



# 2030 NWT CLIMATE CHANGE STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK 2019-2023 Draft Action Plan

## CADRE STRATÉGIQUE SUR LE CHANGEMENT CLIMATIQUE DE TNO 2030 Ébauche du plan d'action 2019-2023

Le présent document contient la traduction française du résumé et le message du ministre



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## INTRODUCTION

The NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework Action Plan 2019-2023 (Action Plan) puts into motion the vision of the [2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework](#) (Framework).

*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.*

This 2019-2023 Action Plan guides the implementation of the Framework over the next five years, and is intended to present a broad summary of all significant climate change actions underway and areas for future collaboration in the NWT. A subsequent Action Plan will be developed, in conjunction with partners, to cover the period from 2025 to 2029.

The Action Plan builds on the goals and priorities established in the Framework and reflects the input received during an engagement process conducted from April to August 2018. Extensive input was received from within the GNWT and preliminary information was provided by partners identified below. During the implementation of this Action Plan, further collaboration with partners and potential partners will be a priority to develop areas for future collaboration into concrete actions.

## PARTNERS

As outlined in the Framework, the responsibility for taking action on climate change is shared by all segments of NWT society. Key partners to be engaged in the implementation of the Action Plan include:

- Government of the Northwest Territories;
- Government of Canada;
- Indigenous governments and/or organizations;
- Community governments;
- Co-management boards;
- Non-governmental organizations;
- Industry; and,
- Academia (academic institutions and researchers).

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

## **FLEXIBLE APPROACH**

The Framework sets out three goals and identifies priority areas of action for achieving the Vision. Many of the action areas summarized in the Action Plan reflect the current state of knowledge on climate change impacts on the NWT and the collective wisdom of partners on how to respond to the challenges resulting from these impacts.

Partners, including the GNWT, will need to work together to implement the Action Plan. The GNWT's commitment and investment to addressing climate change is demonstrated by the actions it is leading or partnering on to achieve, as listed in the Action Plan. The federal government is also providing support on several actions. As a small jurisdiction with limited resources, federal support, as well as support from other partners, will be needed to implement areas for future collaboration listed in the Action Plan. Many of these are dependent on federal funding support under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change, as well as other funding sources that may become available. To this end, steps will need to be taken by all partners to seek funding and establish partnerships. Work underway on Canada's Arctic Policy Framework, which is expected to provide overarching guidance to federal priorities, activities and investments in the Arctic, may lead to further opportunities for collaboration and funding. A list of potential funding sources for areas for future collaboration, as well as the acronyms used when referring to funding sources, is included in Appendix B.

As funding opportunities are secured to implement areas for future collaboration, specific actions will be defined, refined and tracked. It is also expected that new actions will be identified and added to the Action Plan as implementation begins. Over time, it will be necessary to measure progress and periodically re-evaluate and validate priorities and future actions, based on new information, technologies and funding. This will be highlighted in the annual progress report.

The GNWT will be responsible for leading and implementing many of the actions outlined in the Action Plan. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), as the lead department for climate change, will oversee the implementation of the Action Plan and coordinate progress reporting on an annual basis for all GNWT and partner-led actions identified in the Action Plan. The annual report will provide a comprehensive account of how the NWT is making progress on addressing the challenges associated with climate change.

## **RELATED INITIATIVES**

While the Action Plan is intrinsically linked with the implementation of the [2030 Energy Strategy](#) and the NWT approach to carbon pricing, this document does not include specific actions defined within those initiatives. Actions included within the [2030 Energy Strategy: Energy Action Plan 2018 - 2021](#) (released June 1, 2018) and the NWT approach to carbon pricing (released July 11, 2018) all contribute to meeting Goal #1 under the Framework.

## **ACTIONS**

The Action Plan is organized using tables that reflect actions under the Framework's three goals and cross-cutting themes.

- Goal #1: Transition to a lower carbon economy
- Goal #2: Improve knowledge of climate change impacts
- Goal #3: Build resilience and adapt to a changing climate
- Cross-cutting: Leadership, communication and capacity
- Cross-cutting: Economic impacts and opportunities

The Action Plan has been divided into three parts:

- **PART 1: ACTIONS**  
Climate change work currently underway or resourced to begin within the 2019-2023 timeframe
- **PART 2: AREAS FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION**  
Critical or high priority action areas that require funding, additional capacity or other forms of support in order to proceed
- **PART 3: IMPLEMENTATION, REPORTING AND MEASURING PROGRESS**  
Steps needed to implement, report and measure progress on the Action Plan

For each action and area for future collaboration, partners or potential partners have been identified. Additional information on the climate change related roles and responsibilities of various partners is provided in Appendix C.

## INTRODUCTION

Le Plan d'action 2019-2023 des TNO sur le changement climatique vise à mettre en application la vision du [Cadre stratégique sur le changement climatique des TNO 2030](#) (le Cadre).

*Vision – D'ici 2030, les Territoires du Nord-Ouest (TNO) auront une économie saine, forte et moins tributaire des combustibles fossiles (comparativement à 2005), et disposeront du savoir, des outils et des mesures nécessaires pour accroître leur résilience et s'adapter aux changements du climat nordique.*

Le Plan d'action 2018-2023 guidera la mise en œuvre du Cadre pendant les cinq prochaines années; il se veut un sommaire général de toutes les grandes mesures en cours touchant les changements climatiques, ainsi que des domaines de collaboration éventuelle aux TNO. Un plan d'action subséquent, préparé conjointement avec nos partenaires, couvrira la période de 2025 à 2029.

Le Plan d'action s'appuie sur les priorités et objectifs définis dans le Cadre et tient compte des commentaires reçus pendant les séances de consultation publique tenues entre avril et août 2018. De nombreux commentaires ont également été formulés par les gens travaillant au sein du GTNO, et des données préliminaires ont été fournies par les partenaires nommés ci-après. Pendant la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action, il sera essentiel de maintenir la collaboration avec les partenaires actuels et potentiels afin que les domaines de collaboration éventuelle se concrétisent.

## PARTENAIRES

Comme le précise le Cadre, la responsabilité d'agir contre les changements climatiques revient à tous les groupes de la société ténoise. Voici quelques-uns des partenaires clés qui participent à la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action :

- Le gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest
- Le gouvernement du Canada
- Les gouvernements et organisations autochtones
- Les administrations communautaires
- Les conseils de cogestion
- Les organismes non gouvernementaux

- L'industrie
- Le milieu universitaire (établissements d'enseignement et chercheurs)

L'annexe A du document présente la liste des partenaires potentiels, ainsi que les acronymes les concernant.

#### ***UNE DÉMARCHE SOUPLE***

Le Cadre définit trois objectifs et énonce ses priorités d'action pour réaliser sa vision. Plusieurs des domaines d'action nommés et résumés dans le plan découlent de l'état de nos connaissances quant aux répercussions des changements climatiques sur les TNO; ces domaines s'inspirent aussi de la sagesse collective des partenaires sur la manière dont nous pouvons relever les défis associés à ces répercussions.

Les partenaires, y compris le GTNO, travailleront ensemble à la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action. L'engagement du GTNO et les investissements qu'il consacre à la question climatique se manifestent dans les mesures qu'il prévoit piloter ou appuyer, mesures citées dans le Plan d'action. Le gouvernement fédéral apporte aussi son soutien à différentes mesures. Étant donné le pouvoir et les ressources limitées de notre territoire, le soutien du gouvernement fédéral et des autres partenaires sera nécessaire pour mettre en place les domaines de collaboration éventuelle définis dans le Plan d'action. Nombre de ces domaines de collaboration dépendent du financement fédéral accordé en vertu du Cadre panafricain sur la croissance propre et les changements climatiques, ainsi que d'autres sources de financement qui pourraient s'ouvrir. Pour ce faire, tous les partenaires devront prendre des mesures pour trouver du financement et établir des relations de collaboration. Le travail en cours sur le Cadre stratégique pour l'Arctique du Canada devrait orienter les priorités, activités et investissements du gouvernement fédéral dans l'Arctique, ce qui pourrait mener à de nouvelles possibilités de collaboration et de financement. L'annexe B du document présente une liste des sources de financement possibles pour les domaines de collaboration éventuelle, ainsi que les acronymes utilisés en référence aux sources de financement.

Lorsque le financement destiné à la mise en œuvre des domaines de collaboration éventuelle aura été assuré, il sera alors temps de définir, de peaufiner et de faire le suivi des mesures spécifiques. On s'attend à ce que de nouvelles mesures viennent compléter le Plan d'action lorsque sa mise en œuvre aura été lancée. Avec le temps, il faudra mesurer les progrès, tout en réévaluant et validant périodiquement les priorités et les étapes à venir à la lumière des derniers développements, des technologies et du financement. Ces points seront abordés dans le rapport d'étape annuel.

Le GTNO aura pour tâche de diriger et de mettre en œuvre plusieurs des mesures décrites dans le Plan d'action. Le ministère de l'Environnement et des Ressources naturelles (MERN), à titre de ministère chapeautant la question des changements climatiques, supervisera la mise en œuvre du Plan d'action et coordonnera la publication du rapport d'étape annuel, et ce, pour toutes les initiatives visées par le Plan d'action et menées par le GTNO ou ses partenaires. Le rapport annuel fournira le détail des progrès accomplis aux TNO relativement aux défis qu'amènent les changements climatiques.

## **INITIATIVES CONNEXES**

Bien que le plan d'action soit intrinsèquement lié à la mise en œuvre de la [Stratégie énergétique 2030](#) de même qu'à l'approche des TNO en matière de tarification du carbone, le présent document ne détaille aucune des mesures spécifiques prises en vertu de ces initiatives. Les mesures explicitées dans la [Stratégie énergétique 2030 : Plan d'action 2018-2021](#) (publiée le 1<sup>er</sup> juin 2018) et l'approche des TNO en matière de tarification du carbone (publiée le 11 juillet 2018) contribuent toutes à l'atteinte du premier objectif du Cadre.

## **MESURES**

Le Plan d'action regroupe sous forme de tableaux les mesures découlant des trois objectifs du Cadre, ainsi que les thèmes intersectoriels.

- Objectif n° 1 : Transition vers une économie à faibles émissions de carbone
- Objectif n° 2 : Développement des connaissances sur les répercussions des changements climatiques
- Objectif n° 3 : Accroissement de la résilience et adaptation aux changements climatiques
- Thème intersectoriel : Leadership, communication et capacité
- Thème intersectoriel : Répercussions et possibilités économiques

Le plan d'action est structuré en trois parties :

- PARTIE 1 : MESURES  
Répertorie les travaux déjà en cours sur les changements climatiques ou les chantiers disposant des ressources nécessaires pour démarrer au cours de la période 2019-2023.
- PARTIE 2 : DOMAINES DE COLLABORATION ÉVENTUELLE  
Pose les champs d'action cruciaux ou hautement prioritaires nécessitant du financement, des capacités additionnelles ou d'autres formes de soutien pour aller de l'avant.
- PARTIE 3 : MISE EN ŒUVRE, RAPPORT ET MESURE DES PROGRÈS  
Présente les étapes nécessaires à la mise en œuvre, à la production de rapports et à la mesure des progrès du Plan d'action.

Pour chaque mesure et domaine de collaboration éventuelle, les partenaires actuels ou potentiels ont été confirmés. L'annexe C contient de l'information supplémentaire sur les rôles et responsabilités des différents partenaires relativement aux changements climatiques.

## PART 1: ACTIONS

Climate change work currently underway or resourced to begin within the 2019-2023 timeframe is identified in Part 1 of the Action Plan. Actions with secured funding and resources are listed below under the Framework's three goals and two cross-cutting themes. These actions are largely led and resourced through the GNWT and partners, with some support from the federal government, academic institutions and other partnerships.

### GOAL #1: TRANSITION TO A LOWER CARBON ECONOMY

The Framework, the 2030 Energy Strategy and the NWT approach to carbon pricing are three inter-related policy measures that all contribute to the goal of transitioning to a lower carbon economy.

The [Energy Action Plan 2018-2021](#) outlines approximately \$177 million in investments to improve the security, affordability and sustainability of energy supply and use in the NWT, including energy efficiency, electricity generation in diesel communities, renewable energy for community heating, and energy used for road transportation and industry. These investments and other innovative projects, such as the Taltson hydro-electric project, represent the primary approach for reducing NWT greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, 96% of which are due to fossil fuel use. The [Energy Action Plan 2018-2021](#) outlines 42 actions and initiatives to achieve the six strategic objectives of the [2030 Energy Strategy](#).

Further, in July 2018 the NWT announced its intention to introduce a carbon tax, starting at \$20 per tonne of GHG emissions increasing annually to \$50 per tonne, with an exemption for aviation fuel. Carbon tax offsets include a 100% rebate at source of the carbon tax on heating fuel for most residents, businesses and governments, and annual rebates of carbon tax on fuel used to generate electricity for residential and business use but not for industry. Large emitters will receive an annual rebate of 75% of the carbon tax paid on non-motive and heating fuel, and the remaining 25% will be put into individual accounts to be used for projects that reduce GHG emissions. The carbon tax will come into effect July 1, 2019.

The following GHG emission reduction actions are being pursued to complement activities within the [Energy Action Plan 2018-2021](#) and further support the transition to a lower carbon economy in the NWT.

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS <sup>1</sup> (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
1.1 Transitioning to a lower carbon economy	A. Implement the actions and initiatives outlined in the <a href="#">2030 Energy Strategy: Energy Action Plan 2018-2021</a>	Ongoing	INF, AEA, NTPC, HCorp, Federal Departments, Community Governments	2019-2021	Existing Federal and GNWT resources
	B. Implement NWT carbon pricing	Initiate in 2019	FIN	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
1.2 Addressing climate change in environmental assessment and licensing / permitting of resource development and other projects	A. Collaborate on policy development, information requirements and tools to integrate climate change considerations	Discussions initiated within the GNWT and with regulatory boards	ENR, ITI, Lands, <b>Regulatory Boards</b> , Industry	2019-2020 and ongoing	Existing GNWT and Regulatory Board resources
	B. Include climate change considerations in GNWT submissions to regulatory boards	Discussions initiated within the GNWT	ENR, GNWT	2019-2020 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
1.3 Determining the potential value of natural carbon sinks	A. Initiate work to estimate carbon stored in NWT ecosystems	Initiated	ENR, FIN, Academia, NRCan (CFS), NGOs	2019-2020	Existing GNWT, NRCan (CFS) and Academia
1.4 Improving GHG emissions tracking and reporting	A. Improve GNWT emissions tracking	Ongoing	ENR, INF, ECCC	2019-2020 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	B. Refine GNWT and NWT reporting methods	Ongoing	ENR, INF, FIN, ECCC	2019-2020 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources

<sup>1</sup> See Appendix A for potential partners acronyms

## GOAL #2: IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

The NWT is experiencing numerous 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, local and scientific knowledge will be paramount.

In recent years, numerous research and monitoring initiatives or programs addressing climate change knowledge gaps have been undertaken by the GNWT, Indigenous and community governments, non-government organizations, and academic institutions and researchers. To ensure that this type of work results in products or tools that help decision-makers cope with climate-related impacts, there are three key steps that need to be completed for most subject areas:

- Acquiring baseline data or information through research and monitoring
- Processing and assessing the data or information
- Using the processed data or information to make future projections and/or produce tools that support decision-making

Climate-related research and monitoring efforts have focused mostly on the acquisition of baseline data or information, and less so on processing and assessing data and information to turn into projections or tools that decision-makers can use. The actions items reflected below will help close this gap.

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
<b>PLANNING, MANAGEMENT AND USE OF INFORMATION</b>					
2.1 Supporting the GNWT Knowledge Agenda – climate change research	A. Leverage existing research programs to incorporate community-based participation through the development of community and academic partnerships	Ongoing	<b>GNWT</b> , IGOs, Academia, Community Governments, NGOs	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources and academic research networks
2.1 Supporting the	B. Support additional interdisciplinary	Ongoing	<b>GNWT</b> , IGOs,	2019-2023	Existing GNWT

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
GNWT Knowledge Agenda – climate change research (cont.)	research addressing economic, health, social and environmental change related to climate change		Academia, Community Governments	and ongoing	resources and academic research networks
	C. Link traditional and local knowledge holders with researchers in discussions or research about climate change	Ongoing	GNWT, IGOs, Academia, Community Governments	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources and academic research networks
	D. Work with other jurisdictions, industry and academia on climate change related research, development and best practices for public infrastructure	Implemented – participation in federal/provincial/territorial sessions and interaction or partnerships with academia, NRCan and NRC	INF	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	E. Collaborate with the Transportation Association of Canada and the Canadian Permafrost Association on climate change related initiatives	Ongoing	INF, ITI (NTGS)	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
2.2 Supporting conservation network planning	A. Develop a renewed strategy for conservation network planning	Ongoing	ENR, Lands, EIA, IGOs, NGOs	2019-2021	Existing GNWT resources and application to the Nature Fund
2.3 Enhancing the use of traditional and local knowledge	A. Build climate change education into the Take A Kid Trapping and hunter education programs	Ongoing	ENR, IGOs, MACA, HSS	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	B. Support the collection, analysis or synthesis of traditional knowledge through the NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program to	Annual review of project proposals	ENR, IGOs, Community Governments, Co-management	2019-2020 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources and leveraged funding from project

Action Areas	Action Items	Status	Potential Partners (Lead in bold)	Timeline	Existing Resources
	better understand environmental trends and cumulative impacts for use in decision-making		Boards, Academia		partners
2.4 Improving management and use of data / information	A. Inventory and evaluate NWT environmental data and data products to support climate change actions	Ongoing	<b>ENR, ISSC, ITI (NTGS)</b>	2019-2021	Existing GNWT resources
	B. Develop and implement a central online resource to share climate change knowledge and information	A new position will be staffed in 2019 to support this work	<b>ENR, ISSC</b>	2019-2021	Existing GNWT resources
	C. Improve dissemination of climate change results and products	A new position will be staffed in 2019 to support this work	<b>ENR</b>	2019-2023	Existing GNWT resources
<b>RESEARCH AND MONITORING TO IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE</b>					
2.5 Climate and weather	A. Evaluate monitoring network requirements and prioritize monitoring gaps	Underway	<b>ENR, ECCC</b>	2019-2020	Existing GNWT and ECCC resources
	B. Continue and enhance climate monitoring at NWT monitoring sites	Ongoing	<b>ENR, ECCC, PCA, Industry, Academia</b>	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT and ECCC resources
	C. Develop and implement a northern climate hub to support delivery of climate services and products	Initiate in 2019	<b>ENR, ECCC</b>	2019-2020	Existing GNWT and ECCC resources
	D. Develop climate projections and climate indices	Initiated	<b>ENR, ECCC, Academia</b>	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT and ECCC resources
	E. Continue to monitor rates and dynamics of coastal erosion along the Beaufort Sea	Ongoing	<b>NRCan (GSC)</b>	2019-2020 and ongoing	Existing NRCan resources

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
2.6 Permafrost	A. Collect ground temperature data along the Dempster and Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highways	Initiated	ITI (NTGS), INF	2019 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	B. Develop methodology for regional terrain sensitivity and geohazard mapping (remote sensing)	Initiated	ITI (NTGS), ENR, ISSC, Academia	2019	Existing GNWT resources
	C. Compile ground temperature and geotechnical datasets for the NWT	Initiated	ITI (NTGS), INF, ENR, Academia	2019 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	D. Undertake community terrain mapping through a pilot study of two communities	Initiated	ITI (NTGS), ENR, Academia	2019-2021	Existing GNWT resources
	E. Undertake permafrost related research along the Dempster and Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk highways	Initiated	ITI (NTGS), INF, Academia	2019 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources and leveraged project partner funding
	F. Collaborate and advise on academic permafrost research in NWT	Initiated	ITI (NTGS), Academia	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	G. Work to increase permafrost capacity to enable progress on actions	Initiated	ITI (NTGS), INF, ENR	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
2.7 Water and wetlands	A. Continue NWT water quality and water quantity monitoring to contribute to the assessment of climate-related changes in quality and flow over time (including Community Based Water Monitoring Programs)	Ongoing	ENR, ECCC	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
2.7 Water and wetlands (cont.)	B. Continue to support the snow survey network to contribute to a better understanding of climate-related change in winter precipitation	Ongoing	ENR	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	C. Undertake NWT Wetland Inventory Mapping	In progress	Ducks Unlimited Canada, IGOs	2019-2021	Existing Ducks Unlimited Canada resources
	D. Assess cumulative impacts to water, including climate change, as reflected in the NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program Water Blueprint	Annual review of Blueprint to form basis of project proposals	ENR, Academia, ECCC, IGOs, Community Governments	2019-2020 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
2.8 Forests and vegetation	A. Monitor changes to forest growth, productivity, health and regeneration after natural and human-caused disturbances in the context of the changing climate	Ongoing	ENR, NRCan (CFS), Academia	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT, NRCan (CFS) and academic research networks
	B. Conduct vulnerability assessments for forest landscape areas of interest	Initiated	ENR, NRCan (CFS)	2019-2020	Existing GNWT and NRCan (CFS) resources
	C. Improve understanding of changing wildland fire regimes	Initiated	ENR, NRCan (CFS), Academia	2019-2023	Existing GNWT and NRCan (CFS) resources
	D. Produce baseline NWT-wide vegetation classifications	Ongoing	ENR, ISSC, NRCan (CFS)	2019-2020	Existing GNWT and NRCan (CFS) resources
	E. Complete forest health surveys and reporting	Ongoing	ENR, NRCan (CFS)	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
2.9 Wildlife	A. Continue monitoring invasive and non-indigenous species and assess impacts from range shifts on wildlife	Ongoing	ENR, Resource Management Boards, ECCC, Academia	2019-2023	Existing GNWT resources
	B. Establish the NWT Pests, Pathogens and Invasive Species Council	Establish in 2019	ENR, NWT PPISC	2019-2023	Existing GNWT resources
	C. Utilize the NWT Pests, Pathogens and Invasive Species Council to support rapid response programs and educational materials on future pests, pathogens and invasive species issues due to the changing climate	Initiate once the Council has been established	ENR, NWT PPISC	2019-2023	Existing GNWT resources
	D. Disseminate current and new information on the health and distribution of wildlife, including diseases and parasites	Ongoing	ENR	2019-2023	Existing GNWT resources
	E. Continue using remote sensing techniques to assess wildlife habitat and impacts due to climate change	Ongoing	ENR, ECCC (CWS)	2019-2023	Existing GNWT resources
	F. Enhance the knowledge of species presence, distribution and status to determine future needs based on a changing climate	Reports on the General Status Ranks for NWT are published every five years	ENR, Resource Management Boards, ECCC, DFO	2019-2023 and ongoing	NatureServe Network and existing GNWT resources
	G. Assess cumulative impacts to caribou, including from climate change, as reflected in the NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program Caribou Blueprint	Annual review of Blueprint to form basis of project proposals	ENR, Academia, IGOs, Community Governments	2019-2020 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
2.10 Fish and marine mammals	A. Continue to improve baseline monitoring of species health and distribution with an emphasis on priority species of marine, anadromous and freshwater fishes, and marine mammals	Ongoing	DFO, ECCC, NRCan, IGOs, Resource Management Boards	2019-2023	Existing federal resources and academic research networks
	B. Continue monitoring temperature-dependent contaminants in subsistence species	Ongoing	DFO, ECCC, Health Canada (guidelines)	2019-2023	Existing federal resources and academic research networks
	C. Continue to monitor impacts of diseases and parasites on species	Ongoing	DFO, Health Canada	2019-2023	Existing federal resources and academic research networks
	D. Assess cumulative impacts to fish, including climate change, as reflected in the NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program Fish Blueprint	Annual review of Blueprint to form basis of project proposals	ENR, Academia, DFO, IGOs, Community Governments	2019-2020 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
2.11 Human health and well-being	A. Communicate alerts and develop advisories related to extreme weather, natural disasters impacting health, and poor outdoor air quality	Ongoing	HSS, ENR, MACA	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
2.12 Public safety	A. Ensure residents, first responders, communities and the GNWT are better prepared to deal with the impacts of climate-related hazards	Public awareness activities conducted annually will be updated to reflect current hazards	MACA, Community Governments, NWTAC, PSC	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
2.12 Public safety (cont.)	B. Update community emergency plans and incorporate methods for identifying climate change related hazards and adapting to the increase in frequency and severity of such hazards	Ongoing	MACA, Community Governments, GNWT	2019-2020 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources allow delivery of five emergency workshops annually
	C. Incorporate extreme weather warnings into public alerting system	Protocol updates underway	MACA, ECCC	2019	Existing GNWT resources
	D. Support the implementation of FireSmart principles and consider the use of FireSmart programs for all communities	Ongoing	ENR, MACA, Community Governments	2019-2023	Existing GNWT resources
2.13 Culture and heritage	A. Continue research to assess impacts to heritage resources from climate-driven landscape disturbances	Ongoing	ECE	2019 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources and CIRNAC's Climate Change Preparedness in the North
2.14 Public and community infrastructure	A. Complete community infrastructure risk assessments	Developing a proposal and scope	MACA, NWTAC, Community Governments	2019-2020	Infrastructure Canada and CIRNAC's Climate Change Preparedness in the North
	B. Seek funding to fill community infrastructure gaps	Ongoing	MACA, INF, NWTAC, Community Governments	2019 and ongoing	Existing MACA resources

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
2.14 Public and community infrastructure (cont.)	C. Improve documentation of GNWT infrastructure stability via more rigorous asset management activities on both vertical (i.e. buildings) and horizontal (i.e. highways and runways) infrastructure	Implemented – Documentation of asset management activities arising from routine inspections of vertical and horizontal infrastructure	INF	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	D. Update climate change risk assessments for both vertical and horizontal infrastructure	Implemented – Engineering risk assessments updated every five years for vertical infrastructure and annually for horizontal infrastructure	INF	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	E. Collect and analyze ground temperature data to support the general knowledge base for infrastructure planning, design, construction and climate change impact monitoring	Implemented – Annual reporting generated from thermistor strings in building foundations, highways and runways	INF	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	F. Continue to explore the potential for remote sensing and other technology to acquire data to allow monitoring and analysis of settlement and movement of GNWT infrastructure	Implemented – Satellite information reporting to be obtained from ISSC	INF, ISSC	2019-2020	Existing GNWT resources

Over the next five years, efforts will be largely focused on implementing the action items shown for Goal #2. The results of this work are needed to understand how the changing climate is affecting the NWT and to implement effective measures to build resilience or adapt.

### **GOAL #3: BUILD RESILIENCE AND ADAPT TO A CHANGING CLIMATE**

Results obtained from the research and monitoring work outlined under Goal #2 will be used to better manage and adapt to climate change related impacts already occurring, and those yet to come.

In recent years, the NWT has begun to integrate climate change considerations into plans, policies, operational practices and management functions. However, much more work is needed to adjust to current impacts and a wide range of possible future conditions and unanticipated events.

From 2019 to 2023, the focus for building resilience and adapting will be on four overarching action areas:

*Sustaining Ecosystems* – As the northern landscape continues to warm and undergo rapid changes, ensuring the sustainability of ecosystems is critically important to improving ecological, social and economic resilience at the landscape level.

*Managing the Natural Environment* – Components of the natural environment, such as water, forests and wildlife, are currently monitored and managed by the GNWT, Indigenous governments and others. As more information is known about the current and future impacts resulting from climate change, steps need to be taken to adjust management approaches and decisions to incorporate traditional knowledge and new information, and to build resilience to address anticipated changes.

*Protecting People* – The protection of people and culture is of utmost importance. As the northern climate changes, various levels of government must be able to anticipate, address and minimize risks and impacts to human health, public safety and culture and heritage.

*Designing, Building and Maintaining Resilient Infrastructure* – For existing infrastructure, ongoing monitoring under Goal #2 will determine where potential upgrading or adaptation is needed. For new infrastructure, the development of specific northern standards and changes to certain practices are needed to ensure that assets and facilities are resilient to future climatic conditions and climate change related risks.

The following action items are being pursued under these action areas to build resilience and adapt to a changing climate under Goal #3.

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
<b>SUSTAINING ECOSYSTEMS</b>					
3.1 Implementing the GNWT Land Use Sustainability Framework	A. Integrate adaptation and mitigation factors into GNWT decision processes affecting land, water and natural resources	Work in preliminary stages of development	Lands, GNWT	2019-2020 revisions and testing	Existing GNWT resources
	B. Develop climate change indicators	Work in preliminary stages of development	ENR, GNWT	2020-2021 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
3.2 Completing / reviewing regional land use plans	A. Incorporate climate change considerations into GNWT submissions pertaining to regional land use plans	Reviews of the Sahtu and Gwich'in Land Use Plans are beginning or underway and regional land use planning is underway in the Dehcho and beginning in Wek'èezhìi and the southeastern NWT	Lands, ENR, ITI, ECE, EIA, IGOs, Federal Government, Land Use Planning Boards and Committees	2019-2020 and ongoing	Funding for land use planning is a federal responsibility – GNWT continues to work with all planning partners
3.3 Implementing the conservation network	A. Establish Thaidene Nënë candidate protected area	Ongoing	ENR, IGOs, PCA, Lands	2019-2020	Existing GNWT resources, with potential additional support from Canada Nature Fund

Action Areas	Action Items	Status	Potential Partners (Lead in bold)	Timeline	Existing Resources
3.3 Implementing the conservation network (cont.)	B. Establish Dinàgà Wek’èhodì candidate protected area	Ongoing	<b>ENR, IGOs, Lands, EIA, ECCC (CWS)</b>	2019-2020	Existing GNWT resources, with potential additional support from Canada Nature Fund
	C. Conclude planning and decisions for remaining candidate areas	In progress	<b>ENR, IGOs, Lands, ECCC</b>	2019-2023	Existing GNWT resources, with potential additional support from Canada Nature Fund
<b>MANAGING THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT</b>					
3.4 Applying permafrost expertise	A. Provide permafrost expertise for NWT projects and initiatives	Initiated	<b>ITI (NTGS)</b>	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
3.5 Implementing wildlife plans / strategies (key species, species at risk, invasive species)	A. Finalize and implement the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan, including the conservation of key habitats where climate change impacts are expected to be pronounced	Ongoing	<b>ENR, Resource Management Boards, IGOs, Industry</b>	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources and Polar Knowledge Canada funding
	B. Finalize the Boreal Caribou Range Plans, including management of climate change impacts on the ecosystem	Initiated	<b>ENR, ECCC, Resource Management Boards, IGOs, Industry</b>	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources and ECCC Canada Nature Fund

Action Areas	Action Items	Status	Potential Partners (Lead in bold)	Timeline	Existing Resources
3.6 Capturing carbon in forests	A. Increase forest carbon sequestration by silvicultural practices including planting in areas that have not returned to forest after natural disturbances, and thinning in areas that are overly dense	Initiate in 2019	<b>ENR</b> , INF, ECCC	2019-2023	Existing GNWT resources and ECCC's Low Carbon Economy Fund
<b>PROTECTING PEOPLE</b>					
3.7 Responding to human health risks	A. Promote and support health and wellness activities to build community resiliency	Ongoing	<b>HSS</b> , ENR	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	B. Assess the readiness of communities to identify cleaner air shelters to reduce impacts of wildland fire smoke on human health	Ongoing	<b>HSS</b>	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
3.8 Increasing local food security	A. Support country food-related research, including climate change impacts to community food security	Funding will be provided or leveraged to help support research over the next three years	<b>ENR</b> , HSS, ITI	2019-2021	Existing GNWT resources
	B. Implement a NWT country foods strategy to support country food research and programs	In development	<b>ENR</b> , HSS, ITI	2019-2023	Existing GNWT resources
3.9 Improving capacity and resilience of health and social services	A. Assess if essential services can be provided during extreme weather and climate-related events	Ongoing	<b>HSS</b>	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
3.10 Updating community emergency plans and operations and maintenance procedures	A. Add climate-related hazards and adaptation measures to community emergency plans and operations and maintenance procedures (e.g. floods, blizzards, wildland fires, permafrost thaw, coastal erosion)	Phased approach – Five communities per year targeted for completion	Community Governments, MACA	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
3.11 Enhancing wildland fire disaster mitigation	A. Update and implement community wildland fire protection plans	Ongoing	Community Governments ENR, MACA	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT and community resources
3.12 Community hazard mapping	A. Develop a business case for flood plain mapping	Business case development is underway	Lands, ENR, NTGS, MACA, NWTAC, Academia	2019	Existing GNWT resources
	B. Update community plans to incorporate hazard maps including permafrost conditions and wildland fire information	Initiated	ENR, MACA, Lands, ITI, NWTAC, Community Governments, Academia	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources and CIRNAC's Climate Change Preparedness in the North program
<b>DESIGNING, BUILDING AND MAINTAINING RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE</b>					
3.13 Supporting the Northern Infrastructure Standardization Initiative (NISI)	A. Continue active participation in the development of additional standards for northern infrastructure (NISI Phase II)	Three new standards being developed, two additional standards proposed	INF, MACA, SCC, ENR, HCorp, NWTAC	2019-2020 and ongoing	Existing GNWT and external resources
3.14 Adapting infrastructure to a changing climate	A. Construct the Tlicho All Season Road	Project underway	INF	2019-2023	Transportation Division within INF

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
3.14 Adapting infrastructure to a changing climate (cont.)	B. Construct the Great Bear River Bridge	Project underway	INF	2023	Funded under Transport Canada's National Trade Corridors Fund
	C. Complete permitting and construct the Mount Gaudet All Season Road	Project underway	INF	2023	Funded under Transport Canada's National Trade Corridors Fund

As the climate is changing, continuing to develop tools and measures to build resilience and adapt to current and future changes is imperative. If successful in this effort, the NWT has an opportunity to become a leader in the area of climate change adaptation and can export knowledge and expertise and attract researchers.

## CROSS-CUTTING: LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

Improved leadership, communication and capacity-building focused on climate change are required to support all three goals of the Framework.

*Leadership* – As the lead GNWT department for climate change, ENR will work collaboratively within the GNWT and with all external partners to provide overall leadership, coordination and guidance on climate change issues throughout the territory. The existing Ministerial Energy and Climate Change, Deputy Ministers Energy and Climate Change, and Assistant Deputy Ministers Climate Change committees, and a newly established GNWT Director-level Climate Change Working Group, will play a coordinating role across departments in seeking funding, establishing partnerships and sharing information on the implementation of the Action Plan. ENR will also continue to engage with Indigenous and community governments, industry, non-governmental organizations and others to seek input on desired approaches for coordinating and guiding the implementation of the Action Plan in the NWT.

*Communication* – Climate change is a complex, cross-cutting issue that requires clear information about current and future challenges and the options available to address these challenges. ENR will work with partners to identify and respond to the climate change information needs that exist within the GNWT and throughout the territory.

*Capacity-building* – The GNWT is exploring avenues to build capacity within the GNWT and the NWT to meet the challenges of climate change going forward at local, regional and territorial levels.

The following action items are being pursued to enhance leadership, communication and capacity-building.

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
<b>LEADERSHIP</b>					
4.1 Reflecting climate change in governance and policy tools	A. Establish internal GNWT guidance mechanisms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Director-level Climate Change Working Group</li> <li>• Assistant Deputy Ministers Climate Change Committee</li> <li>• Deputy Ministers Energy and Climate Change Committee</li> <li>• Ministerial Energy and Climate Change Committee</li> </ul>	Ongoing – Semi-annual reporting schedule	GNWT	2019 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	B. Coordinate GNWT climate change related project work	Ongoing	ENR, GNWT	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	C. Add climate change considerations to new / revised territorial legislation	Ongoing	ENR	2019	Existing GNWT resources
	D. Complete a jurisdictional scan of effective policy tools to support the Action Plan’s implementation	Ongoing	ENR, GNWT	2019 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	E. Include climate change content in existing community and Indigenous government training resources, and expand online governance training to include climate change	Underway	MACA, ENR, NGO	2019-2020 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
4.2 Pursuing alternative funding sources for climate change initiatives	A. Develop funding requests to address climate change priorities	Ongoing	ENR, GNWT, IGOs	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
4.3 Establishing external guidance mechanisms	A. Develop options for the establishment of a NWT climate change council or advisory body	Ongoing	GNWT, IGOs, NWTAC, NGOs, Industry	2019 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
<b>COMMUNICATION</b>					
4.4 Information sharing and education initiatives	A. Develop and implement a climate change outreach and communication plan	Underway	ENR	2019-2021	Existing GNWT resources
<b>CAPACITY-BUILDING</b>					
4.5 Supporting community-based monitoring efforts	A. Continue community-based monitoring and implement additional community-based monitoring sites on a priority basis	Ongoing	ENR, MACA, IGOs, Community Governments	2019-2023 and ongoing	CIRNAC's Indigenous Community-Based Climate Monitoring program
4.6 Training for Indigenous and community governments	A. Ensure residents, first responders, communities and the GNWT are trained to be better prepared to deal with the impacts of all hazards, ranging from low through to very high risks	Ongoing	MACA, Community Governments, NWTAC, ECCC	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	B. Develop and deliver workshops on adaptation, mitigation and best practices	Aim to deliver one to two workshops per year	MACA, Community Governments	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	C. Deliver climate change training through School of Community Government programming and workshops	Underway	MACA, ENR, NWTAC, LGANT, IGOs, Community Governments	2019-2023 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources

ACTION AREAS	ACTION ITEMS	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
4.7 Adaptation planning and support (regional and local level)	A. Integrate adaptation planning into emergency management, community plans and strategic plan workshops	Workshop content update required – Workshops will be delivered on a priority basis	ENR, NWTAC, Community Governments	2019-2021 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources
	B. Support regional or community adaptation planning and implementation of adaptation initiatives	New program under development	ENR, MACA, NWTAC, IGOs, Community Governments	2019-2021 and ongoing	Existing GNWT resources

Through implementation of this Action Plan, the GNWT, working with partners, will provide leadership for a coordinated territorial approach to climate change mitigation and adaptation, and will support communication and capacity-building to help residents and communities.

## CROSS-CUTTING: ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

The projected economic impacts of climate change in the NWT over the next 20 years need to be determined to understand the ensuing costs if action is not taken to build resilience or adapt as the climate changes. The results of this work will support further adaptation planning.

Some of the changes from a warming climate, as well as actions required to reduce GHG emissions, may result in economic opportunities or benefits to communities and residents in specific sectors. Funding will be sought to further explore these opportunities. The following action area is being pursued to determine economic impacts and opportunities across the three goals of the Framework.

ACTION AREA	ACTION ITEM	STATUS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	TIMELINE	EXISTING RESOURCES
5.1 Estimating the overall economic cost of the combined impacts that may occur in the NWT due to climate change	A. Undertake a study focusing on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Impacts on infrastructure</li><li>• Impacts on quality of life</li><li>• Impacts on economic activities</li><li>• Cost-benefit analysis of adaptation measures</li></ul>	Initiated	ENR, FIN, HSS, ITI, NWTAC	2019-2020	Funding secured from Natural Resources Canada

## PART 2: AREAS FOR FUTURE COLLABORATION

The effects of climate change are advancing more rapidly in NWT and northern Canada than the rest of Canada and the world. These realities were a motivating factor for the GNWT signing on to the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (Pan-Canadian Framework) and partnering with Canada to implement the national framework.

Although the GNWT and partners have made a significant commitments and investments toward addressing climate change, as a small jurisdiction facing rapid changes, additional federal government support and resources will be needed to advance the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework's goals of transitioning to a lower carbon economy, improving knowledge of climate change impacts and building resilience and adapting to a changing climate, as well as address the cross cutting themes of leadership, communication and capacity, and economic impacts and opportunities.

In Part 1 of the Action Plan, action items with secured funding and resources have been identified. These actions are largely led and resourced by the GNWT and partners, with some support from federal, academic and other partners.

To be able to advance the high priority action areas identified under Part 2 - Areas for Future Collaboration, significant federal investment and funding under the Pan-Canadian Framework is required. Funding and support from academia, non-government organizations, industry and other funding agencies will also be critical to advance this Action Plan.

The process the GNWT, through collaboration with partners, will undertake to identify funding sources, form partnerships, develop funding requests and secure funding and capacity to carry out the action areas identified in Part 2 will be outlined in Part 3 – Implementation, Reporting and Measuring Progress.

As funding and capacity are secured for Part 2 - Areas for Future Collaboration, they will be actioned and moved into Part 1 - Actions, and reported on annually.

## GOAL #1: TRANSITION TO A LOWER CARBON ECONOMY

ACTION AREAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	POTENTIAL RESOURCES
<p>6.1 Determining the potential value of natural carbon sinks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate next steps to determine potential economic value of stored carbon in the ecosystem</li> </ul>	ENR, FIN, Academia, NRCan (CFS), NGOs	Explore options for federal and NGO funding
<p>6.2 Implement composting in small to medium-sized communities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake planning and feasibility work</li> <li>• Provide support for projects</li> </ul>	ENR, Community Governments	FCM's Green Municipal Fund

## GOAL #2: IMPROVE KNOWLEDGE OF CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS

ACTION AREAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	POTENTIAL RESOURCES
<p>7.1 Enhancing the use of traditional and local knowledge</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Document, use and transfer climate change related knowledge as prioritized by Indigenous governments to support decision-making pertaining to action areas</li> </ul>	IGOs, GNWT, NGOs	CIRNAC's Climate Change Preparedness in the North fund and SSHRC
<p>7.2 Improving management and use of data / information</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Determine the connections between existing databases to identify and understand linkages between different climate change drivers affecting action areas</li> </ul>	ENR, ISSC, ITI (NTGS)	GNWT
<p>7.3 Climate and weather</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake further climate modeling to predict future landscape change</li> </ul>	ENR, ECCC, Academia	ECCC Canadian Centre for Climate Services
<p>7.4 Permafrost</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a permafrost monitoring network for the NWT</li> <li>• Establish a permafrost data management system</li> <li>• Analyze collected ground temperature data</li> </ul>	ITI (NTGS), Lands, ENR, INF, ECE, Federal Departments, Regulatory Boards, Industry, IGOs, Community Governments, NRCan (GSC, CCRS), Academia	GNWT, Polar Knowledge Canada's Science and Technology Program, NSERC, NRCan and academic research networks

ACTION AREAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	POTENTIAL RESOURCES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess sensitive permafrost terrain and inventory permafrost-related geohazards</li> <li>• Interpret future permafrost behaviour across natural and built environments</li> </ul>		
<p>7.5 Water and wetlands</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review monitoring networks to assess appropriateness for determining trends and/or impacts related to climate change</li> <li>• Prioritize and enhance water monitoring networks to improve assessments of climate change impacts</li> <li>• Undertake climate change vulnerability assessments on priority surface waterbodies to inform management decisions</li> <li>• Identify and assess use of innovative technology for the remote assessment of water and snow pack to assess changes including those related to a changing climate</li> </ul>	ENR, ECCC, ISSC	ECCC's Environmental Damages Fund, CIRNAC's Climate Change Preparedness in the North, Polar Knowledge Canada's Science and Technology Program and GNWT
<p>7.6 Forests and vegetation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Explore the use of remote sensing tools for inventory and update of vegetation cover</li> <li>• Produce baseline NWT-wide vegetation classifications for remaining regions</li> <li>• Update baseline vegetation land cover inventory (2001-2010 base) for fires, land use and other climate-related changes</li> </ul>	ENR, NRCan (CFS), Academia	GNWT, NRCan's CFS and academic research networks
<p>7.7 Wildlife</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct vulnerability assessments for NWT species at risk</li> <li>• Assess indirect effects of climate change on species at risk such as parasites, diseases and pathogens</li> <li>• Conduct monitoring, including community-based monitoring, to track species as they extend their ranges and become established in the NWT and assess resulting long-term impacts</li> <li>• Develop surveillance systems to support predictions of species distribution changes</li> </ul>	ENR, ECCC, Resource Management Boards, IGOs	GNWT, ECCC's Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk Fund and Canada Nature Fund

ACTION AREAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	POTENTIAL RESOURCES
<p>7.8 Human health and well-being</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support health vulnerability assessment(s) by external parties (e.g. consultants, researchers, etc.) to evaluate the impact of climate change on the physical and mental health and social well-being of northern communities</li> <li>• Work with partners and the public to establish the requirements for a baseline surveillance and monitoring system for indicators such as mental health and social well-being, injuries, food and water security, environmental contaminants, extreme weather events and natural disasters, chronic diseases and infectious disease</li> </ul>	HSS, ENR, MACA	ISC's Climate Change Health Adaptation Program and HC's Climate Change and Health Adaptation Capacity Building Contribution Program
<p>7.9 Public safety</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the NWT Hazard Identification Risk Assessment to better predict which hazards could occur more frequently or become more extreme in the future</li> <li>• Develop disaster mitigation plans for communities potentially impacted by the adverse effects of climate change</li> <li>• Evaluate approaches to improve flow monitoring, flood prediction and emergency planning</li> </ul>	MACA, ENR, ECCC, Community Governments, GNWT, Academia	CIRNAC's Climate Change Preparedness in the North fund, Federation of Canadian Municipalities funds and GNWT
<p>7.10 Culture and heritage</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct vulnerability mapping for heritage resources at risk of destruction from coastal erosion in the Beaufort Sea Region</li> </ul>	ECE, Academia, IGOs	ArcticNet, CMN, CIRNAC, SSHRC and academic research networks
<p>7.11 Community infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Prioritize community infrastructure gaps</li> </ul>	MACA, Community Governments	INFC's Canada Infrastructure Bank, GNWT and Community Governments

## GOAL #3: BUILD RESILIENCE AND ADAPT TO A CHANGING CLIMATE

ACTION AREAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	POTENTIAL RESOURCES
8.1 Habitat management, biodiversity and restoration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Undertake a gap analysis for the NWT Biodiversity Action Plan</li> <li>Develop strategies to adapt to invasive and non-indigenous wildlife, fish, marine mammal, insect and plant species</li> </ul>	ENR, NWT PPISC, ECCC	ECCC and GNWT
8.2 Supporting regional priorities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support communities experiencing impacts through focused adaptation initiatives</li> </ul>	GNWT, IGOs	CIRNAC's Climate Change Preparedness in the North fund
8.3 Applying geohazard expertise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase technical capacity for addressing climate change related geohazards in development applications and public and community infrastructure</li> </ul>	Lands, ITI (NTGS)	GNWT
8.4 Permafrost research coordination and application <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure permafrost research conducted by Canadian and international agencies is coordinated and communicated to inform NWT decision-making</li> </ul>	ITI (NTGS)	GNWT
8.5 Implementing wildlife plans / strategies (key species, species at risk, invasive species) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with wildlife co-management partners to consider and address climate change impacts on habitat for all barren-ground caribou herds within the NWT</li> <li>Plan for the enhanced resiliency of wildlife by understanding climate change impacts and stressors on mitigation measures</li> <li>Consider regulatory amendments (seasons, conditions and areas) to the Wildlife Act depending on changes in species distribution</li> </ul>	ENR, ECCC, Resource Management Boards, IGOs, Industry	GNWT, ECCC Canada Nature Fund and Polar Science Canada
8.6 Responding to human health risks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop and deliver educational and outreach materials to support communities in building resiliency and adapting to human health concerns</li> </ul>	HSS, ENR, NWTAC	ISC's Climate Change Health Adaptation Program and HC's Climate Change and Health Adaptation Capacity Building Contribution Program

ACTION AREAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	POTENTIAL RESOURCES
<p>8.7 Increasing local food security</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Building on the priorities to be identified in a NWT country foods strategy, work collaboratively with partners to identify and secure funding to support projects</li> </ul>	<b>ENR</b> , HSS, ITI, EIA, IGOs, Community Governments, Academia	ISC's Climate Change Health Adaptation Program, GNWT and NGOs
<p>8.8 Enhancing wildland fire disaster mitigation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Establish modified community fuel breaks based on a risk-management approach</li> </ul>	<b>ENR</b> , Infrastructure Canada	INF's Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund
<p>8.9 Community hazard mapping</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide information and training to communities to use hazard maps</li> <li>Explore the use of flood plain mapping to inform community hazard maps</li> </ul>	<b>ENR</b> , MACA, Lands, ITI, NWTAC, Community Governments, Academia	GNWT and CIRNAC's Climate Change Preparedness in the North fund
<p>8.10 Protecting threatened heritage resources</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conduct detailed studies/excavations of significant heritage resources at threat of destruction from climate-driven processes</li> <li>Develop remote sensing based monitoring protocols for heritage resources at risk of impact</li> </ul>	<b>ECE</b> , Academia, IGOs	CIRNAC Climate Change Preparedness in the North, SSHRC and academic research networks
<p>8.11 Upgrading public and community infrastructure</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Prepare and submit federal funding application for planning and environmental studies for the Slave Geological Province Road</li> <li>Development of a collaborative GNWT and Yukon Government climate research network using existing and additional monitoring instrumentation and coordinating new research and development projects along the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk and Dempster highways</li> <li>Undertake improvements, as needed, to respond to specific climate change related impacts to infrastructure</li> </ul>	<b>INF</b> , Yukon Government, Community Governments, MACA	INF's Canada Infrastructure Bank, GNWT and Community Governments

## CROSS-CUTTING: LEADERSHIP, COMMUNICATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING

ACTION AREAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	POTENTIAL RESOURCES
<p>9.1 Climate change information sharing and education initiatives</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop education resources focused on different audiences</li> <li>• Deliver regular workshops</li> <li>• Strengthen traditional knowledge based initiatives to include a climate change component</li> </ul>	ENR, NWTAC, ECE, HSS, ITI, MACA, IGOs, Federal Departments	GNWT, ECCC's Climate Action Fund and NGOs
<p>9.2 Training for Indigenous governments and organizations to support climate change monitoring</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support Indigenous Guardians Programs led by Indigenous governments in the NWT to monitor climate change using traditional, local and scientific knowledge where requested</li> </ul>	IGOs, ENR, Federal Departments	Federal guardians program funding

## CROSS-CUTTING: ECONOMIC IMPACTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

ACTION AREAS	POTENTIAL PARTNERS (Lead in bold)	POTENTIAL RESOURCES
<p>10.1 Undertaking sectoral assessments and adaptation planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scope key sectors including transportation, mining, agriculture, forestry, tourism and fisheries to determine economic impacts and opportunities</li> <li>• Explore opportunities to collaborate with think-tanks, academics and international stakeholders regarding the costs and benefits of climate-related changes in the NWT</li> </ul>	ENR, ITI, Industry	NRCan, SSHRC, NGOs and Canadian North Economic Development Agency
<p>10.2 Regional forest harvest that substitutes low biomass for imported fossil fuels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessment and implementation of community led harvesting for fuelwood for personal dwellings and district heating systems</li> </ul>	ENR, INF, Community Governments	CanNor, NRCan and non-government funding

## PART 3: IMPLEMENTATION, REPORTING AND MEASURING PROGRESS

### IMPLEMENTATION

#### *Part 1 - Actions*

The actions in Part 1 of this Action Plan are largely supported through GNWT investments with some federal and external funding. Lead partners will be responsible for implementing the actions and reporting annually on their progress.

#### *Part 2 – Areas for Future Collaboration*

Areas for future collaboration in Part 2 will require significant multi-year investments and significant federal government funding to implement. The GNWT has limited funding to support work with Indigenous and community governments to begin to implement specific actions, however, the following steps will need to be taken by the GNWT and partners to secure funding to support Part 2, Areas for Future Collaboration:

*Identify potential funding sources* – ENR is working with GNWT departments, the federal government, Indigenous and community governments, and others to identify available funding programs and initiatives. Federal funding support is integral to implementing the priority areas identified for future collaboration. Substantial funding programs and initiatives are being initiated by the federal government to support the Pan-Canadian Framework. Other potential external funding sources, such as academic or private charitable foundation funding, will also be explored to advance priority areas identified in Part 2 of the Action Plan.

*Forming partnerships* – Forming new partnerships and strengthening existing partnerships will become increasingly necessary to access funding sources. Since climate change is impacting the natural environment, human health, public safety, culture and heritage, and infrastructure, governments and organizations will need to form partnerships and work collaboratively. Ongoing engagement with Indigenous and community governments, industry, non-governmental organizations, researchers and others to identify needs, refine priorities, and cultivate working relationships and partnerships will be a priority to advance areas for future collaboration over the next five years.

*Develop funding requests* – Providing assistance and support to Indigenous and community governments to access funding is one of the roles of the GNWT and the NWT Association of Communities. As funding sources are identified and partnerships are formed, funding requests will need to be developed by the GNWT, Indigenous and community governments and others to access targeted funding sources.

The GNWT will explore both internal and external funding opportunities to support the Action Plan's implementation. There are a range of possible external funding sources and the GNWT will seek to leverage them to fund additional areas for future collaboration identified in the Action Plan.

*Secure funding* – Once funding is secured for a specific area for future collaboration, a new action will be added under the appropriate goal or cross-cutting theme and reported on annually. As such, the Action Plan will be a living document and may be subject to adjustments between 2019 and 2023, as progress is reported.

## **ANNUAL REPORTING**

The GNWT will coordinate the production of an annual report to track progress on actions, report on any new actions stemming from areas for future collaboration, and identify resources expended to implement the Action Plan.

The annual report will be shared widely with partners, Indigenous and community governments, and the public. As progress is made on actions and knowledge is gained by partners the annual report and the Action Plan can be adapted to reflect these learnings.

## MEASURING PROGRESS

The GNWT is committed to reporting annually on the progress being made by all partners to address climate change and will undertake a formal, independent review of the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework and 2019-2023 Action Plan in 2024.

To support the annual reporting and 2024 independent review, preliminary work has been initiated to identify quantitative and qualitative indicators to track progress and assess effectiveness. More comprehensive work to add to and further refine preliminary indicators will proceed in 2019. Measures focused on outcomes, both qualitative and quantitative, will be necessary.

### Preliminary Climate Change Indicators:

#### **Goal #1: Transition to a Lower Carbon Economy**

- NWT total annual emissions (as per ECCC's National Inventory Report)
- NWT energy-related emissions per capita (tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e)/capita)
- Progress on sector-specific targets (diesel electricity, space heating, transportation, industry)

#### **Goal #2: Improve Knowledge of Climate Change Impacts**

- Planning, management and use of information
  - Progress to establish online resources
  - Traditional and local knowledge projects supported
  - Knowledge made accessible to the public
  - Information products or tools created (models, projections, maps) and distributed
- Research and monitoring activities by action area
  - # of new research projects funded and/or initiated
  - # of new monitoring programs funded and/or initiated
  - Summary of key findings and results published

#### **Goal #3: Build Resilience and Adapt to a Changing Climate**

- Sustaining ecosystems
  - # of regional land use plans updated for climate change
  - Implementation of the conservation network

- Managing the natural environment
  - # of documented findings from vulnerability assessments
  - Management plans updated and implemented
- Human health, public safety and culture and heritage
  - # of communities or people directly affected by a climate-related event
  - # of undertakings to support increased resilience and adaptation for on the land activities
  - # of heritage resources threatened by climate-driven processes that are recovered
- Infrastructure
  - Adaptation requirements included in design, construction and operations

#### **Cross-cutting: Leadership, Communication and Capacity-Building**

- Leadership
  - # and type of internal and external guidance mechanisms established
  - # of partnerships developed
  - Semi-annual update to Ministerial Energy and Climate Change Committee
- Communication activities
  - # and type of initiatives or campaigns undertaken
- Capacity-building activities
  - # of successful funding applications and funding secured
  - Amount of external resources secured to support Indigenous governments and communities
  - # of Indigenous and community governments supported
  - # of adaptation plans completed
  - # of communities or Indigenous and northern people that received training

#### **Cross-cutting: Economic Impacts and Opportunities**

- # of specific sectors assessed and findings from assessments

## 2024 EVALUATION

In early 2024, a formal independent review of the Framework and the Action Plan will be conducted to assess the progress made towards the vision and goals. The findings from the review, along with emerging issues, new technologies and new opportunities, will be used to consider potential revisions to the Framework and support the development of the 2025-2029 Action Plan.

## LOOKING FORWARD

The NWT's climate will continue to warm and change in the coming decades and the GNWT is committed to addressing the climate change impacts and potential opportunities that are already happening or are yet to come.

This 2019-2023 Action Plan guides the implementation of the 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework over the next five years, and presents a broad summary of significant climate change actions underway or planned in the NWT during that period.

The GNWT's and partners' commitment and investment to addressing climate change is demonstrated by the current actions listed in Part 1 of the Action Plan. As a jurisdiction with limited resources, federal support, as well as support from other partners, will be needed to implement areas for future collaboration reflected in Part 2 that are a priority but do not currently have resources to be carried out. The GNWT will continue to work collaboratively with all partners to identify funding opportunities, form or strengthen partnerships, develop proposals, secure funding, implement Part 1 and Part 2 of the Action Plan, and provide annual reporting on progress.

As a small jurisdiction with a very large land mass, the NWT needs a coordinated approach to address these challenges and ensure that its economy is resilient and that people and communities are prepared to take action and adapt where needed.

## APPENDIX A: POTENTIAL PARTNERS REFERENCED IN THE ACTION PLAN

Acronyms	Partners
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories Departments and Corporations
ECE	Department of Education, Culture and Employment
EIA	Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs
ENR	Department of Environment and Natural Resources
FIN	Department of Finance
HCorp	NWT Housing Corporation
HSS	Department of Health and Social Services
INF	Department of Infrastructure
ISSC	Informatics Shared Services Centre
ITI	Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment
ITI (NTGS)	Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (Northwest Territories Geological Survey)
Lands	Department of Lands
MACA	Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
NTPC	Northwest Territories Power Corporation
Federal	Government of Canada Departments, Agencies and Councils
CanNor	Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency
CIRNAC	Crown Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
CCCS	Canadian Centre for Climate Services
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
HC	Health Canada
INFC	Infrastructure Canada
ISC	Indigenous Services Canada
NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
CFS	Canadian Forest Service
CCRS	Canada Centre for Remote Sensing
GSC	Geological Survey of Canada
PCA	Parks Canada Agency
PSC	Public Safety Canada
NRC	National Research Council

Acronyms	Partners
(Federal cont.) SCC	Standards Council of Canada
Other acronyms AEA IGOs LGANT NGOs NWTAC NWT PPISC	Arctic Energy Alliance Indigenous governments and/or organizations Local Government Administrators of the Northwest Territories Non-governmental organizations Northwest Territories Association of Communities Northwest Territories Pest, Pathogens and Invasive Species Council

## APPENDIX B: POTENTIAL FUNDING SOURCES

### Federal funding sources

#### **Canadian Institutes of Health and Research (CIHR)**

FSCC- North Food Security and Climate Change in the Canadian North

#### **Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor)**

#### **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)**

AFSAR	Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk
CAF	Climate Action Fund
CCCS	Canadian Centre for Climate Services
CNF	Canada Nature Fund
ECP	EcoAction Community Funding Program
EDF	Environmental Damages Fund
HSP	Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk
LCEF	Low Carbon Economy 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)**

CIBA Canada Infrastructure Bank

DMAF Disaster Mitigation and Adaptation Fund

**Natural Resources Canada (NRCan)**

CCAP	Climate Change Adaptation Platform
ICGRDDP	Innovation and Clean Growth Research, Development, and Demonstration Programs

**Natural Sciences and Engineering Council of Canada (NSERC)****Polar Knowledge Canada**

POLAR	Polar Knowledge Canada's pan-northern science and technology program
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**Public Health Agency of Canada**

IDCCF	Infectious Diseases and Climate Change Fund
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**Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)****Transport Canada**

NTAIP	Northern Transportation Adaptation Initiatives Program
NTCF	National Trade Corridors Fund

**Non-federal funding sources**

BSC	Bird Studies Canada – James L. Baillie Memorial Fund
CMN	Canadian Mountain Network
DUC	Ducks Unlimited Canada
ENR	GNWT Environment and Natural Resources Community Climate Change Adaptation Program
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
GF	The Gordon Foundation
IDRC	International Development Research Centre – Research Award: Climate Change 2019
MC	McConnell – Canadian Environmental Grantmaker's Network and Food Secure Canada

MF	Metcalf Foundation – Carbon Landscapes Fund and Climate Blueprints Fund
NWF	Northern Water Futures (part of Global Water Futures: Solutions to Water Threats in an Era of Global Change)
SDTC	Sustainable Development Technology Canada – SD Tech Fund
TC	Tides Canada
TD-FEF	TD Bank – Friends of Environment Foundation Leadership Program: Building Capacity in Canada’s Environment Sector
WHC	Wildlife Habitat Canada – Habitat Conservation Grants
WWF Canada	World Wildlife Fund Canada – Arctic Species Conservation Fund and Go Wild Community Grants

## APPENDIX C: PARTNERS CLIMATE CHANGE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

### **Indigenous Governments**

Indigenous governments are those governments that have negotiated, or are in the process of negotiating, a land, resources or self-government agreement with the GNWT and the Government of Canada. Indigenous governments play an important role in identifying local challenges and potential opportunities related to a warming climate and taking action to ensure the economic, environmental, social, political and cultural well-being of Indigenous and northern people while ensuring that the land, resources and self-government rights are respected. Indigenous governments also have an important role in ensuring that traditional and local knowledge will be incorporated to support decision-making for climate change adaptation, through supporting research and monitoring.

### **Community Governments**

Community governments are municipal corporations, or in the absence of a municipal corporation, a local Indigenous government, recognized by the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs as the prime public authority responsible for the provision of municipal services. Community governments play an important role in identifying local challenges and potential opportunities related to a warming climate and take action to ensure the economic, environmental, social, political and cultural well-being of northern people. Community governments also have an important role in ensuring that local knowledge will be incorporated to support decision-making for climate change adaptation, through supporting research and monitoring.

### **Northwest Territories Association of Communities**

The Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC) is a non-governmental organization whose members include all 33 communities in the NWT. NWTAC has been an expert in the needs of northern communities for over 50 years. NWTAC is the unified voice for communities on municipal goals determined by its members, and promotes the exchange of information among community governments. In response to the interests and concerns of its members, it has developed in-house climate change expertise and is a recognized leader in climate change in the NWT and the North. The NWTAC advocates for the interests of NWT communities to the Government of Canada and the GNWT to ensure that adequate funding, resources and expertise are available for communities to address climate change vulnerabilities.

### **Co-Management Boards**

Co-management Boards play a role in addressing climate change in the NWT through environmental assessments, the licensing/permitting of resource development and other undertakings, developing and updating regional land use plans, and managing wildlife and renewable resources (in settled land claim regions).

Co-management boards include regulatory boards, resource management boards and land use planning boards. The regulatory boards include: Environmental Impact Review Board (Inuvialuit), Environmental Impact Screening Committee (Inuvialuit), Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board, Gwich'in Land and Water Board, Sahtu Land and Water Board, Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board, and Inuvialuit Water Board. The resource management boards include: Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, Sahtu Renewable Resource Board, Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resource Board, and in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region the Inuvialuit Game Council, Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), Wildlife Management Advisory Council (Northwest Territories) and Fisheries Joint Management Committee. The land use planning boards include: Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board, Sahtu Land Use Planning Board and the Dehcho Land Use Planning Committee.

### **Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)**

#### **Education, Culture and Employment**

The Culture and Heritage Division of the Department of Education, Culture and Employment's (ECE's) role is ensuring that residents of the NWT understand its heritage resources are at risk of impact from climate-driven processes, and the recovery of significant heritage resources will be needed. ECE is responsible for working with GNWT partners, Indigenous governments and organizations, and others to ensure the management of these heritage sites.

#### **Environment and Natural Resources**

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) is the lead department for climate change in the territory and is responsible for:

- leading the development of strategies for the NWT to address greenhouse gas emissions and to adapt to climate change impacts
- leading the sharing of climate change information to support territorial government departments and the public in their adaptation efforts
- promoting the use of scientific research, traditional knowledge and public education to understand climate change in the NWT
- representing the territorial government in national climate change initiatives

One of the responsibilities of ENR is to work with the federal government, Indigenous and community governments, and others to identify potential federal funding programs or non-government funding sources to fulfill the actions identified in this Action Plan. ENR will work with partners to fulfill the climate change needs identified within the GNWT and NWT. The Department is a lead partner in climate and weather, water and wetlands, forest and vegetation, and wildlife-related actions. It also leads work on the GNWT Knowledge Agenda, conservation network planning, regulatory processes, waste management, country food security, traditional knowledge, information sharing and education initiatives.

### **Executive and Indigenous Affairs**

The Department of Executive and Indigenous Affairs (EIA) works to ensure a mutually respectful intergovernmental relation between the GNWT and Indigenous, provincial, territorial, national and international governments is developed and maintained. These relationships will be important in many of the actions being proposed to help understand and mitigate climate change impacts. EIA also negotiates and implements land, resources and self-government agreements that address Aboriginal rights in the NWT.

### **Finance**

The Department of Finance is responsible for the implementation of the NWT approach to carbon pricing, which will be implemented effective July 1, 2019, based on \$20 per tonne of greenhouse gas emissions and increasing \$10 per tonne annually thereafter up to \$50 per tonne. The department will rebate 100% of the carbon tax for heating fuel for most residents, businesses and governments and will also rebate the NWT Power Corporation for carbon tax payments related to fuel needed to produce electricity, to ensure electricity rates do not increase. NWT residents will receive the Cost of Living Offset Credit, based on per adult and per child amounts that will increase along with the carbon tax rate increases, which will address carbon pricing in a high cost jurisdiction. Large emitters will be eligible for a 75% rebate on non-motive and heating fuel, and the other 25% will be set aside in a trust for GHG-reducing investments. The purpose of the carbon tax is to address the GNWT carbon pricing commitments under the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change in such a way as to provide a price incentive to reduce carbon-based fuel use, while as much as possible not affecting the local cost of living for NWT residents or creating further barriers to economic development. The carbon tax will complement actions to reduce emissions and address climate change identified in the 2018-2021 Energy Action Plan and the 2019-2023 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework Action Plan.

### **Health and Social Services**

The Department of Health and Social Services (HSS) will support external vulnerability assessments to evaluate the impact of climate change on the physical and mental health, and social well-being, of NWT residents. HSS will continue to work with its GNWT partners and territorial

stakeholders to support research and monitoring of public health indicators related to climate change impacts, and ensure the health and well-being of NWT residents are protected.

### **Infrastructure**

The Department of Infrastructure (INF) is the lead department responsible for the [2030 Energy Strategy](#) and its implementation through the [Energy Action Plan 2018-2021](#). The 2030 Energy Strategy guides the development of secure, affordable and sustainable energy for transportation, heat and electricity, support energy efficiency and conservation, and promotes renewable and alternative energy solutions for the NWT. By 2030, the strategy's vision is to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from electricity generation in diesel-powered communities and road vehicles. The strategy also works towards increasing the share of renewable energy used for space heating and increasing residential, commercial and government building energy efficiency.

INF's mandate is to provide services to the public and the GNWT with respect to the planning, design, construction, acquisition, operation and maintenance of government infrastructure, and to promote the development and increased use of energy efficient, renewable and alternative energy technologies. This mandate also includes the provision of regulatory safety services to the public. INF will continue to adapt the planning, design, construction and maintenance of public infrastructure by incorporating lessons learned from permafrost research, where appropriate to do so.

### **Industry, Tourism and Investment**

The Department of Industry, Tourism and Investment (ITI), through the Northwest Territories Geological Survey, will continue with the research and monitoring of permafrost and prioritize the monitoring gaps in developed and natural environments. ITI will also continue to work with GNWT departments to ensure the economy is resilient and new opportunities are identified and pursued.

In the spring of 2017, the NWT Agriculture Strategy – The Business of Food: A Food Production Plan 2017-2022, was released. This strategy serves as a guide to the NWT's evolution from community to commercial food production and will aid in increasing local food security for NWT communities.

### **Informatics Shared Services Centre**

The Informatics Shared Services Centre (ISSC) is responsible for the implementation of information systems, mapping, remote sensing, information management and project management. ISSC currently serves ENR, ITI and Lands, but also provides services to larger corporate needs on occasion. The ISSC promotes the use of responsible planning and utilizing common approaches and solutions to address problems that are repeated across the GNWT.

## **Lands**

The Department of Lands (Lands) is responsible for addressing climate change through its coordination of project assessments on behalf of the GNWT for processes related to environmental assessments, as well as licensing and permitting of resource development and other projects. It is important to take into account that traditional and scientific knowledge should be brought to bear in the effective and efficient management of land within the NWT. Lands will finalize and continue to update the regional land use plans by adding climate change considerations while continuing to implement GNWT's Land Use and Sustainability Framework. Lands will further support GNWT departments on community hazard mapping, including permafrost, flooding and wildland fire information.

## **Municipal and Community Affairs**

The Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) continues to work with GNWT departments and other organizations on the research and monitoring of human health and well-being, and the safety of NWT residents related to climate change. It is MACA's responsibility to update community emergency plans and operations while maintaining procedures in the changing climate. The department will work with partners to ensure community hazard maps, public and community infrastructure, and proper training on adaptation planning are available to the residents of the NWT.

## **Federal Government**

### **Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada**

Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC) is supporting climate change actions in the North through the development of the Northern Adaptation Strategy and various funding programs related to climate change policy, adaptation and mitigation, and community-based climate monitoring. CIRNAC also provides funding support to the GNWT for various adaptation projects, works closely with Environment and Climate Change Canada and other federal departments to represent northern climate change needs and interests, and supports the implementation of the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change in the North.

### **Environment and Climate Change Canada**

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) is the lead federal department for a wide range of environmental issues. ECCC addresses these issues through various actions, including implementing the Pan-Canadian Framework on Clean Growth and Climate Change (PCF); engaging with its strategic partners, including provinces, territories and Indigenous peoples; monitoring; scientific research; policy and regulatory development; and enforcing environmental laws. ECCC's focus is on minimizing threats to Canadians and the environment from

pollution; equipping Canadians to make informed decisions on weather, water and climate conditions; and conserving and restoring Canada's natural environment. ECCC also undertakes actions to protect the environment, such as enhancing protection of Canada's endangered species, working with provinces and territories to set stronger air quality standards, emissions monitoring and reporting, providing incentives for investments that lead to cleaner air and healthier communities, and examining the implications of climate change on Arctic marine ecosystems.

Through the implementation of the PCF, the Department will continue to support efforts to address climate change, including those undertaken by other federal departments and other levels of government to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, help Canadians and communities adapt to the impacts of climate change, and enable sustainable economic growth. As part of this work, in collaboration with the GNWT, the Canadian Centre for Climate Services (CCCS) of ECCC has created the Northern Climate Services Liaison position that is co-located in the GNWT, to enhance the delivery of climate services in northern Canada, support the formation of a northern climate organization and aid the NWT with accessing climate-related resources.

#### **Fisheries and Oceans Canada**

The Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) is responsible for working with partners on researching and monitoring of fish and marine mammals to improve our knowledge of the impacts of climate change in the NWT. DFO takes into account scientific evidence, the precautionary approach and climate change when making decisions affecting fish stocks and ecosystem management. DFO works with the territory, Indigenous peoples and other stakeholders to co-manage the Arctic Ocean, while working with Environment and Climate Change Canada and other federal departments to examine the impacts of climate change on Arctic marine ecosystems.

#### **Indigenous Services Canada**

The First Nation and Inuit Health Branch (FNIHB) of Indigenous Services Canada (ISC) works with partners to improve access to high quality health programming for Indigenous peoples. FNIHB supports access to a variety of health programs and services that assist First Nations and Inuit communities in addressing health priorities and attaining higher levels of health and well-being, including the long-term ability of First Nations and Inuit communities to adapt to the health impacts of climate change. FNIHB programming is delivered in partnership with the territorial government and First Nations and Inuit partners via contribution agreements. Actively seeking feedback from partners helps inform and strengthen program and policy decisions.

#### **Natural Resources Canada**

The Department of Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) supports climate change adaptation efforts across Canada through its Adaptation Platform, a national forum that brings together key groups in Canada to collaborate on climate change adaptation priorities. The Adaptation

Platform provides an enabling environment for adaptation, where decision-makers in regions and industry are equipped with the tools and information they need to adapt to a changing climate.

Under the Earth Sciences Sector of NRCan, the Geological Survey of Canada (GSC) plays a role in research to understand the response of permafrost to a changing climate in priority areas for northern infrastructure development. GSC's research is used to reduce the risk of natural disasters and other threats, and protect natural environments. Additionally, NRCan's Canadian Forest Service (CFS) promotes environmental leadership, an approach to sustainable forest management planning and policies, and research-based understanding of the forests. The CFS collaborates with the federal government, GNWT, industry and universities to address questions associated with climate change, forest carbon, wildland fire impacts and adaptation, and ecosystem processes. NRCan provides additional monitoring on the changes occurring in the North through geo-spatial work undertaken by the Canada Centre for Remote Sensing (CCRS).

#### **Parks Canada Agency**

The Parks Canada Agency (PCA) is responsible for the protection of Canadian National Parks by limiting the development within them and the surrounding area, where possible. PCA develops programs and services so Canadians can experience more national parks and learn about our environment and heritage. By working with surrounding communities, PCA supports the growth of local eco-tourism and helps to create jobs. The agency integrates climate change considerations into the management of northern parks and protected areas to ensure these areas fulfill the commitment of creating a social well-being, ecological health, sustainable livelihoods and economic prosperity.



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

Kīspin ki nitawihtin ē nīhiyawihk ōma ācimōwin, tipwāsinān.

Cree

Tłı̨chǫ yati k'èè. Dı̨ wegodi newo dè, gots'o gonede.

Tłı̨chǫ

ʔerihlt'ís Dëne Sųłiné yati t'a huts'elkér xa beyáyatı theʔa ʔat'e, nuwe ts'én yólti.

Chipewyan

Edı̨ gondı̨ dehgáh got'je zhatié k'èè edatłéh enahddhę nide naxets'é edahtlı̨.

South Slavey

K'áhshó got'ı̨ne xədə k'e hederı ɿedjhtl'é yeriniwé nídé dúle.

North Slavey

Jii gwandak izhii ginjìk vat'atr'ijahch'u zhit yinohthan jì', diits'at ginohkhìi.

Gwich'in

Uvanittuaq ilitchurisukupku Inuvialuktun, ququaqluta.

Inuvialuktun

Ćı̨dłı̨ ɻı̨nqı̨bΔc ɻı̨LJΔRc Δǫbɻı̨C̨bɻı̨L̨n̨, ɻı̨q̨n̨ǫ\_ǫc̨ ɻı̨b̨c̨s̨ąǫb̨C̨n̨c̨.

Inuktitut

Hapkua titiqqat pijumagupkit Inuinnaqtun, uvaptinnut hivajarlutit.

Inuinnaqtun

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

Francophone Affairs Secretariat: 867-767-9343