

2017
2018

NWT Water Stewardship Strategy

Progress Review Summary



If you would like this information in another official language, call us.

English

Si vous voulez ces informations dans une autre langue officielle, contactez-nous.

French

Kĩspin ki nitawih̄tĩn ē nĩh̄yawih̄k ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.

Cree

Thchq yatı k'ęę. Dı wegodı newq dè, gots'o gonede.

Thchq

ʔerih̄t'is Dēne Sųh̄né yatı t'a huts'elkēr xa beyáyatı theʔą ʔat'e, nuwe ts'ēn yóltı.

Chipewyan

Edı gondı dehgh̄a got'ıe zhatıé k'ęę edat'éh enahddh̄e nıde naxets'ę edah̄ı.

South Slavey

K'áhshó got'ıne xədə k'é hederı ʔediht'é yerıniw̄e nıde dúle.

North Slavey

Jii gwandak izhii ginjik vat'atr'ijah̄ch'uu zhı̄t yinoth̄an jı', diits'at̄ ginoh̄kh̄ıı.

Gwich'in

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqluta.

Inuvialuktun

Ĉᵇᵈᵈ ᵐᵐᵇᵇᵈᵈ ᵐᵐᵇᵇᵈᵈ ᵐᵐᵇᵇᵈᵈ ᵐᵐᵇᵇᵈᵈ ᵐᵐᵇᵇᵈᵈ ᵐᵐᵇᵇᵈᵈ ᵐᵐᵇᵇᵈᵈ.

Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.

Inuinnaqtun

Aboriginal Languages Secretariat: 867-767-9346 ext. 71037

Francophone Affairs Secretariat: 867-767-9343

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Checking Our Progress

2017/2018 NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Progress Review Summary

Northern Voices, Northern Waters: The NWT Water Stewardship Strategy (Water Strategy) is a made-in-the North strategy developed collaboratively with water partners in the Northwest Territories (NWT). Since the first version of the Water Strategy was released in 2010, two five-year Action Plans have been developed.

The current Action Plan for 2016-2020 comprises four components, 149 Action Items and 54 Performance Indicators that guide Water Strategy implementation. The *2017/2018 NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Progress Review* is the second annual progress review under the Action Plan and summarizes the status of all 2017 and 2018 Action Items and provides examples of Performance Indicators. The review is based on survey responses from water partners¹, communication and meetings with lead water partners, a document review and database analytics. By 2020, our goal is to have fully implemented the Action Plan and contributed to the vision and goals of the Water Strategy.

Water partners include anyone who has a role in water stewardship.

Data for each Performance Indicator and Action Item are recorded in a comprehensive spreadsheet available at nwtwaterstewardship.ca.

¹Survey response rates varied by survey question. This variation is reflected in the reported Performance Indicator statistics.

The Water Strategy, Action Plans, *2016/2017 NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Progress Review Summary* and more detailed information on the status of 2017/2018 Performance Indicators and Action Items are available online at nwtwaterstewardship.ca. You can also request the information by emailing nwtwaterstrategy@gov.nt.ca.

The Four Components

Water Strategy activities are organized into four main components: Work Together, Know and Plan, Use Responsibly and Check Our Progress.

Specific Action Items and Performance Indicators under each of these four components identify what work needs to be done and how its success will be evaluated.

CHECK OUR PROGRESS

Actions ensure progress is made in achieving the Water Strategy vision. This includes measuring and reporting on progress. Reporting results of, and responses to, evaluations and reviews must be transparent.

WORK TOGETHER

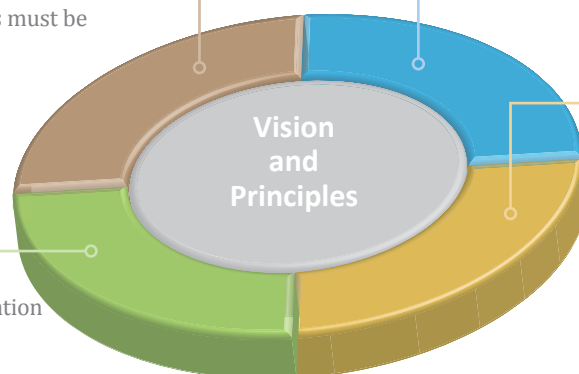
Actions ensure a cooperative environment to support water managers and water partners in sharing information, building capacity and working together.

KNOW AND PLAN

Actions ensure the implementation of multi-disciplinary aquatic monitoring and research programs. These programs consider traditional, local and western scientific knowledge and use this information in the planning and implementation of water stewardship activities.

USE RESPONSIBLY

Actions ensure water managers have the information necessary to make well-reasoned decisions.





Aboriginal Steering Committee (ASC)

The ASC, which guided the development of the Water Strategy and Action Plans, continues to guide the implementation of the Water Strategy. This guidance makes sure implementation activities represent the values of Indigenous governments and people, while respecting Aboriginal and treaty rights. The ASC comprises representatives from the following Indigenous governments:



- Acho Dene Koe First Nation
- Dehcho First Nations
- Gwich'in Tribal Council
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Kát'odeeche First Nation
- Nahanni Butte Dene Band
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Northwest Territory Métis Nation
- Sahtú Secretariat Incorporated
- Salt River First Nation
- Tłıchǫ Government
- Akaitcho Territory Government (observer)

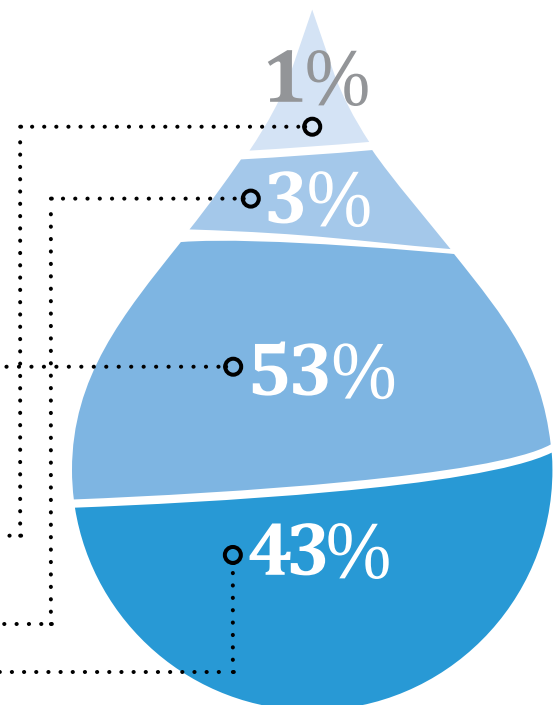
Action Item Status Overview

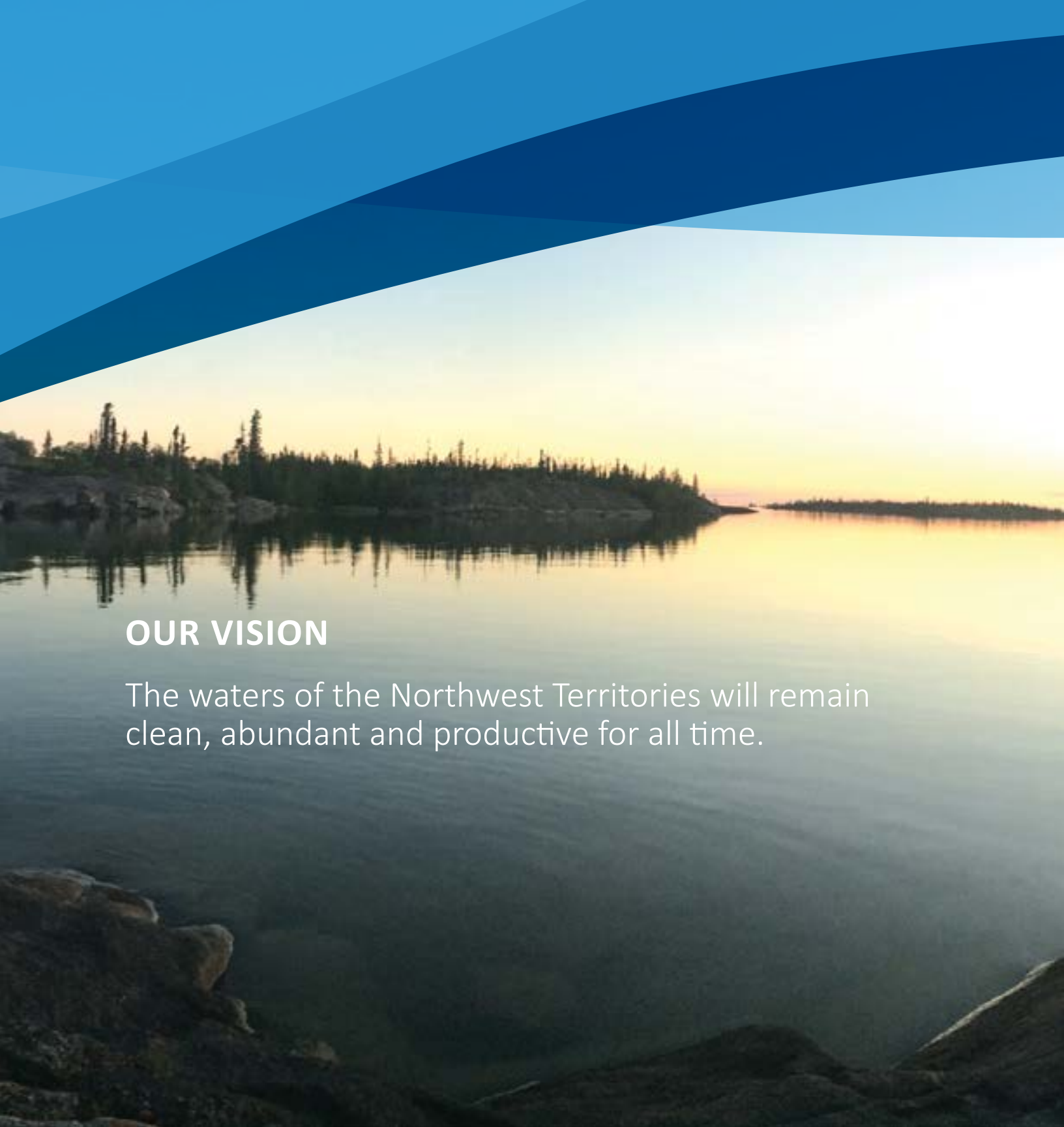
Progress on Action Items was assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Not started**
Activities towards completion of the Action Item have not started and no deliverables currently exist.
- **In progress**
Activities towards completion of the Action Item have begun and there are deliverables; however, there is still work to do.
- **Complete**
The Action Item is complete and information and deliverables are available to water partners.
- **Complete for reporting period and ongoing**
The Action Item is complete for the current reporting period; however, the Action Item requires ongoing work.

The percentages shown indicate the overall progress for Action Items assessed during the 2017/2018 Progress Review.

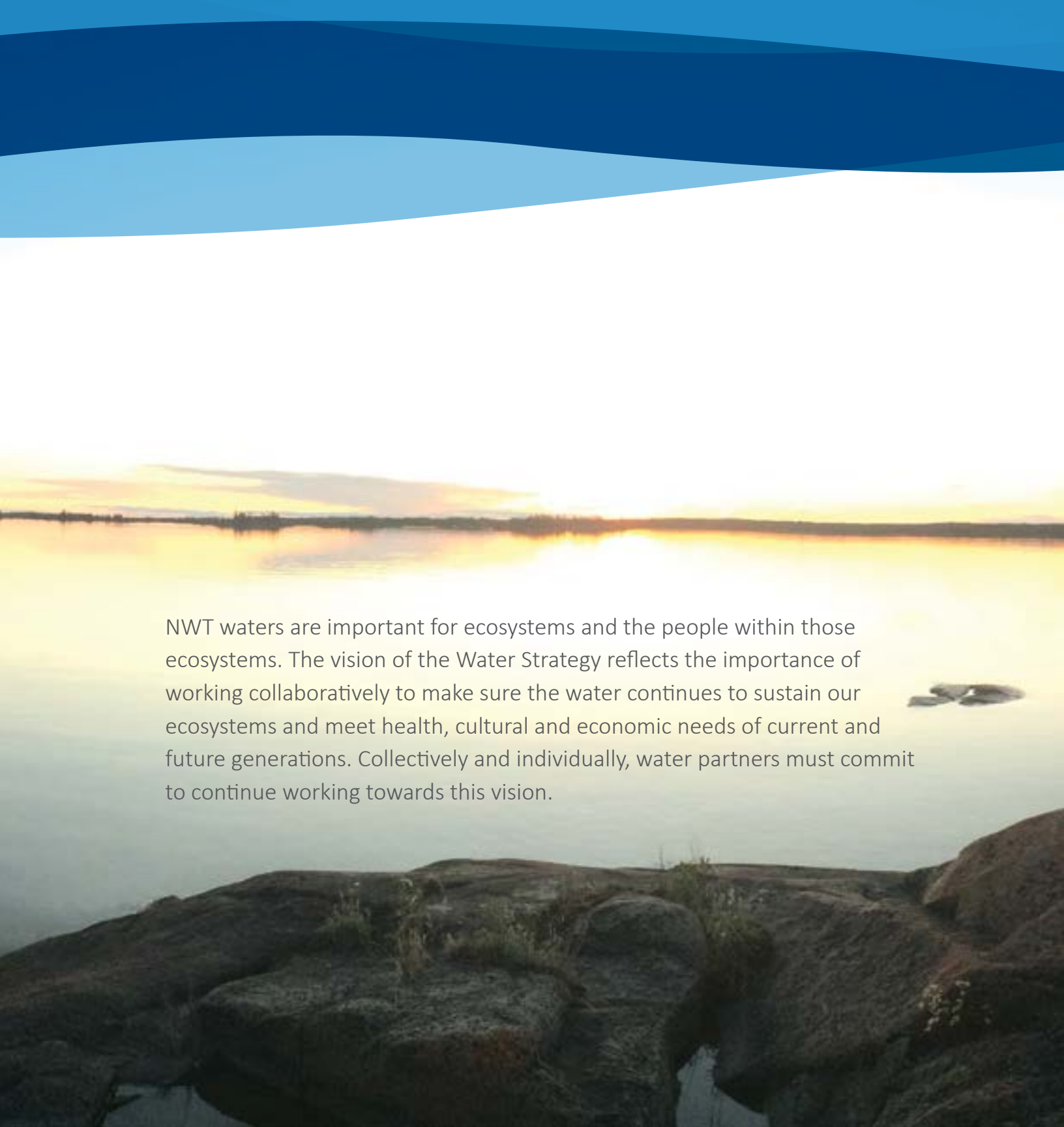
- Not started.....
- In progress.....
- Complete.....
- Complete for reporting period and ongoing.....





OUR VISION

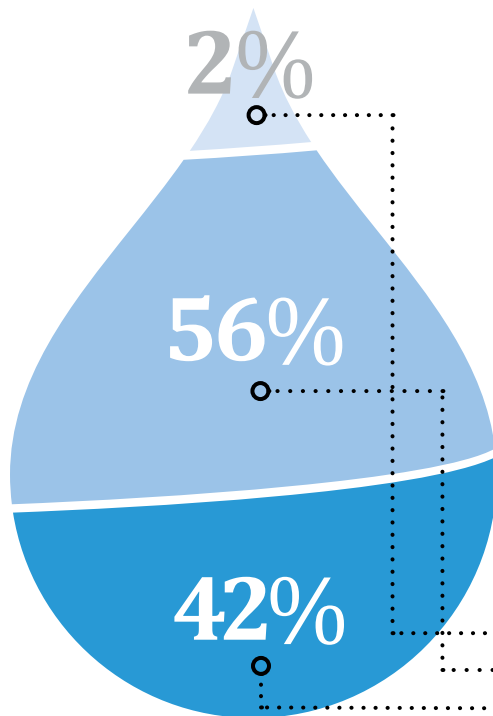
The waters of the Northwest Territories will remain clean, abundant and productive for all time.



NWT waters are important for ecosystems and the people within those ecosystems. The vision of the Water Strategy reflects the importance of working collaboratively to make sure the water continues to sustain our ecosystems and meet health, cultural and economic needs of current and future generations. Collectively and individually, water partners must commit to continue working towards this vision.

1.0 Work Together

- 1.1** Partnerships
- 1.2** Information Management
- 1.3** Communication and Engagement
- 1.4** Capacity Building, Leadership, Training and Education
- 1.5** Transboundary Discussions, Agreements and Obligations



Lead Water Partners for 2017/2018 Action Items

- Aboriginal Steering Committee (ASC)
- Aurora College
- Aurora Research Institute
- Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning (Dechinta)
- Dehcho Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management Program (AAROM)
- Ecology North
- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)
- Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley and the Inuvialuit Water Board
- Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
- Tides Canada

Status of Action Item Progress: Work Together

- Not started
- In progress
- Complete for reporting period and ongoing

1.1

Partnerships

Partnerships are essential for water stewardship in the NWT. All partners and individuals have responsibility for water stewardship.

4 NWT watershed and natural resource planning and management documents referenced the Water Strategy.

27 (out of 46) water partners indicated they are actively engaged in specific Keys to Success.

At the 8th Annual Water Strategy Implementation Workshop held in Dettah in November 2017, approximately 70 water partners reviewed progress towards implementing the goals and vision of the Water Strategy and Action Plan. The workshop provided an opportunity for water partners to share information and knowledge, learn about different knowledge systems and approaches to water stewardship, discuss collaboration opportunities and consider Water Strategy research priorities. The *2017 Water Strategy Implementation Workshop Summary Report* is available at nwtwaterstewardship.ca.

The workshops and progress reviews also advance progress on Action Items under the Action Plan section *1.1 Partnerships* by encouraging water partners to share implementation successes and challenges. For example, water partners highlighted the success of the Water Strategy in centralizing the activities of all water partners towards common goals for water stewardship in the NWT.

Additional successes include increased engagement and training opportunities for youth, increased opportunities for water partners to exchange information and improved Water Strategy communication to help maintain engagement and build relationships.

Water partners acknowledged that, while implementation progress is well communicated, more work is needed to clearly demonstrate how Water Strategy activities relate to legislative and policy initiatives in the NWT. There were also recommendations to extend the presence of Water Strategy activities and communication into communities and regions beyond Yellowknife.



33 (out of 45) water partners indicated they are aware of their role in implementing the Water Strategy.

1.2

Information Management

Water stewardship activities and decisions must be supported by adequate, accurate, current and accessible data and information. This information includes scientific, local and traditional knowledge.

The NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program - ENR (NWT CIMP) finalized water quality metadata guidelines in 2017. The guidelines help make sure water quality data are presented in a uniform format that allows people to more easily compare and interpret the data. These guidelines support other initiatives, such as the development of water quality baseline guidelines and revised Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) guidelines.

The NWT Discovery Portal and Mackenzie DataStream provide platforms to share water monitoring and research data and information among water partners and the public. Additional long-term water quality monitoring data are stored by ENR in its Lodestar database and are available to water partners upon request. Requests for data are tracked and work is underway to add this long-term water quality monitoring data to Mackenzie DataStream.

In 2017, NWT CIMP released two online plain language videos about projects looking at cumulative environmental effects, including impacts on aquatic ecosystems: *Wildfire Impacts on the*



49% (22 out of 46)
of water partners
indicated they use
traditional and local
knowledge often in
decision making.

73% (19 out of 26)
of water partners indicated
they use western science
often in decision making.

North Slave Region Ecosystem (available in English and French) and
Boots on the Ground: Traditional Knowledge Monitoring of Caribou
(available in Tłıchǫ, English and French).

Audio recordings of the plain language summary of the 2016-2020
Action Plan are available in all NWT official languages.

NOT STARTED:

- The NWT Water Monitoring Inventory was originally released in
2013 and will be updated in 2018/2019.

The NWT Discovery Portal averaged 145 monthly users and
Mackenzie DataStream averaged 358 monthly users.



1.3

Communication and Engagement

Good communication and engagement are necessary for building and maintaining effective relationships and keeping water partners and the public informed about water stewardship.

7 water stewardship projects received guidance from the ASC in 2017.

10 significant water stewardship updates were made to the NWT Water Stewardship website in 2017.

Water partners used different communication and engagement methods to keep water partners and the public informed about water stewardship. For example, many organizations provided update presentations at community fairs, workshops and conferences, including the 2017 Water Strategy Implementation Workshop and 2017 Geoscience Forum. Websites and online databases are also commonly used to share information and reports, such as the NWT drinking water website and updates to the NWT water stewardship website. These methods are often used in addition to community meetings, emails and direct communication.

ASC members continue to liaise with their respective Indigenous governments about the Water Strategy, communicating regularly and providing updates before, during and after ASC meetings. The ASC also provides ongoing guidance on Water Strategy implementation activities, including work related to information sharing and traditional knowledge. Five ASC meetings were held in 2017.

1.4

Capacity Building, Leadership, Training and Education

Increasing local capacity, technical skills and knowledge of water stewardship through education, training and engagement is crucial to the continued success of the Water Strategy.

30 water stewardship outreach activities were delivered during 2017/2018.

29 (out of 33) communities are involved in aquatic community-based monitoring.

Water partners hosted and supported a range of water education and leadership programming across the NWT, including classroom education and community events to promote Canada Water Week, *#loveNWTwater* campaign outreach events and activities, a two-day Youth Water Stewardship Leadership Workshop, the 2nd Annual Youth Water Stewardship Photo Contest, Rivers to Oceans Day, and various on-the-land and community-led research and monitoring initiatives.

ENR partnered with communities from across the NWT to provide opportunities for community monitors to build capacity and gain experience in water quality monitoring using different sampling techniques and equipment. Training was provided as part of the NWT-wide Community-based Water Quality Monitoring Program (CBM) and through additional NWT CIMP funded projects.

Water partners also made advancements in supporting and promoting each other's educational initiatives. For example, Ecology North hosted two water-focused resource sharing seminars at the NWT Educators Conference and launched *NWT Science Focus*, an online database of environmental science-related lesson plans for NWT educators. In early 2017, ENR released the *2017/2018 Youth Water Stewardship Opportunities Calendar* to connect youth with water-related education activities and programs.

1.5

Transboundary Discussions, Agreements and Obligations

Successful transboundary discussions, agreements and obligations with neighbouring jurisdictions help ensure the waters of the NWT remain clean, abundant and productive for all time.

12 implementation activities were completed and 2 are in progress under the Alberta-NWT Agreement.

3 implementation activities were completed under the BC-NWT Agreement.

Working Together to Manage Our Shared Waters: Alberta-Northwest Territories Bilateral Management Committee Annual Report to Ministers – 2015/16 was released in November 2017.

Examples of additional Alberta-NWT implementation activities completed in 2017/2018 include: holding three Bilateral Water Management Committee (BMC) meetings; completion of a *Traditional Knowledge Synthesis Report* for biological indicators in the Hay and Slave Rivers; piloting a benthic macroinvertebrate field program on the Slave and Hay Rivers; and establishing an Alberta-NWT Traditional Knowledge Working Group.

British Columbia and NWT are discussing implementation priorities and a preliminary work plan to share with the British Columbia-NWT BMC, once it is established. Information about the progress of negotiations and implementation of both agreements was communicated in the *2016/2017 NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Progress Review Summary*; at ASC meetings; and through various presentations (e.g., the Canadian Water Resources Association Conference (June 2017), the Keepers XI: Tu Beta Ts'ena Gathering (August 2017), and the Water Strategy Implementation Workshop (November 2017)).

The NWT and Yukon signed a transboundary water agreement in 2002. Discussions to update and align this agreement with more recently signed agreements occurred in fall 2017 and winter 2018.

The NWT anticipates negotiation of a Saskatchewan-NWT transboundary water agreement once Saskatchewan is ready and a NWT-Nunavut transboundary water agreement once Nunavut has completed a territorial water strategy.

Additional Information

More information on Work Together implementation activities can be found in the following websites and resources.

Websites

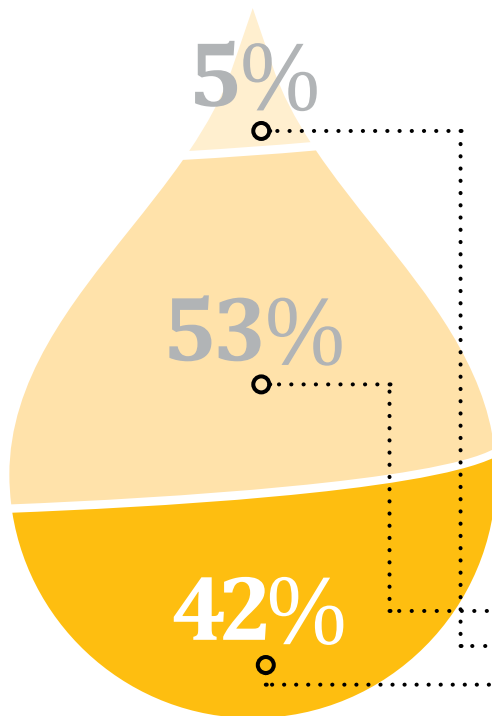
- [Ecology North](http://ecologynorth.ca)
ecologynorth.ca
- [Mackenzie DataStream](http://mackenziedatastream.ca)
mackenziedatastream.ca
- [NWT Drinking Water](http://nwtdrinkingwater.ca)
nwtdrinkingwater.ca
- [NWT Discovery Portal](http://nwtdiscoveryportal.enr.gov.nt.ca)
nwtdiscoveryportal.enr.gov.nt.ca
- [NWT On-The-Land Collaborative](http://nwtontheland.ca)
nwtontheland.ca
- [NWT Science Focus](http://nwtsciencefocus.ca)
nwtsciencefocus.ca
- [NWT Water Stewardship](http://nwtwaterstewardship.ca)
nwtwaterstewardship.ca
- [#loveNWTwater Campaign](http://lovenwtwater.ca)
lovenwtwater.ca

Resources

- [Metadata Standards for Reporting Water Quality Information in the NWT](http://sdw.enr.gov.nt.ca/nwtdp_upload/NWTCIMP%202016%20Metadata%20Standards.pdf)
sdw.enr.gov.nt.ca/nwtdp_upload/
NWTCIMP%202016%20Metadata%20
Standards.pdf
- [NWT CIMP plain language videos](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/cumulative-impact-monitoring-program-nwt-cimp)
www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/cumulative-
impact-monitoring-program-nwt-cimp
- [Water Strategy Implementation Workshop Summary Report – 2017](http://nwtwaterstewardship.ca)
nwtwaterstewardship.ca
- [Working Together to Manage Our Shared Waters: Alberta-NWT BMC Annual Report to Ministers 2015/16](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/ab-nwt_annual_report_web_ready_171117.pdf)
www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/
ab-nwt_annual_report_web_ready_171117.pdf
- [2016-2020 NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Action Plan - audio summaries](http://www.soundcloud.com/user-760585040/nwt-water-stewardship-action-plan-english)
www.soundcloud.com/user-760585040/nwt-
water-stewardship-action-plan-english

2.0 Know and Plan

- 2.1 Aquatic Ecosystems, including Water Quality, Water Quantity, Groundwater and Biological Components
- 2.2 A Collaborative Approach to Community-based Monitoring



Lead Water Partners for 2017/2018 Action Items

- Academic partners
- Aurora College
- Aurora Research Institute
- Dehcho AAROM
- Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)
- ENR
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley and The Inuvialuit Water Board
- Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB)
- NWT Centre for Geomatics, GNWT

Status of Action Item Progress: Know and Plan

- In progress
- Complete
- Complete for reporting period and ongoing

Photo: Leland Lennie-Andrew



2.1

Aquatic Ecosystems, including Water Quality, Water Quantity, Groundwater and Biological Components

Research and monitoring are critical to more fully understand the structure and function of aquatic ecosystems and impacts and cumulative effects on NWT waters.

NWT water quality and water quantity networks are maintained by lead water partners, in collaboration with other partners. Most water quality monitoring programs use standardized sampling protocols to ensure data comparability within programs; however, most protocols are not standardized across programs due to different monitoring objectives.

NWT CIMP funded 33 projects in 2017/2018 to improve understanding of cumulative impacts in the NWT. Findings were shared publicly through results workshops, the NWT Discovery Portal and NWT Environmental Research Bulletins.

Current water quality and quantity networks are made up of 206 stations/sites.²

² Excluding SNP and AEMP sites

15 (out of 36)
water partners indicated their
organization is currently using
geomatic tools.

In 2017, ENR initiated new discussions to help identify the most suitable biological indicators for monitoring NWT transboundary rivers. Work is ongoing to develop and pilot an approach to monitor benthic invertebrates in NWT transboundary rivers.

Water partners also led and supported research projects to explore different dimensions of human interactions and relationships with the aquatic environment. *Tracking Change* is a research project led by the University of Alberta, the Traditional Knowledge Steering Committee of the Mackenzie River Basin Board and the GNWT, in partnership with many other organizations. The project funded water-related community-led projects to further traditional and local knowledge research about social and ecological change in the Mackenzie River Basin.

Water partners came to consensus on the importance of broad Water Strategy research topics in 2017. However, water partners agreed research priorities need to be locally and community driven. Water partners recommended supporting and enhancing existing research processes and protocols that identify specific research priorities in collaboration with communities.



2.2

A Collaborative Approach to Community-based Monitoring

Collaborative community-based monitoring fosters a range of innovations and benefits, including increased awareness of water stewardship, improved traditional knowledge collection and applications and increased community involvement in research and monitoring program design.

7 aquatic community-based monitoring programs are active in the NWT. All have defined goals and 5 have standardized monitoring protocols.

Seven aquatic community-based monitoring programs were active in the NWT in 2017, varying in scope, size and approaches to monitoring. These programs include: NWT-wide Community-based Water Quality Monitoring (CBM) Program; Tłı̨cho Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Project; Marian Watershed Monitoring Program; Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation's Ni hat'ni Dene Watching the Land Monitoring Program; Inuvialuit Settlement Region Community-based Monitoring Program; Long-term Monitoring of Great Bear Lake Fisheries and the Aquatic Ecosystem; and the Dehcho K'éhodi Program.

Of the 85 water-related research licences issued by the Aurora Research Institute in 2017, 26 actively involved communities, 10 of which were community-led.

Common approaches to capacity building and community participation include: active involvement in field work; providing water quality sample collection and sampling equipment quality assurance and quality control training; and seeking community input into the project design. Dechinta provides students with opportunities to work closely with elders, faculty and traditional knowledge holders through various initiatives, including water research projects.

The NWT-wide CBM program is the largest community-based water quality monitoring program, building capacity and partnerships in 21 communities through frequent training sessions and hands-on monitoring. The CBM program underwent a five-year program evaluation and technical data review in 2017, concluding the program is well supported, the commitment among the partners is high, and the data can be successfully used to detect changes and trends in water quality.

Additional Information

More information on Know and Plan implementation activities can be found in the following websites and resources.

Websites

- **Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning**
dechinta.ca
- **Mackenzie DataStream**
mackenziedatastream.ca
- **NWT CIMP**
nwtcimp.ca
- **NWT Discovery Portal**
nwtdiscoveryportal.enr.gov.nt.ca
- **Tracking Change**
trackingchange.ca

Resources

- **Dehcho K'ehodi Program**
dehcho.org/resource-management/dehcho-kehodi
- **ECCC National Water Quantity Data**
https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/mainmenu/real_time_data_index_e.html
- **Inuvialuit Settlement Region Community-based Monitoring Program**
www.jointsecretariat.ca/isr-cbmp/

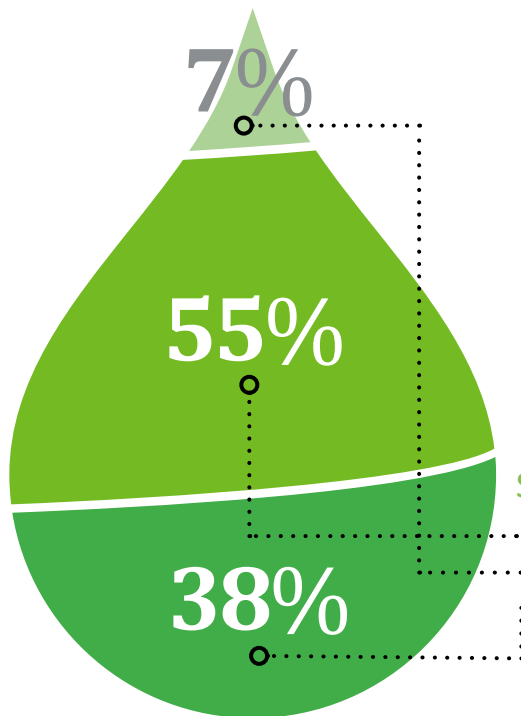
- **ECCC National Long-term Water Quality Monitoring Data**
<http://data.ec.gc.ca/data/substances/monitor/national-long-term-water-quality-monitoring-data/>
- **Tłıchq Lands Protection Water Monitoring Activities**
www.research.tlicho.ca/lands-protection/monitoring-activities
- *Long-term Monitoring of Great Bear Fisheries and the Aquatic Ecosystem: Project Update 2015/16*
http://sdw.enr.gov.nt.ca/nwtdp_upload/GBL%20Plain%20Language%20Project%20Report%202015-16.pdf
- **Ni hat'ni Dene Watching the Land Monitoring Program**
www.landoftheancestors.ca/team/ni-hatni-dene-program.html
- **NWT-wide Community-based Water Quality Monitoring Program (CBM)**
www.nwtwaterstewardship.ca/node/105

3.0

Use Responsibly

3.1 Municipal Water Use

3.2 Industrial Water Use



Lead Water Partners for 2017/2018 Action Items

- ENR
- GNWT Interdepartmental Drinking Water and Waste Management Committee
- Health and Social Services (HSS), GNWT
- Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley and Inuvialuit Water Board
- Lands, GNWT
- Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB)
- Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), GNWT

Status of Action Item Progress: Use Responsibly

- In progress
- Complete
- Complete for reporting period and ongoing

3.1

Municipal Water Use

Compliance with municipal water licenses, consideration of traditional knowledge, ongoing sharing of information and improving water and wastewater systems are essential for ensuring confidence in community drinking water.

The *2016 GNWT Report on Drinking Water* was completed in 2017 and is available on the NWT drinking water website at nwtdrinkingwater.ca. The *2017 GNWT Report on Drinking Water* is anticipated for release in late 2018.

MACA is populating a new public database with chemical drinking water test results. The database is anticipated to launch in the fall of 2018. Community drinking water test results prior to December 2016 are still available in the existing GNWT public drinking water database.

Work is ongoing within HSS to utilize a different database for bacterial water sample results. Public posting of results will be done twice yearly beginning in fall 2018. Under the *Public Health Act*, HSS environmental health officers are responsible for regularly reviewing test results to ensure drinking water is safe.

ENR, MACA and the Land and Water Boards have updated and developed several guidelines and templates in 2017/2018 for municipal water licences sewage disposal facilities and water treatment plants, including: *Good Engineering Practice for Northern Water and Sewer Systems, Second Edition*; *Municipal Water Licence Roles and Responsibilities Guideline*; *Water Storage Tank Cleaning Fact Sheet*; and *Operation and Maintenance Plan Templates*.

21 (out of 32)
water partners agreed the
roles and responsibilities
associated with drinking
water in the NWT are clear.



21 (out of 31)
water partners agreed the
roles and responsibilities
associated with a municipal
water licence (water use,
wastewater, and waste)
are clear.

Water partners are also continuing to participate on a Standard Council of Canada's Project to develop a *Guideline for Passive (lagoon/wetland) Wastewater Treatment Systems in Canada's North* under the project management of the Canadian Standards Association.

ENR Water Resource Officers (WROs) conduct inspections for municipal water licence holders and report on compliance in the GNWT Inspection Reporting and Risk Assessment system. Work is ongoing under the Land and Water Board's policies and Areas of Operation to develop and implement a plan to enhance municipal water licence compliance. When there is capacity to do so, the Land and Water Boards work with ENR WROs and community governments to provide technical assistance and training to community members related to municipal water licence sampling requirements.

3.2

Industrial Water Use

Improving understanding of water use, waste, and wastewater processes and knowledge of guidelines and regulations is critical to water partners' effective participation in regulatory and environmental assessment processes.

The Land and Water Boards, ENR, and MVEIRB have made progress in reviewing and developing various industrial regulatory guidelines, including: *Mixing Zone Guidelines* (completed); *Guidelines for Closure and Reclamation Cost Estimates for Mines* (completed); *Water Quality Baseline Guidelines* (under review); *Guidelines for Hydrocarbon Contaminated Soil Treatment Facilities* (under development); an updated *Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program Guidelines* (under development); and *Environmental Assessment Initiation Guidelines* (anticipated for public review in fall 2018).

A review of the *NWT Waters Act* (the Act) and Regulations started in 2016 and is ongoing. ENR is using a partnership approach to review proposed amendments to the Act, in collaboration with Indigenous governments, through a technical working group. A stakeholder advisory group has been established to inform non-government organizations, industry and other agencies about proposed amendments and facilitate feedback for consideration.

The MVEIRB, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and ENR hosted a Resource Co-Management Workshop in Yellowknife in early 2018. The workshop focused on the follow-up, monitoring

16 (out of 28)
respondents agreed
industrial water licensing
roles and responsibilities
are clear.

and compliance requirements of development projects in the Mackenzie Valley. The *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (MVRMA) Workshop Final Report is available at reviewboard.ca.

WROs and Lands inspectors conduct industrial water licence inspections (industrial undertakings, mining and milling, and power undertaking) and track the results in the Inspection Reporting and Risk Assessment system.

Additional Information

More information on Use Responsibly Water Strategy implementation activities can be found in the following websites and resources.

Websites

- [Gwich'in Land and Water Board](http://glwb.com)
glwb.com
- [Inuvialuit Water Board](http://inuvwb.ca)
inuvwb.ca
- [Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board](http://mvlwb.com)
mvlwb.com
- [Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board](http://reviewboard.ca)
reviewboard.ca
- [NWT Drinking Water](http://nwt drinkingwater.ca)
nwt drinkingwater.ca
- [Sahtú Land and Water Board](http://slwb.ca)
slwb.ca
- [Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board](http://wlwb.ca)
wlwb.ca

Resources

- [Municipal water licence templates and guidelines](http://mvlwb.com/resources/policy-and-guidelines)
mvlwb.com/resources/policy-and-guidelines
- [Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act \(MVRMA\) Workshop Final Report](https://mvlwb.com/content/summary-report-mackenzie-valley-resource-management-act-workshop-feb-2018)
<https://mvlwb.com/content/summary-report-mackenzie-valley-resource-management-act-workshop-feb-2018>
- [Industrial water licence policies and guideline](http://mvlwb.com/resources/policy-and-guidelines)
mvlwb.com/resources/policy-and-guidelines

21 (out of 32)
respondents indicated
they know who to contact
about regulatory roles
and responsibilities.

2 pieces of water
legislation were under
review and 5 guidelines were
reviewed in 2017.

4.0 Check Our Progress

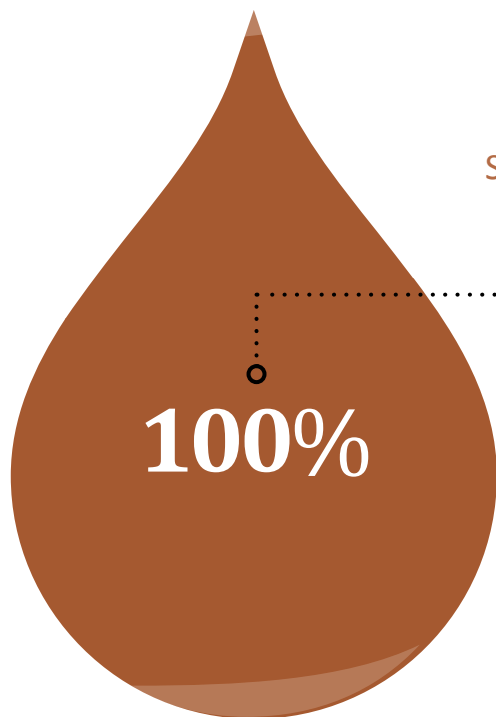
4.1 Routine Checks

Lead Water Partners for 2017/2018 Action Items

- ENR

Status of Action Item Progress: Check Our Progress

- Complete





4.1

Routine Checks

Regular reviews of Water Strategy implementation ensure progress is being made and that adjustments can be made as necessary.

Water Strategy implementation progress for 2016/2017 was communicated to water partners and the public through the release of the *2016/2017 NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Progress Review Summary*. Water partners also shared updates of recently completed, ongoing and planned implementation activities through discussions, posters and panel presentations at the 2017 Water Strategy Implementation Workshop.

54 Performance Indicators and 119 Action Items were reviewed during the 2017/2018 Progress Review.

In April 2018, ENR circulated an online survey to more than 100 lead and supporting water partners to collect information for the 2017/2018 Progress Review. Sixty (60) water partners responded to the survey. Additional document reviews, website analytics and email, phone and in-person communication with lead water partners also informed the Progress Review.

The 2017/2018 Progress Review is the second review under the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Action Plan 2016-2020.

Implementation activities under the Work Together, Know and Plan, and Use Responsibly components of the 2016-2020 Action Plan all identify approaches for including traditional and local knowledge in Water Strategy implementation. Examples of implementation activities that included traditional and local knowledge in 2017/2018 include:

- ongoing guidance from the ASC on research activities related to traditional knowledge;
- support of on-the-land camps;
- initiation of the development of an approach for traditional knowledge informing selection of biological indicators for NWT's large transboundary rivers;
- storytelling panels and presentations at the 2017 Water Strategy Implementation Workshop;
- a two-eyed seeing workshop to support identification of indicators for the Mackenzie River Basin Board State of Aquatic Ecosystem Reporting;
- support of community-led water-related traditional knowledge projects—for example, *Tracking Change*; and
- work to ensure opportunities to include traditional and local knowledge in water licensing are clearly communicated.



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Photo: Madison Melnyk