrastructure. The NWT is experiencing many changes and impacts due to a rapidly warming climate; however, many knowledge gaps need to be better understood and addressed. Overarching action areas required to improve climate change knowledge include the planning, management, and use of information, along with enhanced research and monitoring networks. Using the best available information to improve the understanding of current and future impacts of climate change based on traditional, Indigenous, local, and scientific knowledge will be paramount.

Goal 3: Build Resilience and Adapt to a Changing Climate

Integrating or “mainstreaming” climate change considerations into plans, policies, operational practices, and management functions is vitally important. Results obtained from the research and monitoring work outlined under Goal #2 will be used to better adapt to, and build resilience to, climate change related impacts already occurring, and those yet to come. Where impacts are already evident and understood, focused adaptation efforts are underway. The NWT Climate Change Risks and Opportunities Assessment highlights five values that Northerners told us were important to them to be resilient to our changing climate.

NWT Climate Change Risks and Opportunities Assessment

The NWT Climate Change Risks and Opportunities Assessment (ROA) developed a shared understanding of the most pressing climate risks that NWT residents and communities are facing in the next five years. It outlines shared climate adaptation priorities, showing where better collaboration, coordination, and pooling of resources could lead to meaningful and impactful adaptation and preparedness for a changing climate.

The ROA is the outcome of a two-year engagement across the NWT with residents, community governments, Indigenous governments, Indigenous organizations, and the Government of Canada, as well as representatives from non-government organizations, youth, and academic institutions and researchers through the engagement activities listed below. Representatives from the NWT Climate Change Council and NWT Climate Change Youth Council were also involved in the engagement and provided guidance.

Key engagement activities included:

- A public survey conducted in November and December 2022.
- The first and second NWT Climate Change Advisory Group (CCAG) Gatherings held in October 2022 and July 2023
- A series of five thematic workshops held in March 2023

- A climate hazard-specific survey in 2023 for subject matter experts

During the ROA engagement process, five Values for Climate Resilience that matter the most to NWT residents were identified. These values were used to evaluate the impacts of climate change and identify the most concerning climate risks, which are the risks that have the highest potential to threaten these Values for Climate Resilience.

NWT Adaptation Themes

	<p>Ecosystems (Land, Water and Wildlife)</p> <p>The Ecosystem Value for Climate Resilience refers to thriving NWT ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods. Under this Value, biodiversity is strong, ecosystems are stable and resilient to change, and animals, plants, water, and air are healthy. Climate change driven impacts on the rate and magnitude of permafrost thaw (slumping), hydrological changes (droughts and floods), and wildfire (extreme wildfire behavior) can have significant impacts on NWT ecosystems. The following are actions to address these risks and support ecosystem health.</p>		<p>Connection to the Land and Culture</p> <p>The Connection to the Land and Culture Value means that Indigenous knowledge, culture, and identity are held strong and passed to new generations. NWT residents connect with, access, and experience, the land in ways that are meaningful to them. Under this Value, traditional livelihoods, community belonging, historical and spiritual connection to the land, and intergenerational knowledge transfer are strong. Climate risks like less predictable weather and ice conditions are affecting the ability of people to safely access the land. In addition, culturally important places and heritage sites are being threatened by thawing permafrost, wildfires, erosion, sea-level rise, and flooding. The following are actions to address these risks and support residents' connection to the land and culture.</p>
	<p>Health and Well-Being</p> <p>The Health and Well-Being Value means that the health and well-being of NWT residents are strong, and their communities are safe and sustainable. Under this Value, residents have robust mental and physical health, their communities are stable and resilient to climate change impacts, and traditional food systems and ways of life are preserved. Climate risks like community evacuations due to flooding and fire, increased exposure to wildfire smoke, and disruption to food supply chains are potential threats to the health and well-being of NWT residents. The</p>		<p>Infrastructure and Access to Essential Services</p> <p>The Infrastructure and Access to Essential Services Value means that NWT communities and residents have access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable essential services and infrastructure. This is represented by robust transportation, housing, energy, and communication infrastructure, which make essential services accessible. Under this value, NWT roads, buildings, power plants, shipping/barging lanes, supply chains, and telecommunications towers and lines are in good condition. Climate risks like low water levels for supply barging, shorter frozen seasons for ice roads, and wildfires impacting telecommunications infrastructure are all threatening the NWT's infrastructure and access to essential services. The following are actions to</p>

	<p>following are actions to address these risks and support residents' health and well-being.</p>		<p>address these risks and support the NWT's infrastructure and access to essential services, energy, and telecommunication.</p>
	<p>Business and Economy</p> <p>The Business and Economy Value refers to economic self-sufficiency that promotes a positive economic environment in the NWT for both profit-based and traditional economic activities. Climate risks like extreme weather events (wildfires, flooding) are increasingly costly to NWT businesses as they are linked to revenue losses, property damages, insurance rate increases, and supply shortages. The following are actions to address these risks and support the NWT's businesses and economy.</p>		

These Values provided a reference to assess the impacts of various climate hazards that helped us identify the most concerning climate risks – those that have the highest potential to threaten the NWT's climate resilience. Seven groups of climate change hazards were identified during the ROA engagement process: climate and weather changes; vegetation and wildlife changes; freshwater changes; marine and coastal changes; wildfire; permafrost thaw; and river erosion. Based on these hazards, the greatest climate change risks in the NWT were identified and are listed in the 'Risk Summary' at top of each action table below. Through engagement, the actions in this Action Plan were identified as high priority to address these risks over the timeframe of this Action Plan.

 <h2 style="text-align: center;">Actions: Ecosystems (Land, Water, Wildlife)</h2> <p style="text-align: center;">NWT ecosystems and sustainable livelihoods are thriving.</p>						
Risk Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permafrost thaw is changing NWT landscapes. • NWT biodiversity is impacted by warming temperatures, changing precipitation patterns, and extreme weather. • The quality and quantity of water in the NWT are being impacted by climate change. • Longer and intense wildfire seasons are likely to alter NWT landscapes, vegetation, and wildlife habitat. 					
ECOSYSTEMS: NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners			Resources	Status
5. Assess how climate change affects water quality and quantity of lakes, rivers and oceans.	ECC-WMS	5.1 Continue to conduct long-term monitoring of the NWT's water resources in support of understanding the impacts of climate change on NWT waters in alignment with the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy.		Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2
	ECC-WMS	5.2 Improve our understanding of the influence of climate change impacts (e.g. permafrost thaw and increasing wildfire) on water quality and hydrology by assessing long-term trends in the aquatic environment in collaboration with researchers and publish journal articles and status and trend reports to disseminate results.		Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2
	ECC-WMS	5.3 Develop hydrological models for select basins to help better understand, predict, and manage water resources in the context of a changing climate, and report on modeled hydrological impacts.		Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2
6. Research trends and patterns of wildfires and other landscape disturbances impacted by climate change, including their causes and impacts on ecosystems and communities.	ECC-FM	6.1 Complete and report on annual regional forest health surveys, assessing the impact of climate change on the distribution of forest pests and disturbance.		Partially Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2
	ECC-FM	6.2 Monitor and report on changes to forest growth, productivity, health and regeneration after natural and human-caused disturbances in the context of climate change to inform forest management decision making.		Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2
	ECC-FM	6.3 Conduct an assessment and report on changing wildfire conditions, including the spread of embers to inform adaptation planning and emergency management in communities.		Unfunded	Not initiated	2

	ITI-NTGS, ECC-CCU	6.4 Continue to map the nature and distribution of thaw sensitive permafrost terrain at a territory-wide scale to identify areas of vulnerability to permafrost thaw across NWT ecosystems.	Partially funded	Initiated, ongoing	2
ECOSYSTEMS: NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners	Resources	Status	(Goal 1,2,3)
7. Continue the implementation of the conservation network, incorporating climate change into the design and planning.	ECC- CSL	7.1 Collaborate with Indigenous governments, in developing and maintaining long-term ecosystem monitoring programs for Territorial Protected Areas, advancing the Healthy Land, Healthy People Plan in support of increased climate resiliency and adaptation.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2
	ECC-CSL	7.2 Incorporate climate change as a key priority into Thaidene Nëné, Ts'udé Niliné Tuyeta and future protected areas management plans.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1,2,3
8. Research and monitoring of wildlife populations and habitats to understand climate change impacts and inform management actions.	ECC-Wildlife ECC-CSL	8.1 Model, map and assess the impacts of climate change on mammal distributions and abundance and report on findings.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2
	ECC-Wildlife	8.2 Implement existing wildlife management plans and recovery strategies for species on the NWT species at risk list and continue to incorporate climate change to inform decision-makers.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2
	ECC-Wildlife	8.3 Re-initiate the NWT Pests, Pathogens and Invasive Species Council to increase awareness and action to mitigate the impacts of invasive species and pathogens.	Unfunded	Not initiated	2
	ECC-Wildlife, ECC-CSL	8.4 Assess and report on climate change refugia, landscape connectivity, and the related impacts on species as the climate changes.	Unfunded	Initiated, ongoing	2
	ECC-CIMP	8.5 Continue conducting cumulative impacts research and monitoring of fish, caribou and water as outlined in the current action plan and publish completed project summaries annually.	Funded	Ongoing	2

	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Actions: Connection to the Land and Culture</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">Indigenous knowledge, culture and identity are valued and passed to new generations. NWT residents connect with and experience the land in ways that are meaningful to them.</p>					
Risk Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Less predictable weather conditions and ice conditions are affecting people's ability to access the land safely. • Climate change is having profound impacts on Indigenous knowledge, culture, and identity. • Culturally important places and heritage sites are being threatened by thawing permafrost, wildfires, erosion, sea-level rise, and flooding. 					
CONNECTION TO THE LAND & CULTURE NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners	Resources	Status	Goal 1,2,3	
9. Advance the management of archeological and heritage sites at risk of climate change impacts and identified as important by Indigenous community members.	ECE	9.1 Expand NWT capacity to develop management protocols for NWT archaeological sites at risk of climate change.	Unfunded	Not initiated, ongoing	3	
	ECE	9.2 Develop culturally appropriate site management protocols and monitoring targets with Inuvialuit community members and governance agencies to inform management actions for coastal heritage sites at risk.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	3	
	ECE	9.3 Collaborate to continue surveying, remotely monitoring, and sharing landscape changes around archaeological and historical sites across the Arctic coast.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2.3	
	ECE	9.4 Support coastal site mitigation and management of cultural sites based on direction from Inuvialuit communities and governance agencies.	Unfunded	Not initiated, ongoing	3	
CONNECTION TO THE LAND & CULTURE NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners	Resources	Status	Goal 1,2,3	
10. Support safe on-the-land traditional activities that adapt to a changing climate.	ECC-CCU	10.1 Support the development of near real-time ice safety monitoring and training products and programs to support safe travel on the land in changing ice conditions.	Unfunded	Initiated, ongoing	2,3	
	ECC-CSL	10.2 Deliver programs to support traditional harvesters in the NWT who have suffered loss or damage to equipment due to extreme weather events, such as the Harvester's Disaster Assistance Program.	Partially funded	Initiated, ongoing limited	3	

				funding after 2025-2026	
	ECC-CSL	10.3 Support NWT-wide and regionally equitable initiatives through the NWT On-the-Land Collaborative program with partners to provide centralized access to funding and other resources that promote and support connection to on-the-land initiatives.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	3
	ECC-CSL	10.4 Continue delivering the GNWT <i>Take a Kid Trapping</i> program through schools and Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations through a regionally equitable approach that promotes traditional harvesting practices with NWT youth.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	3
	ECE-ILES, ECC-CCU	10.5 Promote funding opportunities with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations to consider the impacts of climate change on Indigenous languages when developing Language Revitalization Plans.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1,2,3
11. Expand climate change programming supporting intergenerational knowledge sharing and language revitalization.	ECE-ILES	11.1 Develop and implement the NWT Indigenous Languages Action Plan that considers Indigenous perspectives on climate change.	Funded	Not initiated	2,3
	ECC-WMS, ITI-NTGS	11.2 Continue community-based monitoring in collaboration with communities, Indigenous governments, and Indigenous organizations to understand impacts of landscape changes to local water bodies (water quality, traditional activities, and health of fish and other aquatic life), using western science and Indigenous knowledge. Produce public outreach materials and program summary reports.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2
12. Support community-based monitoring to enhance climate monitoring and reporting and increase safety for on-the-land activities.	ECC-WMS, ITI-NTGS	12.1 Continue community-based monitoring in collaboration with communities, Indigenous governments, and Indigenous organizations to understand impacts of landscape changes to local water bodies (water quality, traditional activities, and health of fish and other aquatic life), using western science and Indigenous knowledge. Produce public outreach materials and program summary reports.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2

 Actions: Health & Well-being The health and well-being of NWT residents are strong and their communities are safe and sustainable.						
Risk Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The safety and well-being of many NWT communities is threatened by flooding and wildfires. Climate change is affecting physical health conditions for some NWT residents. Climate change is threatening the mental well-being of some NWT residents. Climate change is increasing food insecurity challenges in the NWT. 					
HEALTH & WELL-BEING: NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility	GNWT Action	Resources	Status	Goal 1,2,3	
13. Better integrate emergency response, climate preparedness and adaptation actions (before, during and after a disaster).	MACA-EMO	13.1 Continue to encourage NWT residents, small-businesses and NGOs impacted by flood events causing damage to their property to relocate outside floodplains or use mitigation funding that may be available through the Disaster Assistance Policy or the federal Emergency Management Assistance Program to reduce future impacts of disaster events.	Funded	Initiated	3	
	MACA-EMO	13.2 Continue to support and encourage communities to review and update community plans to consider adaptation measures and anticipate potential negative impacts of climate change to minimize risk to infrastructure.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	3	
	FIN	13.3 Contribute to the federal, provincial, territorial insurance working group (Task Force on Flood Insurance and Risk Reduction) to explore affordable insurance options against flood disasters, and share federal reporting.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	3	
	ECC-FM	13.4 Continue to work with federal agencies to obtain funding towards equipment and providing firefighters and training to allow operations to extend for a longer fire season in the NWT.	Partially funded	Initiated, ongoing	3	
	ECC-WMS	13.5 Continue and improve the reporting of current hydrological conditions across the NWT, including during spring break up when many communities are at risk of flooding, to support emergency management – through annual Spring Bulletin and regular Water Monitoring Bulletins.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2	

	ECC-WMS	13.6 Improve methods to do river forecasts that support emergency management.	Unfunded	Not initiated, ongoing	2
HEALTH & WELL-BEING: NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners	Resources	Status	Goal 1,2,3
14. Reduce the impacts of wildfire smoke and heat waves on NWT residents' health.	ECC-EPWM, HSS	14.1 Enhance existing and maintain the live Air Quality Monitoring and Reporting of Wildfire Smoke in communities (PM2.5) to inform decision making when air quality is poor	Unfunded	Not initiated - ongoing	2
	HSS, MACA	14.2 Develop a Community Cooler and Cleaner Air Spaces plan template for incorporation into Community Emergency Plans to support community governments in addressing heat waves and poor air quality from wildfire smoke.	Partially funded	Initiated, ongoing	3
	HSS	14.3 Support all NWT communities to create Cooler and Cleaner-Air Spaces to address heat waves and poor air quality from wildfire smoke.	Partially funded	Initiated, funding ends in 2025.	3
	HSS	14.4 Secure funding and partnerships to increase access to respirator masks across the NWT, to help protect vulnerable NWT residents from wildfire smoke.	Unfunded	Not initiated, ongoing	3
15. Enhance capacity to understand and address the impacts of climate change on human health.	HSS	15.1 Work with health authorities to put in place a Health and Social Services System Emergency Management Program that supports emergency management and response activities across the NWT.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	3
	HSS	15.2 Identify and resource research priorities that address impacts of climate change on human health through the Health Research Agenda.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2
16. Increase food resilience and food security of NWT communities in the context of a changing climate.	ITI-ED	16.1 Continue implementing and administering funding programs such as the <i>Sustainable Canadian Agriculture Partnership</i> and <i>Northern Food Development Program</i> that support food self-sufficiency across the NWT.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	3
	ITI-ED	16.2 Develop guidelines for NWT-specific beneficial management practices that support climate resilient local food production.	Funded	Initiated	3
	ITI-ED	16.3 Through partnership, continue collaborating on research projects that foster food resilience and sovereignty of NWT communities in a changing climate.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2

	ECC-CSL	16.4 Provide regionally equitable support to deliver the GNWT's Sustainable Livelihoods Programs, including Community Harvesters Assistance Program, providing centralized access to funding and other resources to support food security initiatives that increase local and sustainable food production and access to country foods.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	3
HEALTH & WELL-BEING: NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners	Resources	Status	Goal 1,2,3
17. Advance understanding and approaches to improve the impacts of climate change on mental health.	HSS-MWAR	17.1 Develop and disseminate a taking care of the land / climate change wellness box through the <i>My Voice, My Choice</i> program.	Funded	Initiated, funding ends in 2025	3
	HSS-MWAR	17.2 Train frontline health professionals on ecoanxiety to address the mental wellness impacts of climate change.	Partially funded	Not initiated	3
	HSS-MWAR	17.3 Increase public awareness on the impacts of climate change on health and on eco-anxiety through by sharing information and through a social media campaign.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	3
	HSS-MWAR	17.4 Integrate eco-anxiety and climate change resources and training for health practitioners into one of the Community Counselling Program's annual conferences.	Funded	Not initiated.	3
18. Implement and regularly update wildfire prevention and management strategies to protect NWT communities.	ECC-FM	18.1 Continue to provide technical support to forested communities implementing fuel breaks and annual updates of their Community Wildfire Protection Plans.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	3
	ECC-FM	18.2 Implement the Northwest Territories Wildfire Prevention and Resiliency Strategy that is guided by <i>Firesmart</i> principles and Canadian best practices.	Partially funded	Initiated, ongoing	3
	ECC-FM	18.3 Pilot landscape-level analysis of fuel hazards in three priority communities to model how fires could reach communities and inform actions to reduce risks and include the new information in the Community Wildfire Protection Plans.	Funded	Initiated	2,3
	ECC-FM	18.4 Secure funding to increase the analysis of landscapes around all forested communities to inform risk reduction actions in Community Wildfire Protection Plans.	Unfunded	Not initiated, ongoing	2,3

 <h3 style="text-align: center;">Actions: Infrastructure & Access to Essential Services</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">NWT communities and residents have access to affordable, reliable, and sustainable essential services and public infrastructure.</p>							
Risk Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Without mitigation planning and action, shoreline infrastructure and buildings will likely be at risk from more rapid erosion processes and flooding. Increasing extreme weather events, changes in precipitation (e.g., snow conditions), and in some cases, changes in soil conditions due to permafrost thaw, bring new risks that need to be considered when building, maintaining and operating infrastructure. 						
NWT Priority Actions Infrastructure & Access to Essential Services	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners			Resources	Status	Goal 1,2,3
19. Aggregate, develop and disseminate essential climate hazard information and maps to inform land-use planning, climate adaptation and emergency preparedness, and risk management strategies.	ECC-CCU, ECC WMS, ECC FM, ITI-NTGS, FIN-GEO, MACA, Housing NWT, INF-DTS	19.1 Establish a territory-wide Community Hazard Information roadmap that prioritizes and coordinates ongoing work and needs for each NWT community to have access to a community-scale information toolkit for relevant climate risks to inform adaptation and land-use planning and resource gaps.		Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2,3	
	ECC-CCU, ECC WMS, ECC FM, ITI-NTGS, FIN-GEO, MACA, Housing NWT, INF-DTS	19.2 Secure funding and resources to address priorities gaps identified through the Community Hazard Mapping roadmap.		Unfunded	Initiated, ongoing	2,3	

NWT Priority Actions Infrastructure & Access to Essential Services	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners	Resources	Status	Goal 1,2,3
19. (Continued) Aggregate, develop and disseminate essential climate hazard information and maps to inform land-use planning, climate adaptation and emergency preparedness, and risk management strategies.	ITI-NTGS, ECC-CCU	19.3 Establish a workplan to prioritize and produce community surficial geology maps in collaboration with the Community Hazard Information Working Group.	Funded	Not initiated	2,3
	ITI-NTGS, ECC-CCU	19.4 Implement the 19.3 workplan to produce surficial geology maps for prioritized communities and make available in digital libraries.	Partially Funded	Not initiated, ongoing	2,3
	ITI-NTGS	19.5 Portray permafrost geohazards on surficial geology maps in and around at least six NWT communities and infrastructure corridors and provide access to existing community geotechnical data owned by the GNWT.	Partially Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2
	ECC-WMS	19.6 Develop flood inundation and flood hazard maps for communities at risk of riverine flooding.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	3
	ITI-NTGS	19.7 Develop permafrost models to forecast the location, timing and severity of future permafrost geohazards, and share model outputs.	Unfunded	Not initiated	2
	MACA-COP, ECC-CCU	19.8 Support the federal government (CIRNAC) in piloting the Risk-Based Approach to Community Planning in Northern Regions standard developed by the Northern Infrastructure Standard Initiative (NISI) in at least two NWT communities with the aim to advance the development of suitability maps that inform land-use planning.	Funded	Initiated	3

NWT Priority Actions Infrastructure & Access to Essential Services	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners	Resources	Status	Goal 1,2,3
20. Complete climate vulnerability assessments for essential assets and infrastructure in the NWT to identify, prioritize and implement adaptation measures.	Housing NWT	20.1 Complete a climate vulnerability assessment on all Housing NWT's assets in 33 communities and identify adaptation priority measures.	Funded	Initiated	3
	Housing NWT	20.2 Secure resources to implement climate adaptation measures for Housing NWT assets, including retrofits and integrating enhanced resiliency into new housing designs.	Unfunded	Not initiated	3
	INF-DTS, MACA-COP	20.3 Undertake Phase II of the Infrastructure Portfolio Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment project to identify the vulnerability of the GNWT assets and select communities' existing infrastructure.	Partially funded	Initiated	2,3
	INF-DTS	20.4 Conduct an engineering assessment including climate change vulnerability of the Dempster Highway and develop adaptation plans.	Partially funded	Initiated	2,3
	INF	20.5 Incorporate climate risk assessments into the planning, design and construction of new capital projects across all asset classes.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1
	INF	20.6 Conduct an intermodal transportation planning study to assess the risk and resiliency of the NWT's transportation network to the impacts of climate change, and adaptation options for resupply viability.	Unfunded	Not initiated	2,3
	INF-Energy	20.7 Update the North Slave Resiliency Study to assess hydrology and climate change impacts on the North Slave hydroelectric system and explore potential solutions.	Funded	Initiated	2,3
21. Advance community adaptation planning to identify and prioritize adaptation actions, including partial/full planned relocation of infrastructure or assets.	ECC-CCU	21.1 In collaboration with partners, develop a Coastal Region Climate Adaptation Roadmap to identify adaptation priorities.	Funded	Not initiated	3
	MACA-CG	21.2 With NWT communities, develop a guide / governance approach by 2027 that supports climate adaptation action, including partial/full planned relocation.	Funded	Initiated	3
	MACA-CG	21.3 Support NWT communities to update their Community Plans, zoning bylaws and land-use plans while considering climate risks.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	3

NWT Priority Actions Infrastructure & Access to Essential Services	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners	Resources	Status	Goal 1,2,3
22. Establish climate impact tracking systems to track climate-related events and associated damages and costs on NWT communities and GNWT assets, infrastructure, and service delivery.	INF-DTS	22.1 Track climate change indicators for GNWT assets through standardized maintenance inspections to inform asset planning and management to inform asset planning and management.	Funded	Initiated, on-going	2,3
	INF-DTS, HSS	22.2 Assess and implement additional remote sensing technologies on all asset types that improve early detection of movement of infrastructure and improved adaptation responses.	Unfunded	Initiated, on-going	2,3
23. Develop, update and promote NWT specific climate codes, standards or guidelines for design, construction, operation and maintenance of buildings and infrastructure that adapts to key climate risks.	INF-DTS, Housing NWT, MACA-COP, ECC-CCU	23.1 Work with the Standards Council of Canada (SCC) to update existing Northern Infrastructure Standardization Initiative (NISI) standards and develop and promote new ones that focus on the adaptation and mitigation of climate change to northern built infrastructure.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	3
	Housing NWT	23.2 Review, update, publicly share, and continue applying Housing NWT's design standards for all new buildings or retrofits to increase resilience to climate risks, such as changing soil conditions from permafrost degradation and wildfire.	Funded	Ongoing	3

 <h3 style="text-align: center;">Actions: Business and Economy</h3> <p style="text-align: center;">Economic self-sufficiency promotes a positive economic environment in the NWT for profit-based and traditional economic activities.</p>							
Risk Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supply chains in the NWT are being disrupted as the impacts of climate change intensify. The high cost to adapt and respond to climate change and climate-related disasters can cause financial losses or constraints for governments, businesses, and residents, affecting economic resilience in the NWT. In some cases, climate change may present some focused opportunities for economic diversification. 						
BUSINESS & ECONOMY: NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners			Resources	Status	Goal 1,2,3
24. Assess and advance potential economic opportunities in the NWT related to climate change.	ITI	24.1 Integrate climate change considerations when developing and completing economic development strategies and plans, including the Petroleum Resource Strategy, Tourism Strategy, Mineral Development Strategy, Agriculture, Economic Opportunities, and Fishery Strategies.			Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1,2,3
	ITI-ED	24.2 Facilitate industry training on sustainable and regenerative tourism to promote safe and sustainable tourism practices that consider climate change impacts.			Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1,3
	ITI-BSD	24.3 In alignment with NWT Innovation Action Plan, strengthen and promote the NWT as a recognized location for research on climate change science and adaptation to expand research activities relevant to the North and attract investment.			Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1,2,3
25. Address and enhance the consideration of climate change (emissions reduction and climate impacts) in regulatory decision-making.	ECC- CCU, ECC-EA	25.1 Develop standard approaches and tools and provide advice to support technical reviews of regulatory documents such as environmental assessment reports related to minimizing the impacts of climate change on a project.			Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1,2,3

	ECC-CCU	25.2 Work with partners to develop protocols/best practices for consideration of climate change in regulatory decision making, including GHG emissions, and impacts of climate change on a project.	Funded	Not initiated	1,2,3
BUSINESS & ECONOMY: NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners	Resources	Status	Goal 1,2,3
26. Assess key vulnerabilities of supply chains in the NWT and identify and coordinate actions to address risks.	INF-FSD	26.1 Increase petroleum products storage capacity to up to two years in the most isolated NWT communities (Sachs Harbour, Ulukhaktok, Paulatuk) in consideration of renewable options advanced through the Energy Action Plan.	Unfunded	Not initiated – ongoing.	3
	INF-MTS	26.2 Complete a climate assessment and planning study to optimize barge operations and assets of the Marine Transportation Services in the context of a changing climate.	Unfunded	Not initiated	2,3
	ITI-MPR, INF-FSD	26.3 Support local initiatives that reduce vulnerability to supply chain interruptions from fuels imported from southern Canada such as the Inuvialuit Energy Security Project	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1,3
27. Support economic resilience to offset economic impacts of climate change and costs to adapt.	ITI-BST	27.1 Develop and disseminate emergency preparedness/recovery guidelines for NWT businesses that consider climate hazards.	Funded	2025 and ongoing	3
	ITI	27.2 Prioritize, conduct, and share sectoral assessments of economic impacts, opportunities and trade-offs of climate change policy and trends impacting the economy.	Funded	Ongoing	1,2,3
	ITI-BST	27.3 Develop programs that provide access to climate change adaptation funding for small businesses in the NWT.	Unfunded	Initiated, ongoing	3

Cross-Cutting: Vulnerabilities, Leadership, Communication and Capacity Building

Improved leadership, communication and capacity-building are required to support all three goals of the Framework. The consequences of climate change spans across multiple Risk Themes and can lead to cascading effects by adding stressors to other issues that the NWT is facing like the lasting impacts of colonialism, a shortage of workers, and the lack of long-term climate data in the NWT.

Actions: Cross-cutting						
Risk Summary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Efforts to reduce and adapt to the impacts of climate change may be slowed by limited resources and capacity shortages and a lack of adequate processes and/or governance mechanisms to respond efficiently. Climate change risks can amplify existing inequities and disproportionately affect certain communities and groups. Lack of robust historical climate data in the NWT, and limited climate monitoring and ways to share data can challenge informed decision-making in the NWT. 					
CROSS CUTTING: NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action	Resources	Status	(Goal 1,2,3)	
28. Enhance forums for information sharing and collaboration to better understand, inform, advocate for, and advance climate change action.	ECC-CCU	28.1 Regularly convene internal GNWT Climate Change Working Groups including the Climate Change Directors Working Group and Adaptation Working Group.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1,2,3	
	ECC-CCU	28.2 Convene NWT partners ((See Appendix B) to inform and advance climate change action including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> NWT Climate Change Council; NWT Climate Change Youth Council; and Annual NWT Climate Change Advisory Group Gathering. 	Funded	Quarterly / Annually	1,2,3	
	ECC-CCU	28.3 Collaborate with provinces, territories and the federal government and other northern jurisdictions to inform and advance NWT climate change action through existing forums.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1,2,3	

CROSS CUTTING: NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners	Resources	Status	(Goal 1,2,3)
29. Continue advocating for northern considerations and NWT's unique climate change context at the national and international levels to inform climate policies and programs, secure funding, build partnerships, and support innovation.	ECC, MACA, ITI, EIA, FIN, Housing NWT, ECE	29.1 Explore a Canada-NWT bilateral action plan that would enhance coordination and increase funding to enable NWT priority adaptation action.	Funded	2025, Ongoing	2,3
	ECC, INF EIA, FIN, ITI	29.2 Inform new and renewed Government of Canada climate change mitigation targets, strategies, policies and programs to consider the northern context.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1
	ECC-CCU	29.3 Inform and advocate for NWT climate change interests by participating in National and International events.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1,2,3
30. Increase climate change awareness and capacity to act on climate change through the development and delivery of informational and educational initiatives.	ECC-CCU	30.1 Implement the GNWT Climate Change Outreach Plan to increase climate awareness and promote climate action.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1,2,3
	ECE -CDSA	30.2 Continue rollout of renewed education curriculum between 2025-2029 which includes climate change	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1,2,3
31. Increase climate adaptation capacity and skills to enable climate change action.	ECC-CCU	31.1 Work with NWT partners to develop and continuously deliver a series of climate change courses, including a climate change 101 course, tailored to the North to increase climate change skills of NWT workforce/professionals.	Partially Funded (NRCAN)	Initiated, ongoing	1,2,3
	ECC-CCU	31.2 Develop and disseminate informational and educational resources that support GNWT and NWT partners to develop and implement risk and vulnerability assessments and climate change adaptation strategies such as thematic fact sheets, guides, and inventory of adaptation actions relevant to the North.	Funded	Not initiated	1,2,3
	MACA-CGLD	31.3 Develop and disseminate a climate change action course in 2025 targeted at community governments' employees and elected officials.	Funded	Initiated	1,2,3

CROSS CUTTING: NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners	Resources	Status	(Goal 1,2,3)
32. Enhance and support the development and sharing of climate data, research, and knowledge.	ECC-CCU ECC-KA	32.1 In collaboration with partners, develop and maintain an NWT climate change research priorities document in alignment with the GNWT Knowledge Agenda.	Funded	Initiated	1,2
	ECC-CCU ECC-KA	32.2 Initiate priority climate change research (32.1) by securing funding and leveraging partnerships.	Unfunded	Not initiated	1,2
	ECC-CCU	32.3 Prioritize needs and develop for climate models trends, projections and indices (e.g. growing season, drought).	Partially Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2
	ECC-CCU	32.4 Promote and provide technical climate change information services for climate change practitioners and decision makers by developing and operating a climate information help desk and enhancing the NWT Climate Change Library.	Partially Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2,3
	ECC-CCU	32.5 Clarify options and advocate for enhanced and ongoing northern climate information services.	Funded	Initiated	2,3
33. Ensure climate change action is reported on, evaluated, and considered in political decision making.	ECC-CCU	33.1 Ensure Climate change is considered in all GNWT Financial Management Board and Cabinet decisions.	Funded	Initiated, ongoing	1,2,3
	ECC-CCU	33.2 Coordinate tracking of Climate Change Action Plan actions through a year 2/3 progress report and a year 3/4 final report. Conduct a formal review of the Framework and Action Plans in year 5.	Funded	Not initiated	1,2,3
	ECC-CCU	33.3 Investigate the possibility of an online tracker of GNWT and partner climate change actions.	Partially Funded	Not initiated	1,2,3
	ECC-CCU	33.4 Update an NWT climate change risk and opportunities assessment to inform the development of future frameworks and action plans.	Funded	Not initiated	1,2,3

CROSS CUTTING: NWT Priority Actions	Responsibility (lead in Bold)	GNWT Action Includes actions to advance with/support partners	Resources	Status	(Goal 1,2,3)
34. Enhance climate change monitoring, and data stewardship.	ECC-CCU, ECC-WMS ECC-FM, INF, FIN-ISS	34.1 Develop an enhanced NWT climate monitoring and data stewardship plan to better inform climate projections, climate trends/patterns, conditions, and forecasts.	Funded	Not initiated	2
	ECC-CCU ECC-WMS, ECC-FM, INF	34.2 Advance the enhanced NWT climate monitoring and information sharing plan.	Unfunded	Not initiated, ongoing	2
	ITI-NTGS, ECC-CCU	34.3 Continue to gather data from the existing NWT Permafrost monitoring network and share through the NWT Permafrost Database. Develop an enhanced permafrost monitoring network plan with partners and stakeholders to enhance understanding of ecosystem changes as well as land use, community and ecosystem planning.	Partially Funded	Initiated, ongoing	2
	ECC-CCU ECC-WMS NTGS, ECC-FM, Wildlife, ECC-CSL, ECC-CIMP, ECC-Knowledge Agenda, ECC-EP, INF, ECE, FIN-ISS	34.4 Develop and seek resources for a coordinated climate change biophysical monitoring plan with a priority of informing 19.1 - Community Hazard Mapping roadmap.	Partially Funded	Not initiated	2

Appendix A (Partner-Lead NWT Climate Change Initiatives)

Not intended to be a comprehensive listing. This will be further developed for the final draft from public input, the CCAG gathering, and the NWT Climate Change Council.

Multiple Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations across the North are proactive in identifying climate change action priorities. For instance:

- The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation has developed and is implementing the Inuvialuit Settlement Region Climate Change Strategy.
- The North Slave Metis Alliance has conducted a series of 5 thematic workshop with its membership to identify their climate change adaptation priorities, to inform the co-development process of the federal Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative.
- The Tlicho government has conducted a full-day workshop early June 2024 to with its member identify climate change adaptation priorities.
- NWTAC has developed its Climate Change Adaptation Strategy and Action Plan adopted in 2018.
- Many other Indigenous governments are in the process of developing their own similar Strategies and pathways shaped by their unique needs and priorities. In addition, work is on-going to identify shared priorities across all segments of NWT society, for a whole-of-the-NWT climate change adaptation pathway.
- Many NWT local governments and IGIOs advance climate adaptation and monitoring funding through federal funding programs such as Climate Change Preparedness in the North Program (CCPN) fund, the Climate Change Health Adaptation Program (CCHAP) and the Indigenous Community Based Climate Monitoring (ICBCM) programs.
- The federal government is engaging with IGIOs in the NWT to advance the Climate Indigenous Leadership initiative to co-develop climate solutions with First Nations, Inuit and Métis peoples that advances reconciliation and self-determination.
- Gonezu Energy Inc. is an Indigenous owned company based in Fort Providence that works with Indigenous governments and communities in advancing renewable energy project by securing funding and increase capacity.

Appendix B (Partners)**POTENTIAL PARTNERS REFERENCED IN THE ACTION PLAN****Government of the Northwest Territories:**

ACRONYMS	GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES DEPARTMENTS, CORPORATIONS, DIVISIONS, AND UNITS
ECE	Department of Education, Culture, and Employment
• ARI	Aurora Research Institute
• CDSA	Curriculum Development and Student Assessment Division
• ILES	Indigenous Languages and Education Secretariat
ECC	Department of Environment and Climate Change
• CCU	Climate Change Unit
• CSL	Conservation and Sustainable Livelihoods Division
• EA	Environmental Impact Assessment
• EPWM	Environmental Protection and Waste Management Division
• FM	Forest Management Division
• KA	Knowledge Agenda Unit
• Wildlife	Wildlife and Fish
• WMS	Water Monitoring and Stewardship Division
EIA	Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs
FIN	Department of Finance
• ISS	Informatics Shared Services Centre
HSS	Department of Health and Social Services
• MWAR	Mental Wellness & Addictions Recovery

ACRONYMS		GOVERNMENT OF THE NORTHWEST TERRITORIES DEPARTMENTS, CORPORATIONS, DIVISIONS, AND UNITS
Housing NWT		Housing NWT
ITI		Department of Industry, Tourism, and Investment
• NTGS		Northwest Territories Geological Survey
INF		Department of Infrastructure
• DTS		Design and Technical Services Division
• FSD		Fuel Services Division
• MTS		Marine Transportation Services Division
MACA		Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
• EMO		Emergency Management Office
• CGLD		Community Government Learning and Development
• CG		Community Governance Division
• COP		Community Operations Division
NTPC		Northwest Territories Power Corporation

Government of Canada Partners:

ACRONYMS		PARTNERS
Federal		Government of Canada Departments, Agencies and Councils
		This section will be populated in the final Action Plan following engagement on the draft Plan.

Other Partners:

ACRONYMS	OTHER PARTNERS
	This section will be populated in the final Action Plan following engagement on the draft Plan.

Appendix C (Potential Funding Sources)

Federal Funding Sources

Canadian Institutes Of Health And Research (Cihr)	
FSCC-North	Food Security and Climate Change in the Canadian North
Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada	
Sustainable CAP	Sustainable Canadian Agricultural Partnership
Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC)	
CCPN	Climate Change Preparedness in the North
EIPCP	Engaging Indigenous Peoples in Climate Policy
ICCM	Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring
NCP	Northern Contaminants Program
Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)	
AMAA	Advancing Municipal Adaptation Action through the Green Municipal Fund
NSCSF	Nature Smart Climate Solutions Fund
ICL	Indigenous Climate Leadership Initiative
CCCS	Canadian Centre for Climate Services
CNF	Canada Nature Fund
ECFP	EcoAction Community Funding Program
EDF	Environmental Damages Fund
HSP	Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk
LCEF	Low Carbon Economy Fund
CAF	Climate Action Fund

Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO)	
CRF	Coastal Restoration Fund
Health Canada (HC)	
CCHACBCP	Climate Change and Health Adaptation Capacity Building Contribution Program
Indigenous Services Canada (ISC)	
CCHAP	Climate Change Health Adaptation Program
Infrastructure Canada (INFC)	
CIB	Canada Infrastructure Bank
DMAF	Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund
Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)	
CCAP	Climate Change Adaptation Program
WFRI	Wildfire Resilient Futures Initiative
FHIMP	Flood Hazard Identification and Mapping Program
2BT	2 Billion Trees Program
Polar Knowledge Canada	
POLAR	Polar Knowledge - Canada's pan-northern science and technology program
Public Health Agency of Canada	
IDCCF	Infectious Diseases and Climate Change Fund
Public Safety Canada	
EMPACP	Emergency Management Public Awareness Contribution Program
Transport Canada	
NTAI	Northern Transportation Adaptation Initiatives Program

NTCF	National Trade Corridors Fund
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Non-Federal Funding Sources

Acronym	Organization/Fund
BSC	Bird Studies Canada – James L. Baillie Memorial Fund
CMN	Canadian Mountain Network
FCM	Federation of Canadian Municipalities Community Initiatives: Climate Mitigation Studies Funding Extreme Temperature: Climate Adaptation Studies Funding Green Municipal Fund Solid Waste: Climate Mitigation Studies Funding Transportation: Climate Mitigation Capital Project Grants Water: Climate Mitigation Studies Funding Wind Events: Climate Adaptation Studies Funding
DUC	Ducks Unlimited Canada
GF	The Gordon Foundation
MC	McConnell – Food Secure Canada
MF	Metcalf Foundation – Carbon Landscapes Fund and Climate Blueprints Fund
Mitacs	Research Opportunities Funding
NWF	Northern Water Futures (part of Global Water Futures: Solutions to Water Threats in an Era of Global Change)
MW	MakeWay Foundation
D-FEF	TD Bank – Friends of Environment Foundation Leadership Program
WHC	Wildlife Habitat Canada – Habitat Conservation Grants
WWF Canada	World Wildlife Fund Canada – Arctic Species Conservation Fund and Go Wild Community Grants

