



## Climate Change Knowledge

Parts of the NWT are warming up to four times faster than global averages and experiencing considerable changes to the natural environment. This intense warming means climate change impacts are being felt more strongly and more rapidly in the NWT. For more information, see the Climate Change Impacts Fact Sheet.

Increased knowledge of climate change will help improve our understanding, build resiliency and adapt to the impacts of climate change. Priority activities for increasing climate change knowledge include monitoring and research projects, and building partnerships and collaborations.

**Monitoring and Research** – Traditional and scientific knowledge are used to gather evidence-based information on the effects of climate change on our natural environment. Monitoring is critical to detect the rates and magnitude of climate change impacts in the NWT. Research helps us identify and understand the changes that are occurring and develop adaptation measures. Existing monitoring and research efforts include the Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (NWT CIMP), water monitoring and research activities (NWT Water Stewardship Strategy), and various wildlife monitoring and research activities.

**Building partnerships and collaborations** – The NWT Knowledge Agenda (previously the NWT Science Agenda) and the Aurora Research Institute support northern research. The NWT Knowledge Agenda (currently undergoing renewal) helps direct research practitioners working in the NWT to relevant and valuable investigations for NWT residents. The Aurora Research Institute has several functions, including licensing and coordinating research, promoting communications between researchers and communities, and making scientific and traditional knowledge available to NWT residents.

A collaborative effort already in place is a multi-year water and cold regions partnership between the GNWT and Wilfrid Laurier University focusing on climate change research.

In addition, the Government of Canada just announced a \$900 million funding commitment to 13 Canadian universities through the Canada First Research Excellence Fund. One of the funded projects, involving research into future energy systems, will help with the transition to a lower-carbon economy, which would be beneficial to the North.

Identifying and addressing research gaps, building northern research capacity and supporting effective partnerships between research practitioners and the communities they work in are all topics that will be discussed and addressed in the development of the NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework.