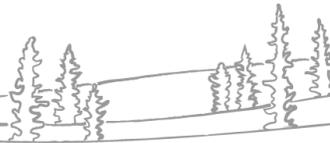




# NWT Water Monitoring Bulletin – February 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026

## Bulletin sur la surveillance des eaux des TNO du 11 février 2026



NWT Water Monitoring Bulletins are posted monthly. These bulletins are intended to provide an update of water flow and level data at select NWT Hydrometric Network gauge stations across the Northwest Territories.

Where available, data from river sites are presented as flow (discharge) or water level and data from lake sites are presented as level. The figures in this report represent current conditions for this year, relative to historic minimum and maximum values, extreme values (10<sup>th</sup> to 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles) and the average range, which is calculated as the interquartile range.

The NWT Hydrometric Network is a partnership between Government of Northwest Territories – Environment and Climate Change (ECC) and Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and is operated by the Water Survey of Canada (ECCC). Both historic and real-time data for all stations are available at [https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/index\\_e.html](https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/index_e.html). All 2025 and 2026 data are considered provisional and may contain values that are later corrected.

Any questions regarding information contained in this Bulletin can be directed to [NWTWaters@gov.nt.ca](mailto:NWTWaters@gov.nt.ca).

Les Bulletins sur la surveillance des eaux aux TNO sont publiés mensuellement. Ces bulletins visent à fournir des mises à jour sur les données concernant l'écoulement et le niveau de

l'eau à certaines stations de jaugeage du Réseau hydrométrique des Territoires du Nord-Ouest.

Si elles sont disponibles, les données sur les rivières et les fleuves sont présentées sous forme d'écoulement (débit) et celles des lacs sont présentées sous forme de niveau. Dans le présent rapport, les données font état des conditions de cette année et sont comparées aux valeurs minimales, maximales et extrêmes (10<sup>e</sup> au 90<sup>e</sup> centile) ainsi qu'à la moyenne (calculée en tant qu'écart interquartile).

Le Réseau hydrométrique des TNO est le fruit d'un partenariat entre le ministère de l'Environnement et du Changement climatique du gouvernement des Territoires du Nord-Ouest et Environnement et Changement climatique Canada (ECCC) et est exploité par la Division des relevés hydrologiques du Canada. Vous pouvez consulter les données historiques et les données en temps réel de toutes les stations au [https://eau.ec.gc.ca/index\\_f.html](https://eau.ec.gc.ca/index_f.html). Toutes les données de 2025 et de 2026 sont considérées comme provisoires et peuvent contenir des valeurs qui seront ultérieurement corrigées.

Pour toute question sur le contenu du présent document, écrivez un courriel à l'adresse [NWTWaters@gov.nt.ca](mailto:NWTWaters@gov.nt.ca).

## Current status

- This report is our **Monthly Water Monitoring Bulletin**, which provides regular updates on water levels and precipitation in the NWT;
- Water levels and flow rates are very low across most of the NWT.
  - Great Slave Lake water level is currently well below average and similar to the level recorded at this time last year.
  - Hay River water level is well below average for this time of year.
  - Liard River water level is below average for this time of year.
  - Slave River water level is below average for this time of year.
  - Mackenzie River water level, recorded at several stations along the river, is well below average for this time of year.
  - Great Bear Lake remains at its lowest water level for this time of year and is similar to the level recorded at this time last year.
  - Notable exceptions to low water levels include:
    - South Nahanni River (above average)
    - Coppermine River (above average)
    - Some smaller rivers in the Great Slave Lake basin, including:
      - Lockhart River (above average)
      - Hoarfrost River (average)
      - Taltson River (average)
- Water level sensors can often be damaged or transmit incorrect readings this time of year due to interactions with ice. Water level graphs should be interpreted with caution.
- Low water levels are the result of extreme drought conditions that began in the summer of 2022 and have persisted through 2023, 2024 and 2025. Water levels have shown limited recovery since 2022.
- **January precipitation** and **temperatures** were average across the NWT.
- Water levels on Great Slave Lake and the Mackenzie River are strongly influenced by precipitation received in northern British Columbia and Alberta.
  - So far this early winter, precipitation in these areas has been average to well above average, and the headwaters of the Peace River have received record high cumulative precipitation.
- Climate forecasts from ECCC indicate that February will see cooler than average conditions in northern regions, warmer than average conditions in southern regions, and near normal conditions in central NWT. March is forecast to be cooler than average across the territory, followed by a return to near-normal temperatures in April. Precipitation is forecast to be average to above average across the territory.

## Situation actuelle

- Le présent rapport est notre Bulletin mensuel sur la surveillance des eaux qui fournit des mises à jour régulières sur les niveaux d'eau et les précipitations aux TNO.
- Les niveaux d'eau et les débits sont très bas dans la majeure partie des TNO.
  - Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves est bien inférieur à la moyenne et est semblable au relevé effectué l'année dernière, à la même époque.
  - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière Hay est bien inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
  - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière Liard est inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
  - Le niveau d'eau de la rivière des Esclaves est inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
  - Le niveau d'eau du fleuve Mackenzie, relevé à plusieurs stations le long de son cours, est bien inférieur à la moyenne pour cette période de l'année.
  - Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac de l'Ours reste le plus bas enregistré à cette période de l'année, et il est similaire au niveau enregistré à la même période l'année dernière.
  - Exceptions notables aux faibles niveaux d'eau :
    - Rivière Nahanni Sud (supérieurs à la normale)
    - Rivière Coppermine (supérieurs à la normale)
    - De plus petites rivières dans le bassin du Grand lac des Esclaves, notamment :
      - Rivière Lockhart (supérieur à la moyenne)
      - Rivière Hoarfrost (dans la moyenne)
      - Rivière Taltson (dans la moyenne)
- Les capteurs de niveau d'eau peuvent souvent être endommagés ou transmettre des données erronées en raison des interactions avec la glace. Les données doivent donc être interprétées avec prudence.
- Les faibles niveaux d'eau sont attribuables à une sécheresse extrême qui a commencé à l'été 2022, et qui s'est poursuivie en 2023, 2024 et 2025. Les niveaux d'eau se sont peu rétablis depuis 2022.
- En janvier, les températures et les précipitations à l'échelle des TNO étaient dans la moyenne.
- Le niveau d'eau du Grand lac des Esclaves et du fleuve Mackenzie est fortement influencé par les précipitations reçues dans le nord de la Colombie-Britannique et de l'Alberta.
  - En ce début d'hiver, les précipitations dans ces régions se situent dans la moyenne ou sont nettement supérieures à la moyenne, et le cours supérieur de la rivière de la Paix a reçu les plus importantes précipitations cumulatives

jamais enregistrées.

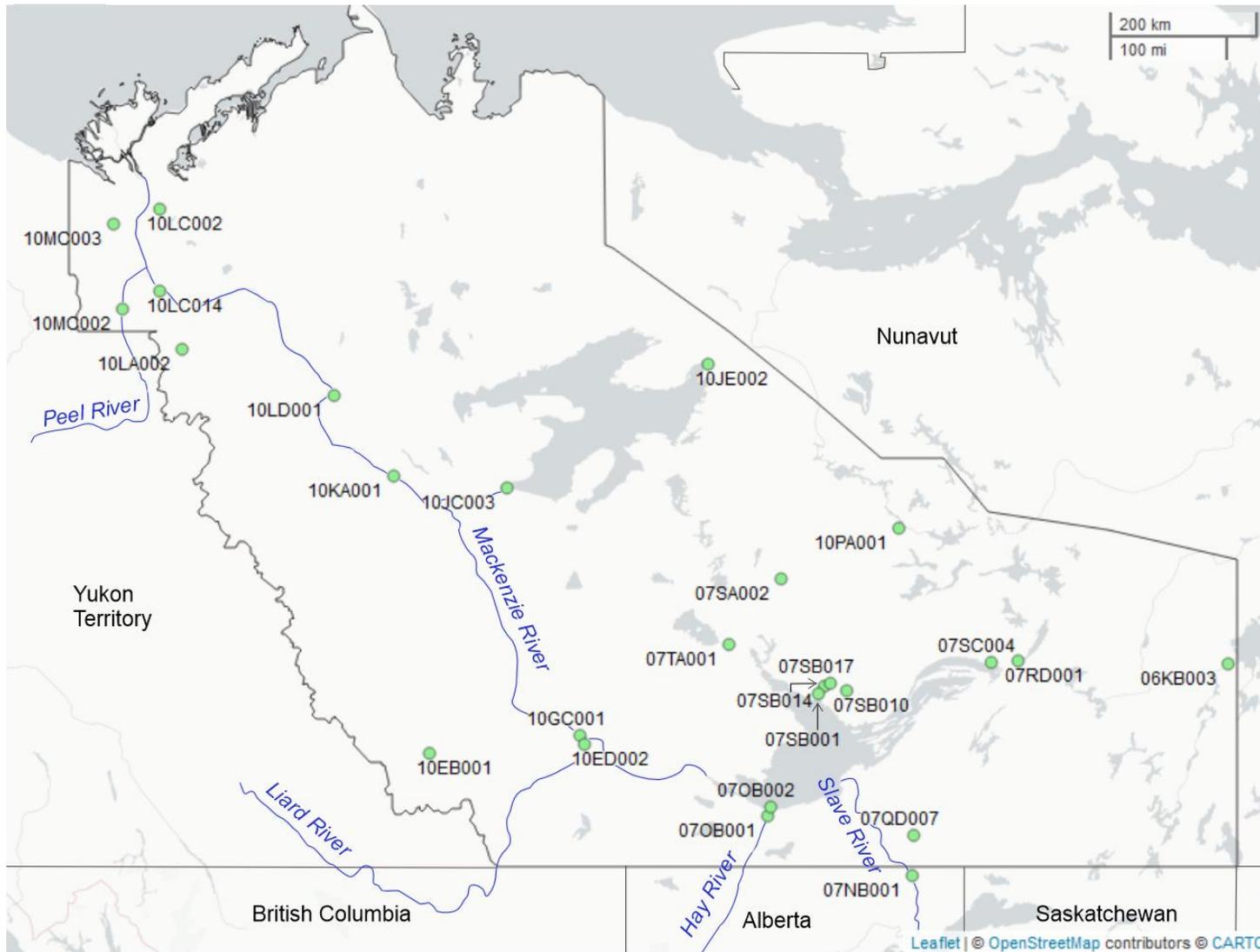
- Les prévisions climatiques d'ECCC pour le mois de février indiquent des températures inférieures à la moyenne dans les régions septentrionales des TNO, des températures supérieures à la moyenne pour les régions du sud des TNO, et des températures proches de la normale dans le centre des TNO. Le mois de mars devrait être plus froid que la moyenne partout aux TNO, et le mois d'avril verra un retour aux températures proches de la normale. Les précipitations devraient être dans la moyenne ou supérieures à la moyenne dans toutes les régions.

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## Hydrometric station map



Above – A map of the hydrometric stations included in this report.

## Information on interpreting figures

### Water level and flow figures

The light blue line shows water levels/flows from last year (2025), while the dark blue line shows current water levels/flows in 2026. The darkest grey band represents the average range (calculated as the interquartile range, which is the 25<sup>th</sup> to 75<sup>th</sup> percentile), the next lightest grey bands represent a wider range of values (10<sup>th</sup> to 90<sup>th</sup> percentiles), and the lightest grey bands represent the highest and lowest levels or flows on record. If the dark blue line is within the dark grey band, current conditions can be assumed to be normal.

The terms used to describe water level or flow conditions are defined as follows:

- **Average:** within the interquartile range (25<sup>th</sup>-75<sup>th</sup> percentile range).
- **Above average / Below average:** within the 75<sup>th</sup>-90<sup>th</sup> percentile range or 10<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> percentile range, respectively.
- **Well above average / Well below average:** above the 90<sup>th</sup> percentile or below the 10<sup>th</sup> percentile, respectively.

The grey bands are calculated for data prior to 2025. If the line from 2025 or 2026 is above (or below) the grey band, it means that the water level or flow from that year was the highest (or lowest) on record.

### Climate figures

Monthly air temperature and precipitation data are displayed for six communities in the NWT (Fort Smith, Hay River, Yellowknife, Fort Simpson, Norman Wells, and Inuvik) and presented as box and whisker plots.

A box and whisker plot shows how data are spread out. The horizontal line inside the box shows the median (middle) value. The box itself shows the interquartile range between the 25<sup>th</sup> and 75<sup>th</sup> percentiles (the average range), where the typical values are found. The whiskers (the vertical lines extending from the box) show how far the rest of the data stretch, excluding unusually high or low values.

Each grey dot in the climate figures is the value from a previous year, beginning in 1950. The red or blue dots represent the values for the current year. Any dots beyond the whiskers are considered unusually high or low compared to the rest of the data.

The terms used to describe temperature or precipitation conditions are defined as follows:

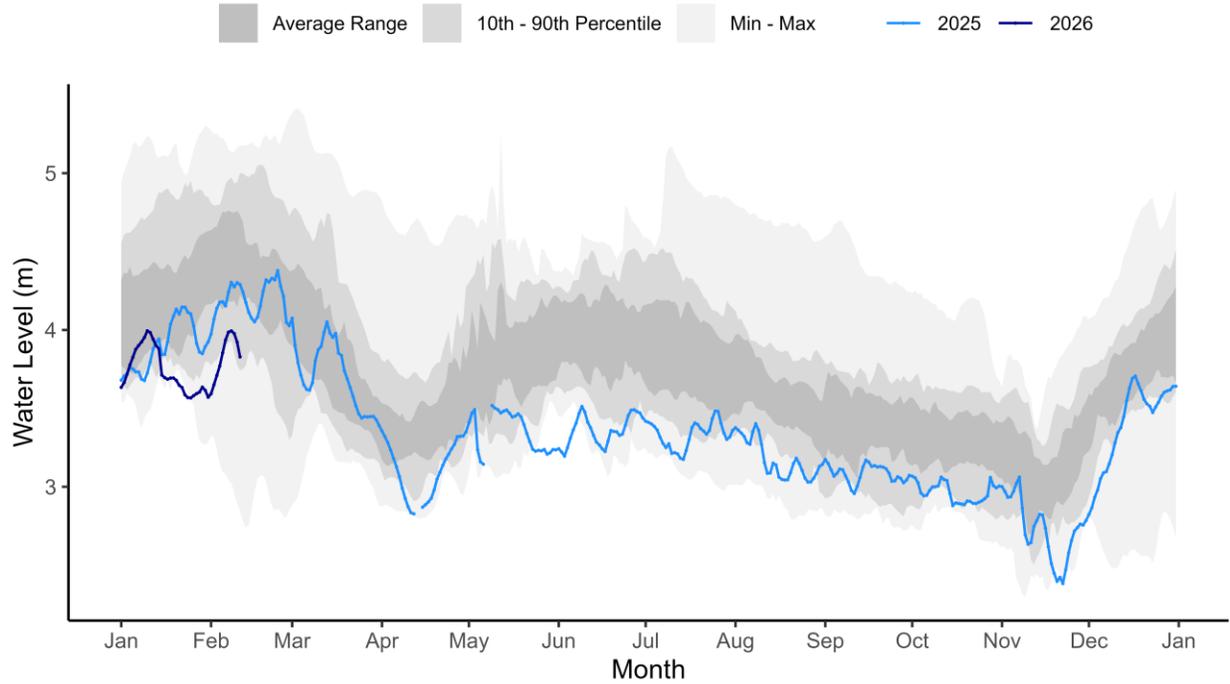
- **Average:** within the interquartile range (25<sup>th</sup>-75<sup>th</sup> percentile range).
- **Above average / Below average:** higher or lower than the interquartile range (average range), but excluding unusually high or low values.
- **Well above average / Well below average:** unusually high or low values.

These data are primarily acquired and managed by Environment and Climate Change Canada, but in some cases values have been infilled with GNWT climate station data when ECCC data are unavailable.

## Water level and flow data

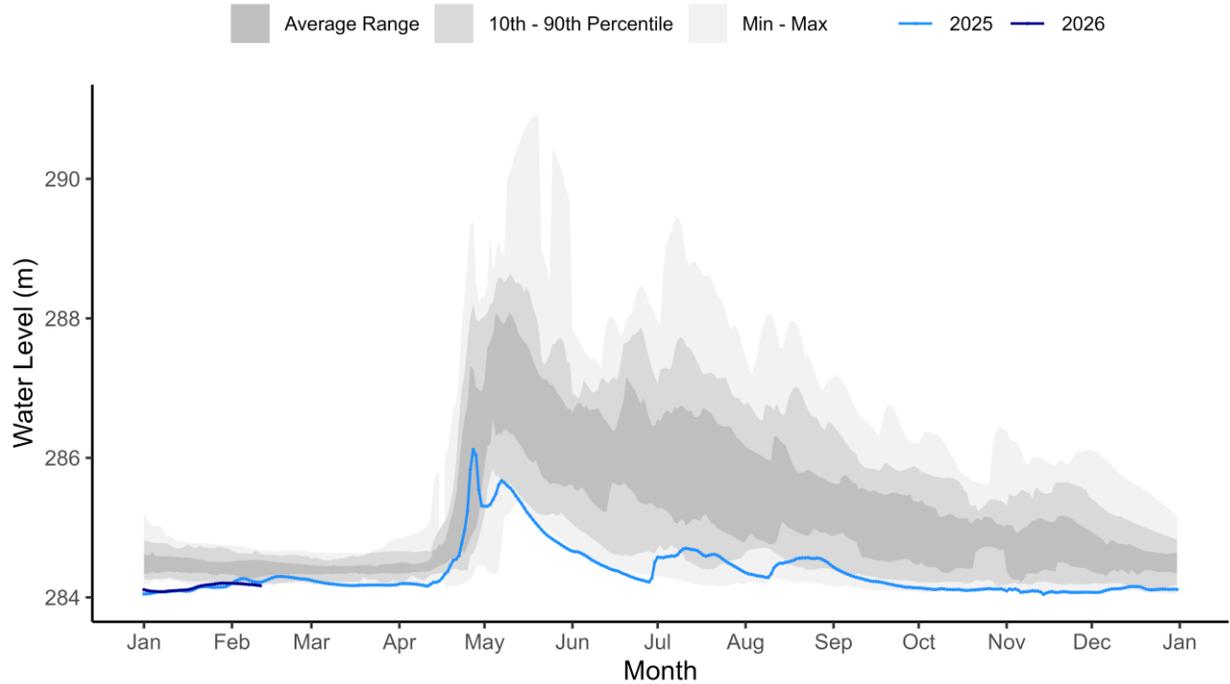
### Slave River at Fitzgerald [07NB001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



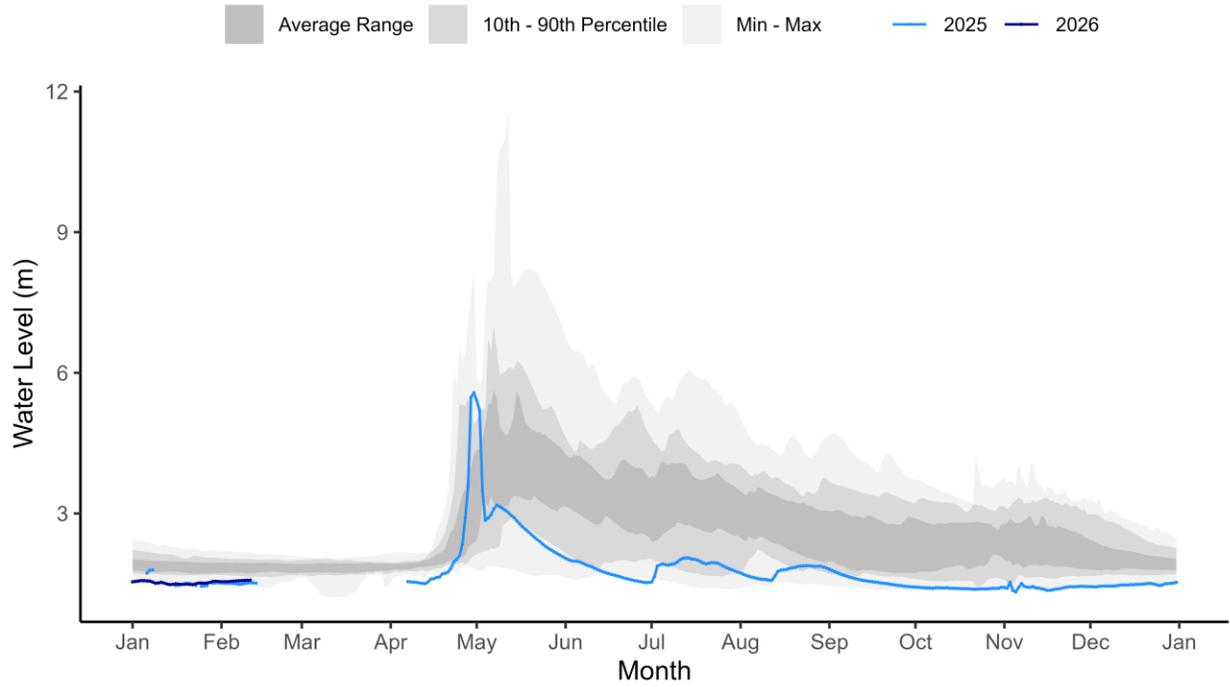
### Hay River near Alberta/NWT Boundary [07OB008]

Record Length: 36 years | Period of Record: 1986-1998; 2004-2026



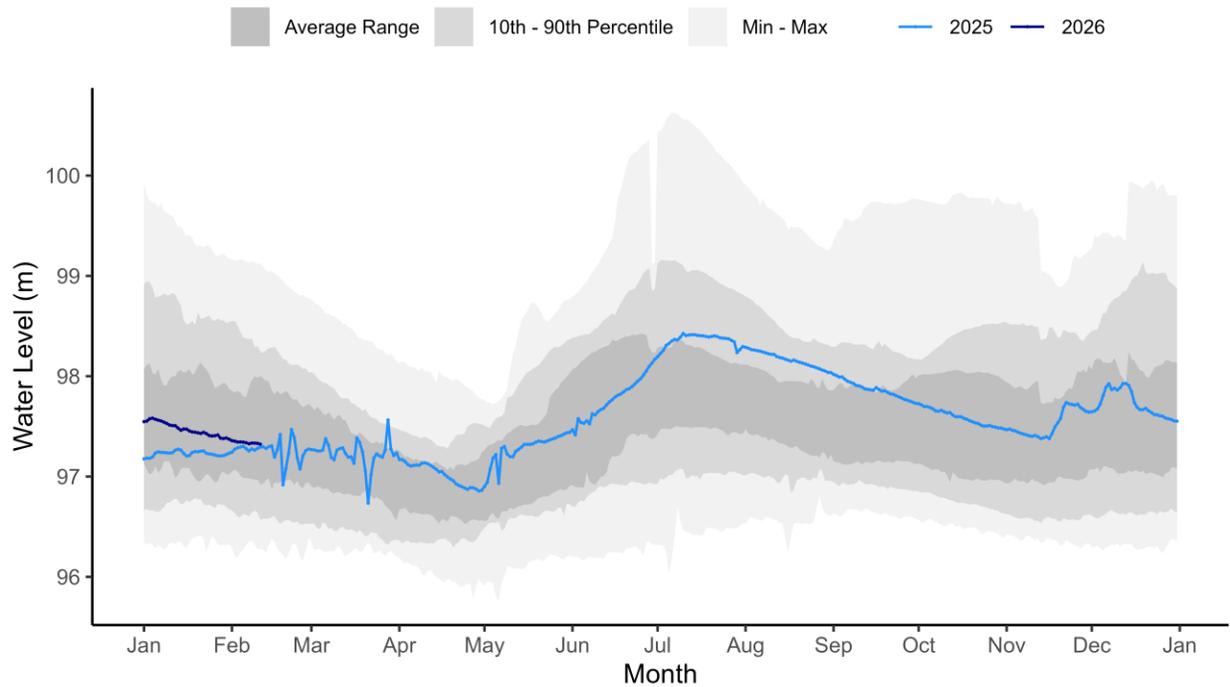
### Hay River near Hay River [07OB001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



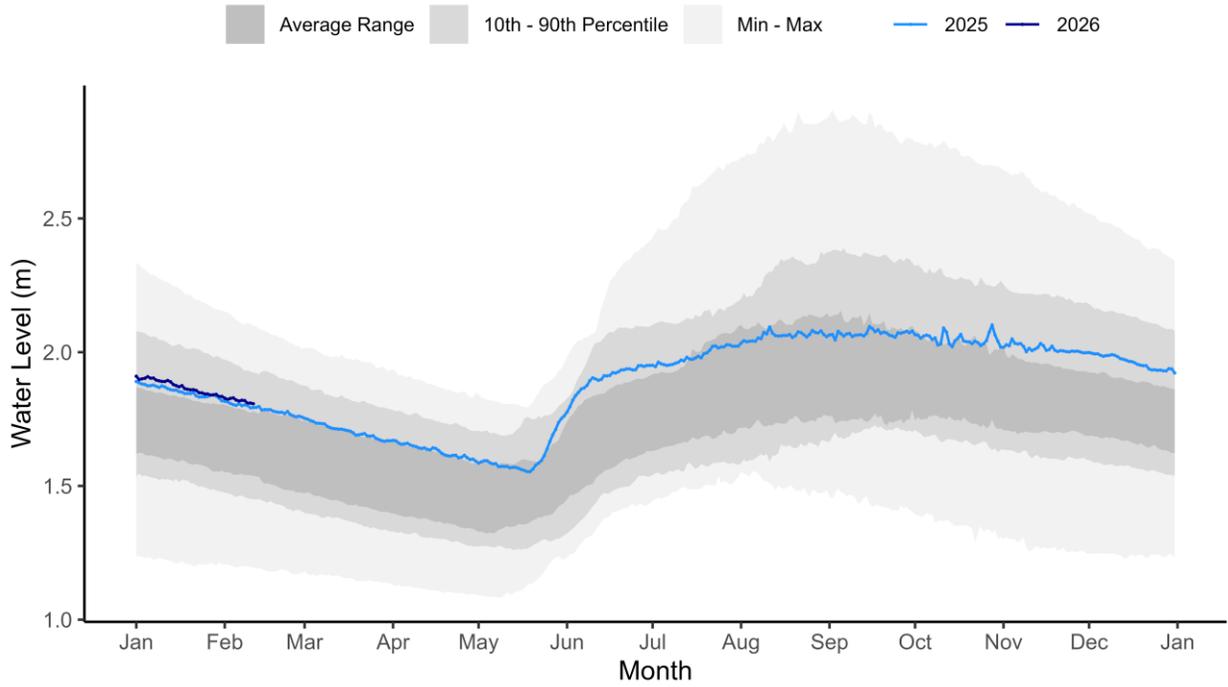
### Taltson River below Hydro Dam [07QD007]

Record Length: 24 years | Period of Record: 2002-2008; 2010-2026



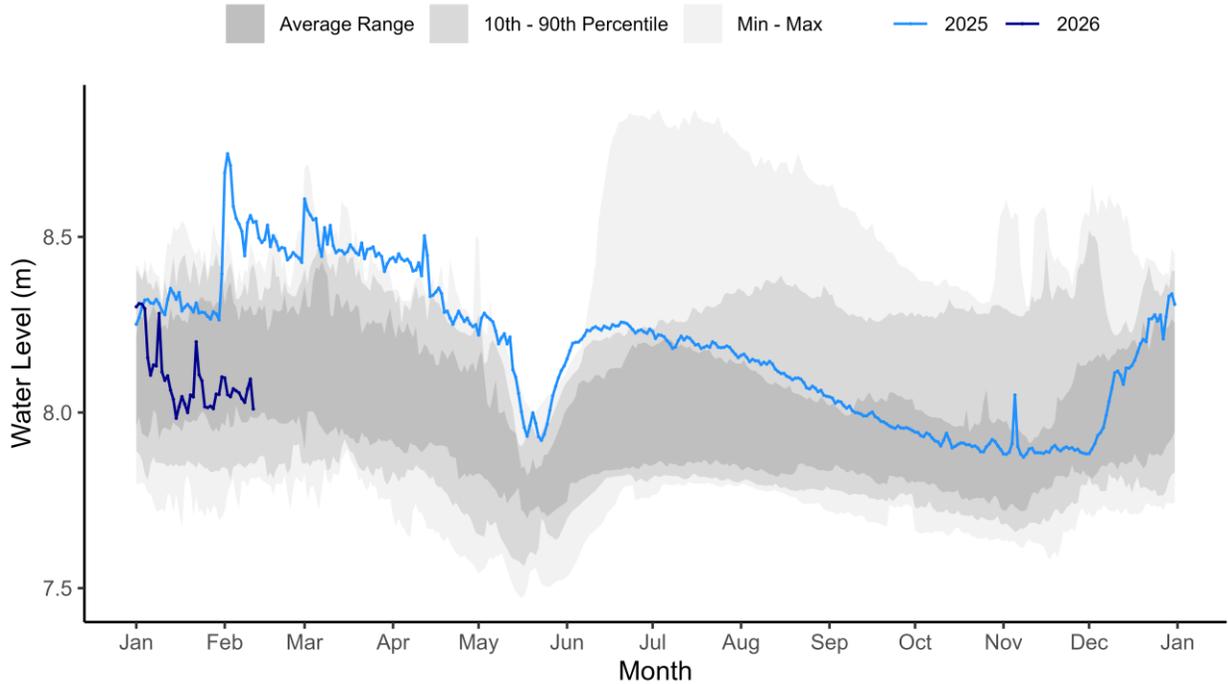
### Lockhart River at outlet of Artillery Lake [07RD001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



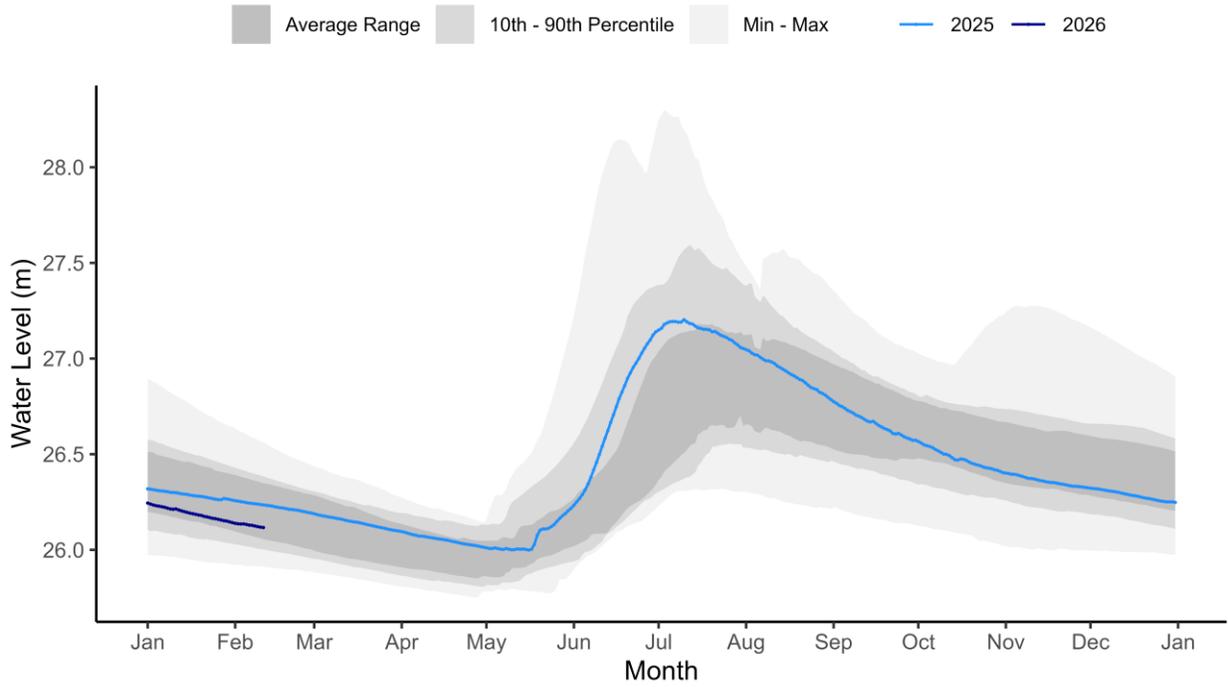
### Hoarfrost River near the mouth [07SC004]

Record Length: 17 years | Period of Record: 2010-2026



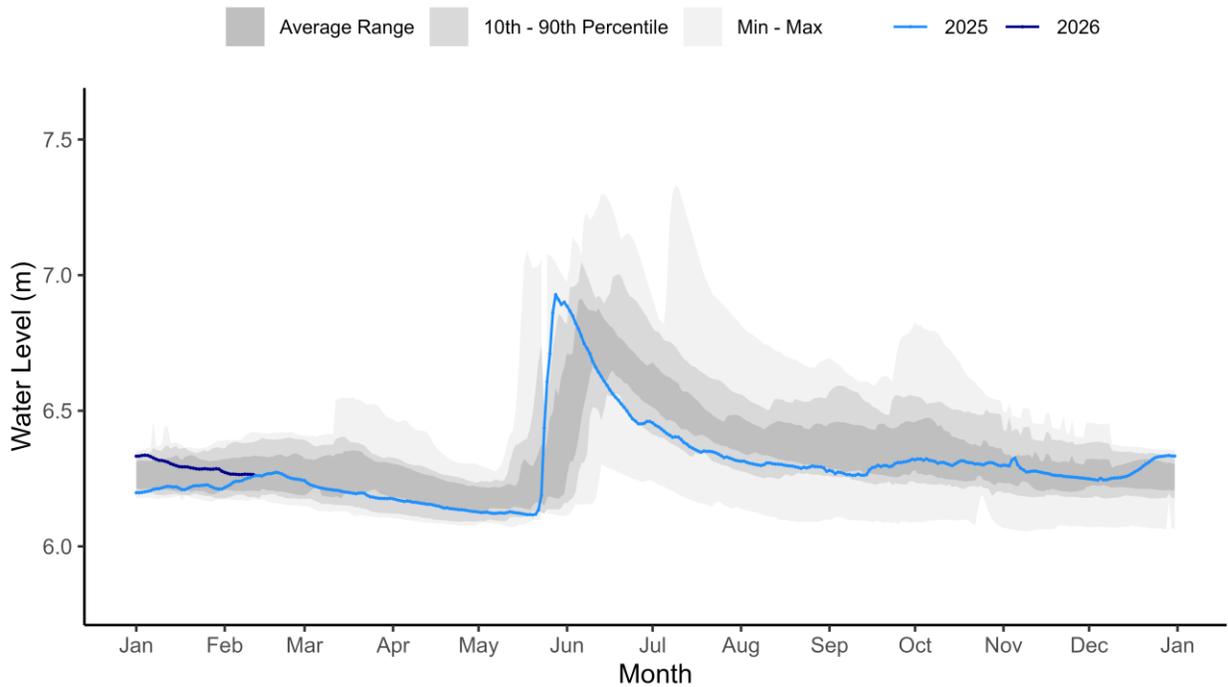
### Snare River below Ghost Lake [07SA002]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



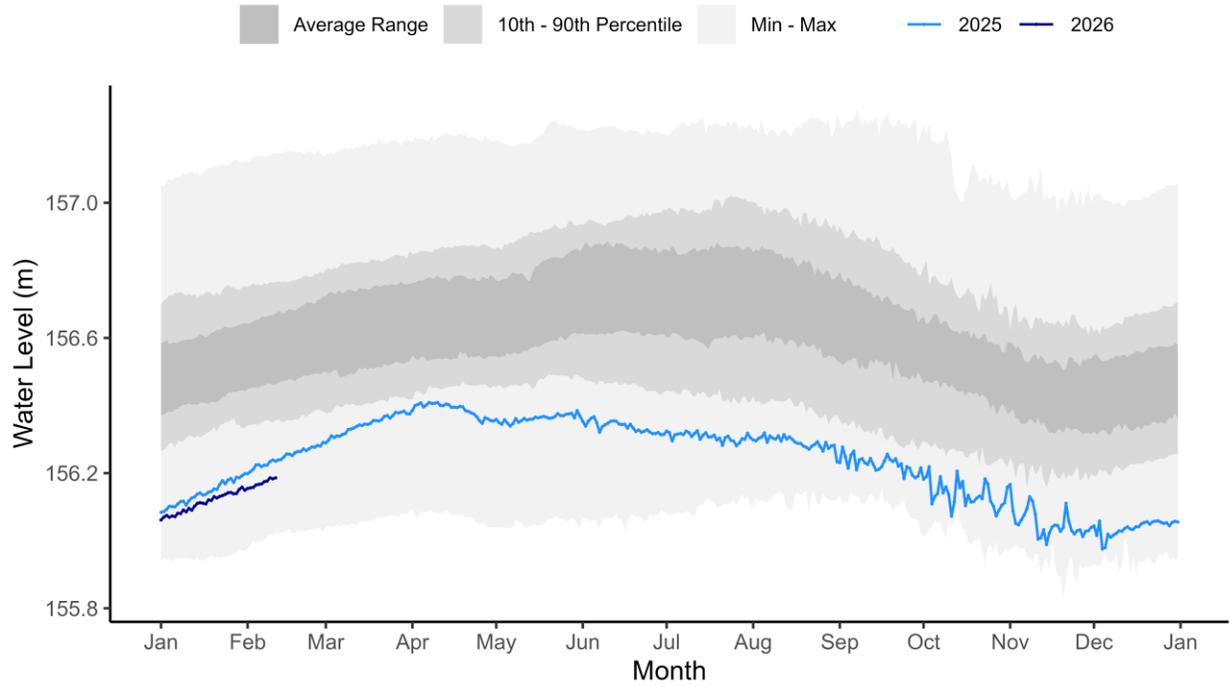
### Coppermine River below Desteffany Lake [10PA001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



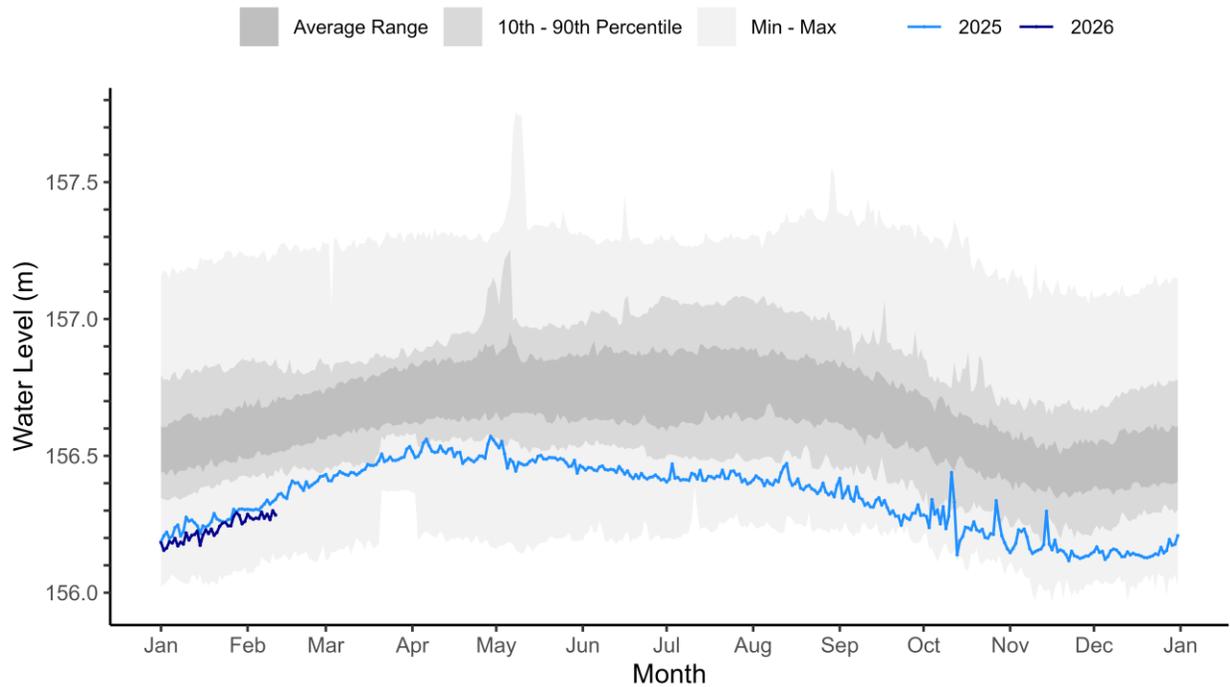
### Great Slave Lake at Yellowknife Bay [07SB001]

Record Length: 91 years | Period of Record: 1934-1935; 1938-2026



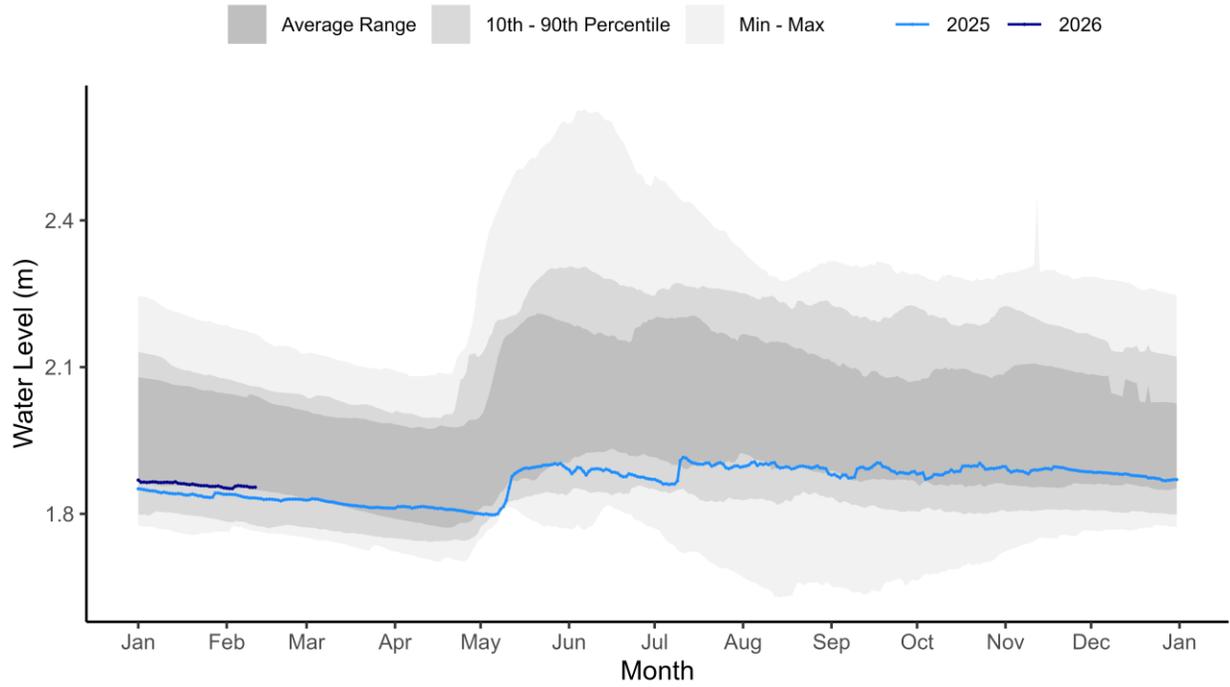
### Great Slave Lake at Hay River [07OB002]

Record Length: 56 years | Period of Record: 1959-1970; 1983-2026



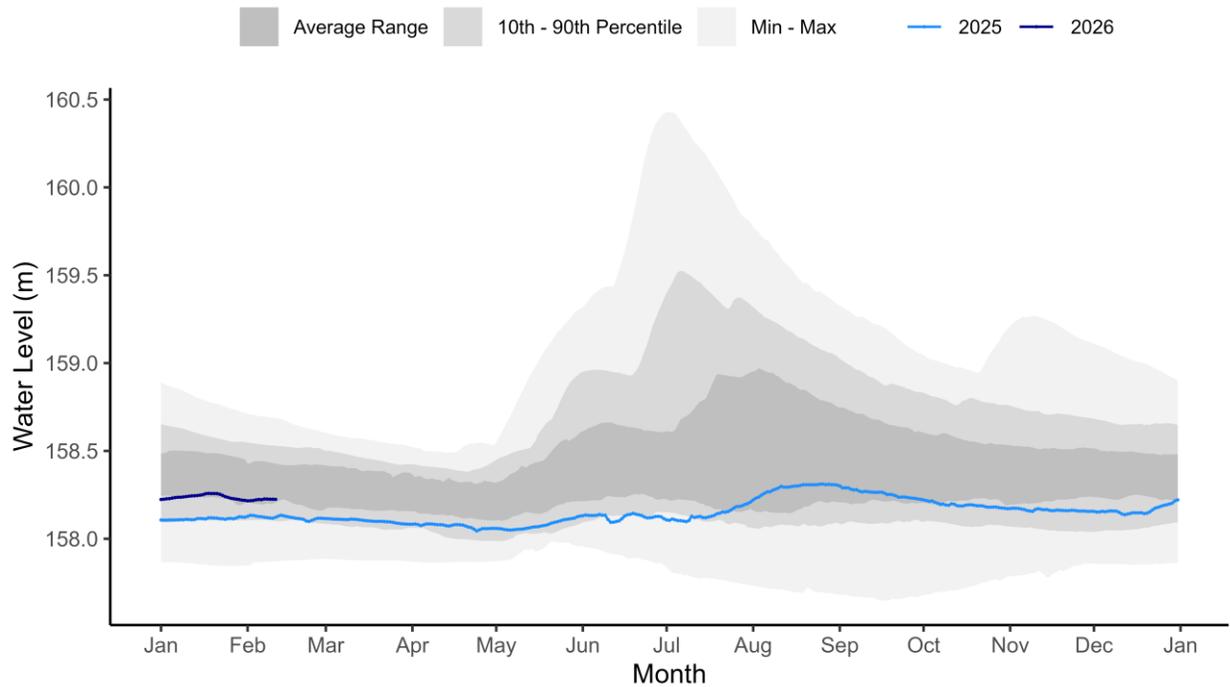
### Cameron River below Reid Lake [07SB010]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



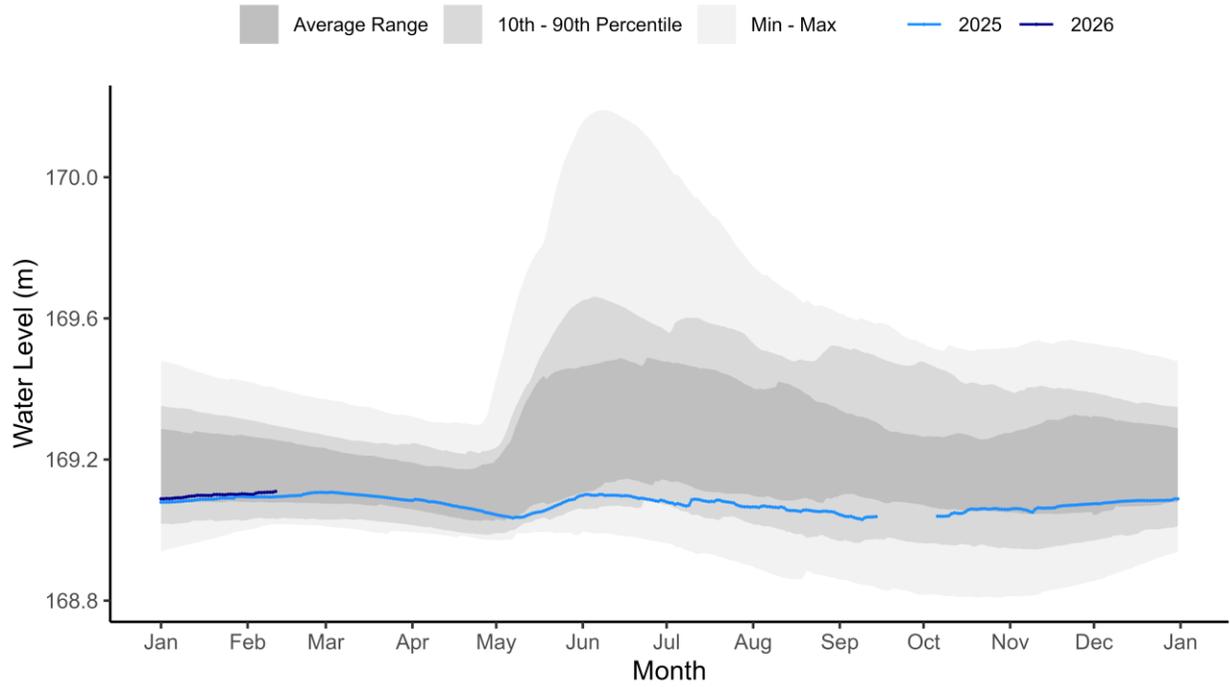
### Prosperous Lake near McMeekan Bay [07SB014]

Record Length: 40 years | Period of Record: 1987-2026



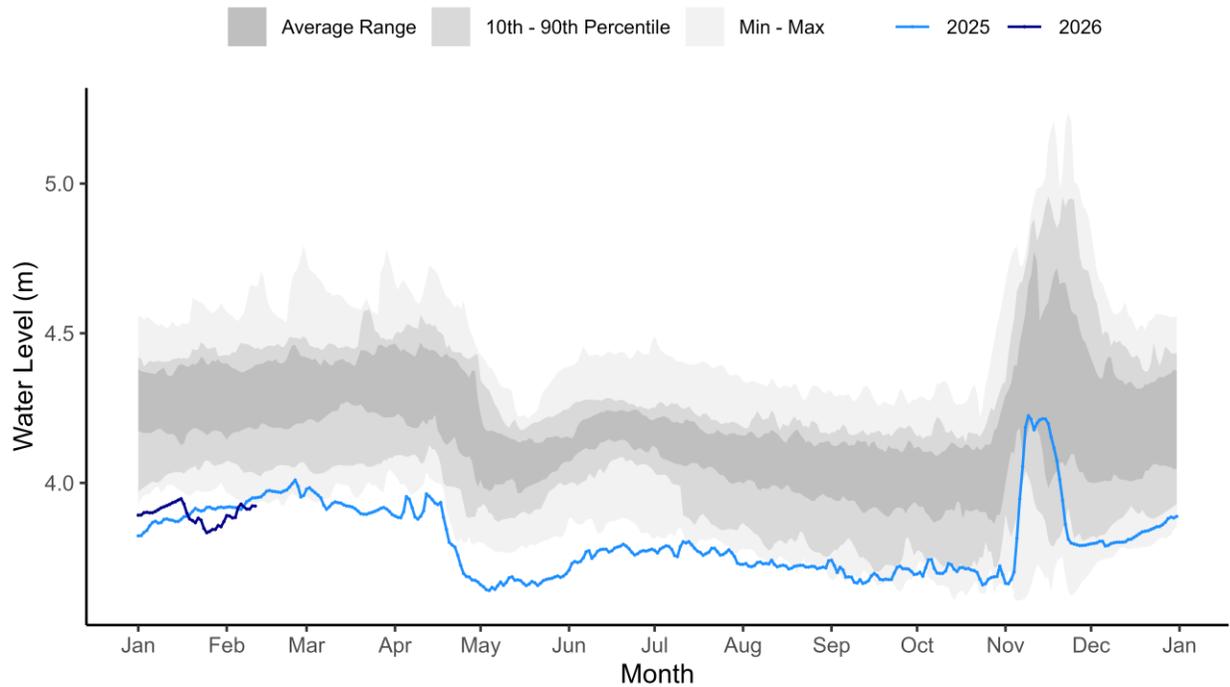
### Prelude Lake near Yellowknife [07SB017]

Record Length: 32 years | Period of Record: 1995-2026



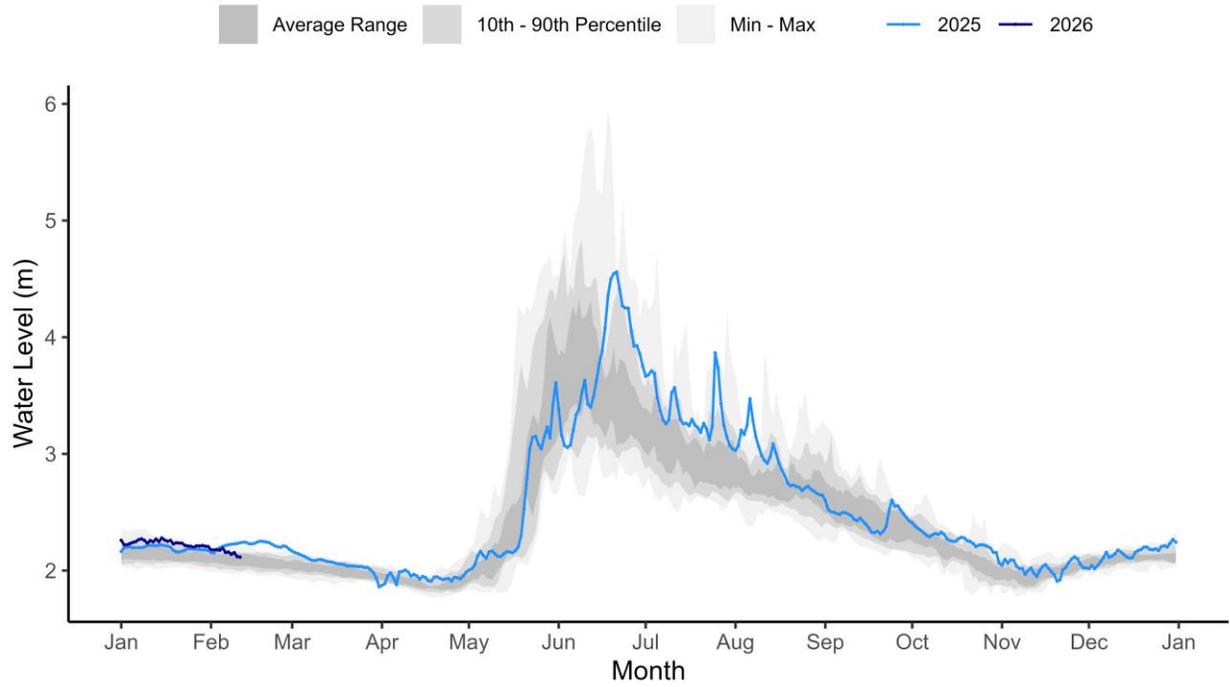
### La Martre River below outlet of Lac La Martre [07TA001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



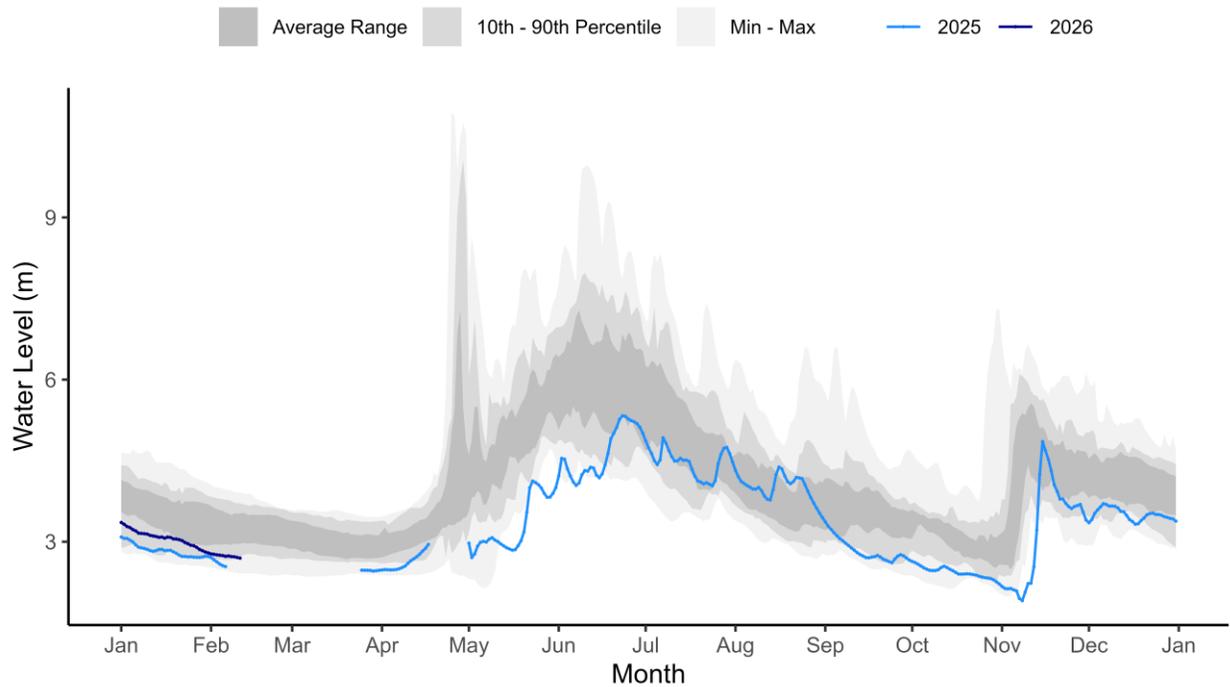
### South Nahanni River above Virginia Falls [10EB001]

Record Length: 21 years | Period of Record: 2002-2019; 2024-2026



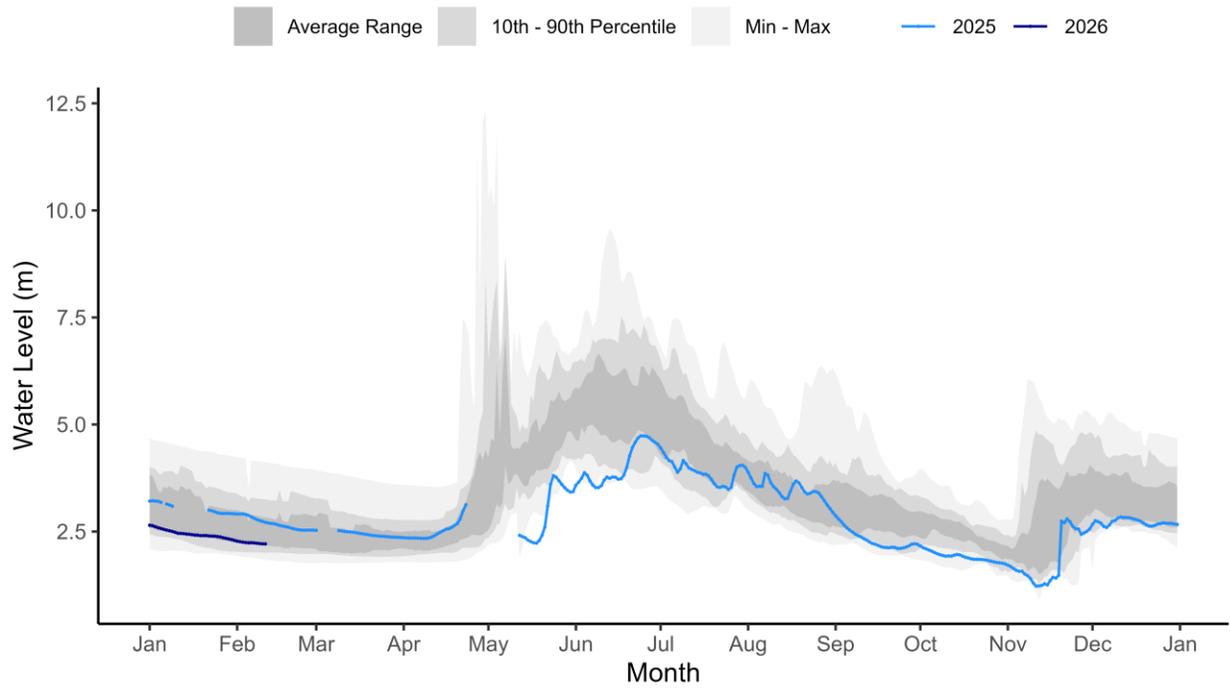
### Liard River at Fort Liard [10ED001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



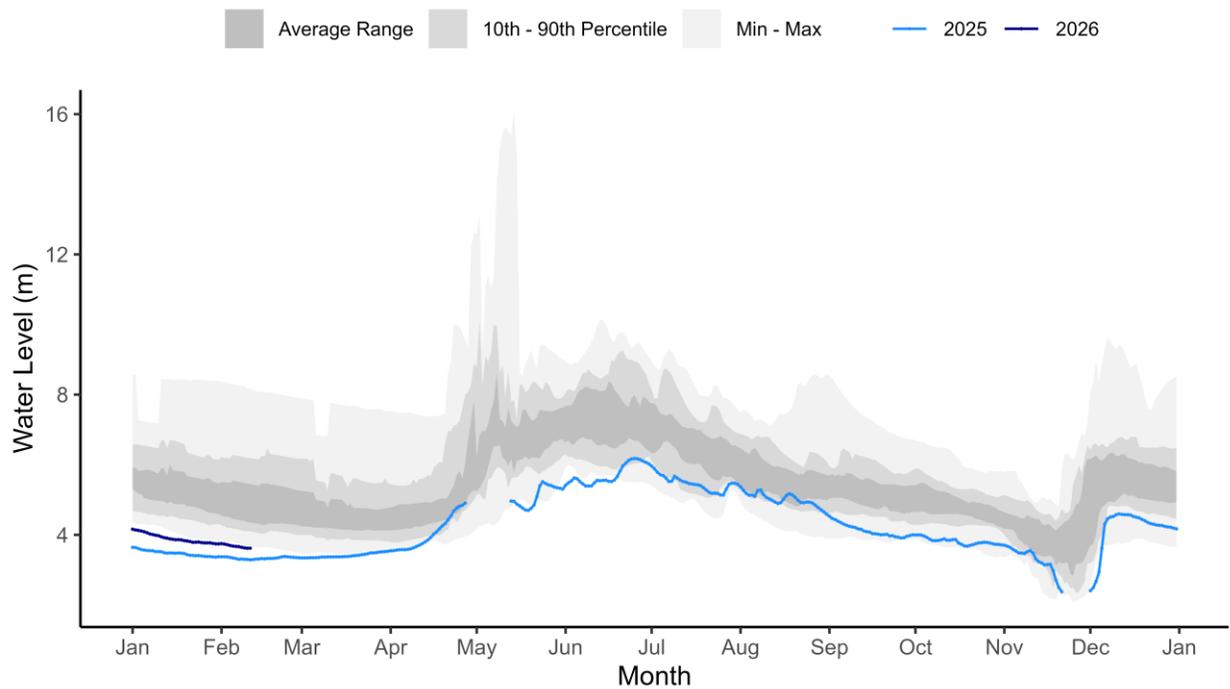
### Liard River near the mouth [10ED002]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



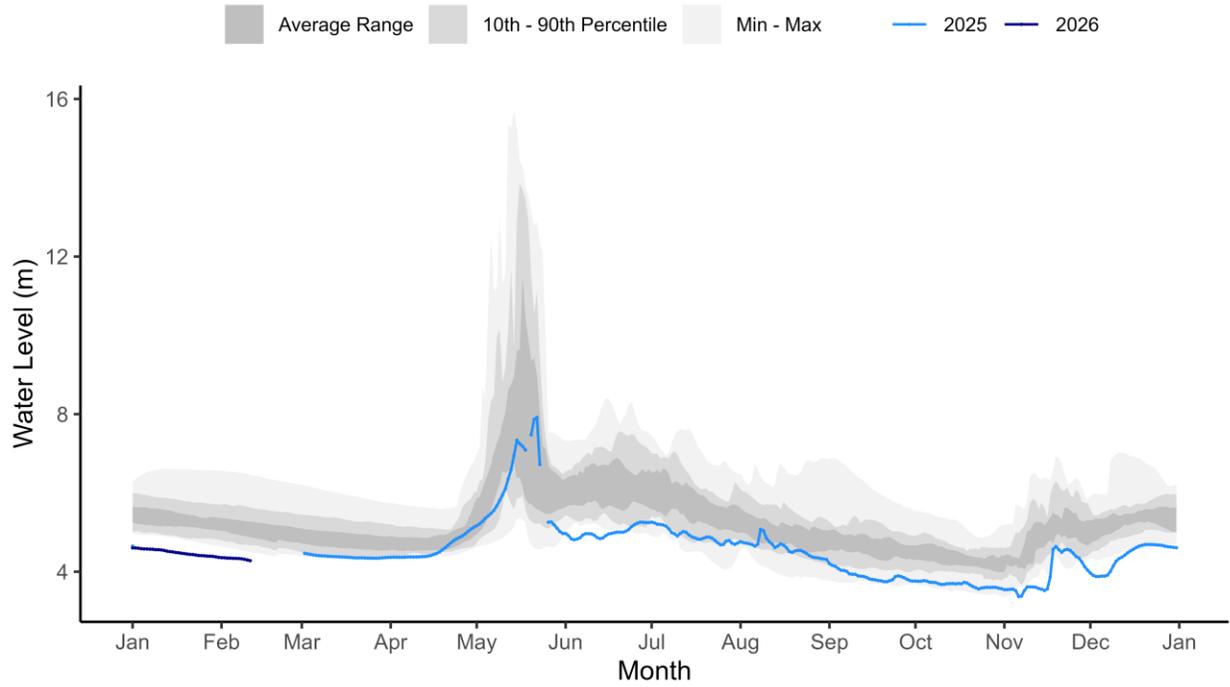
### Mackenzie River at Fort Simpson [10GC001]

Record Length: 26 years | Period of Record: 2001-2026



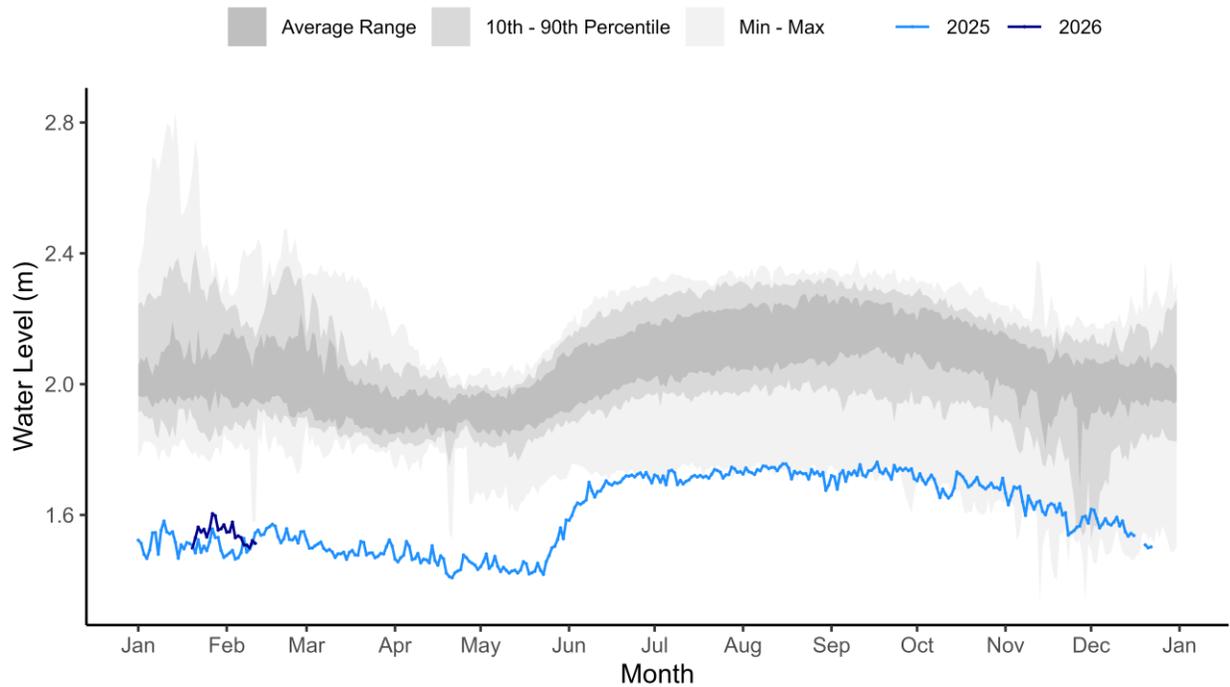
### Mackenzie River at Norman Wells [10KA001]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



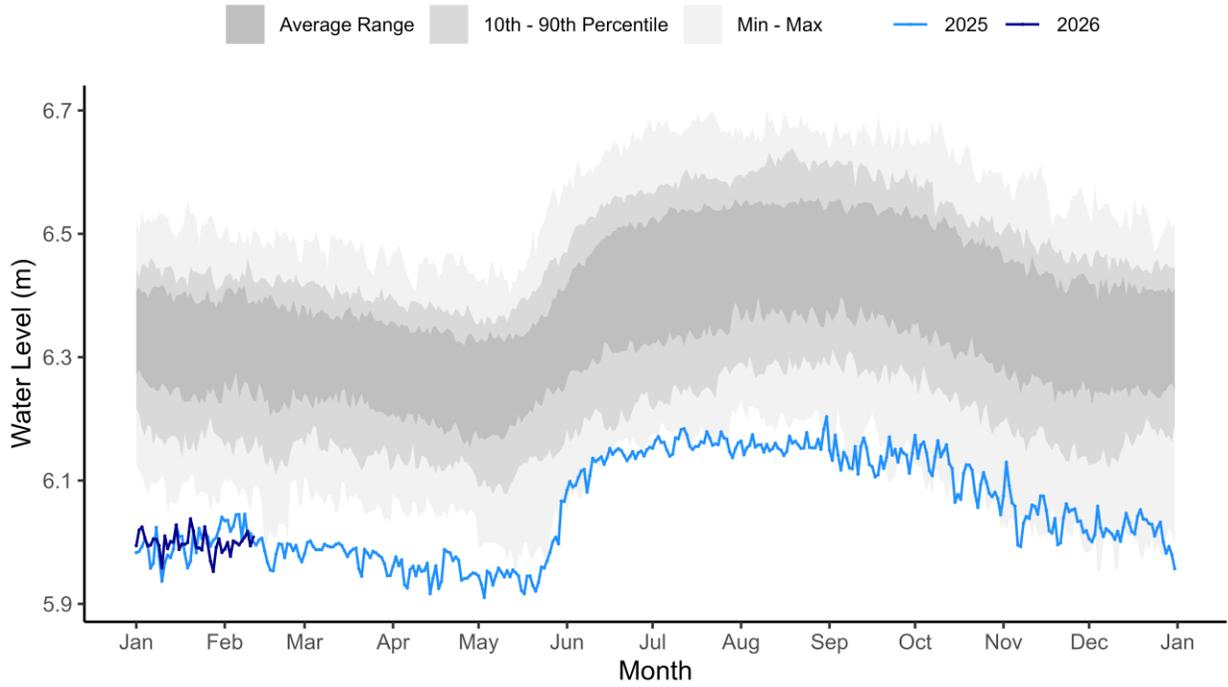
### Great Bear River at outlet of Great Bear Lake [10JC003]

Record Length: 25 years | Period of Record: 2002-2026



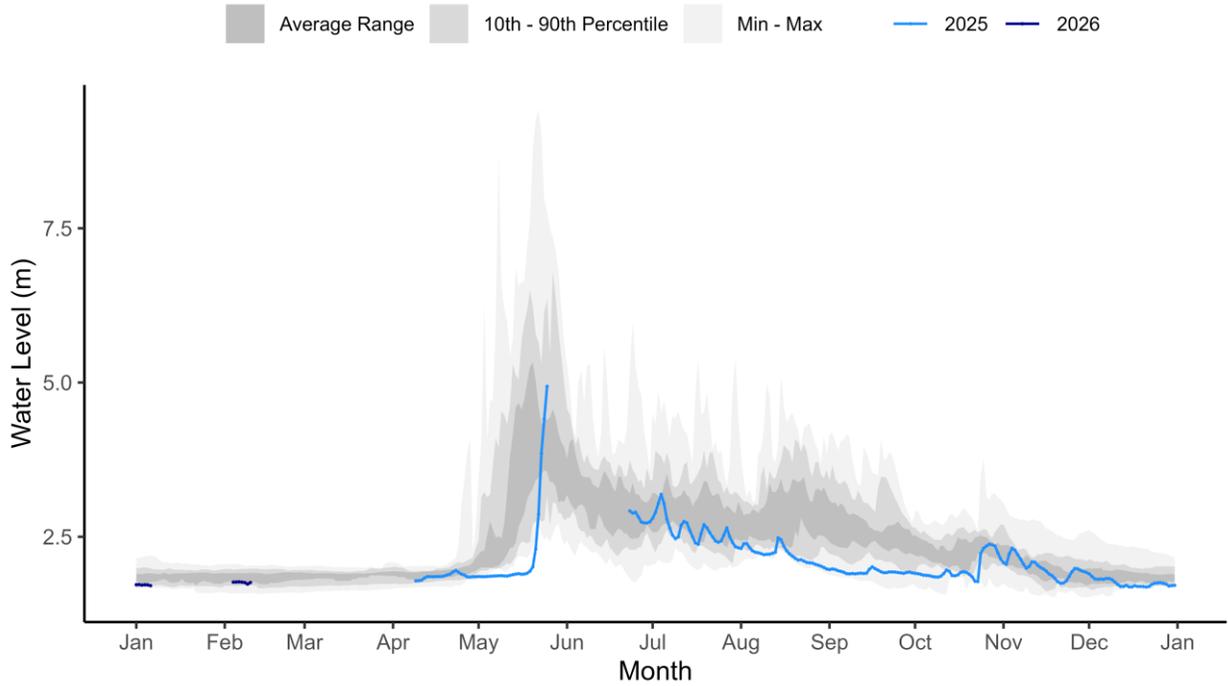
### Great Bear Lake at Hornby Bay [10JE002]

Record Length: 43 years | Period of Record: 1984-2026



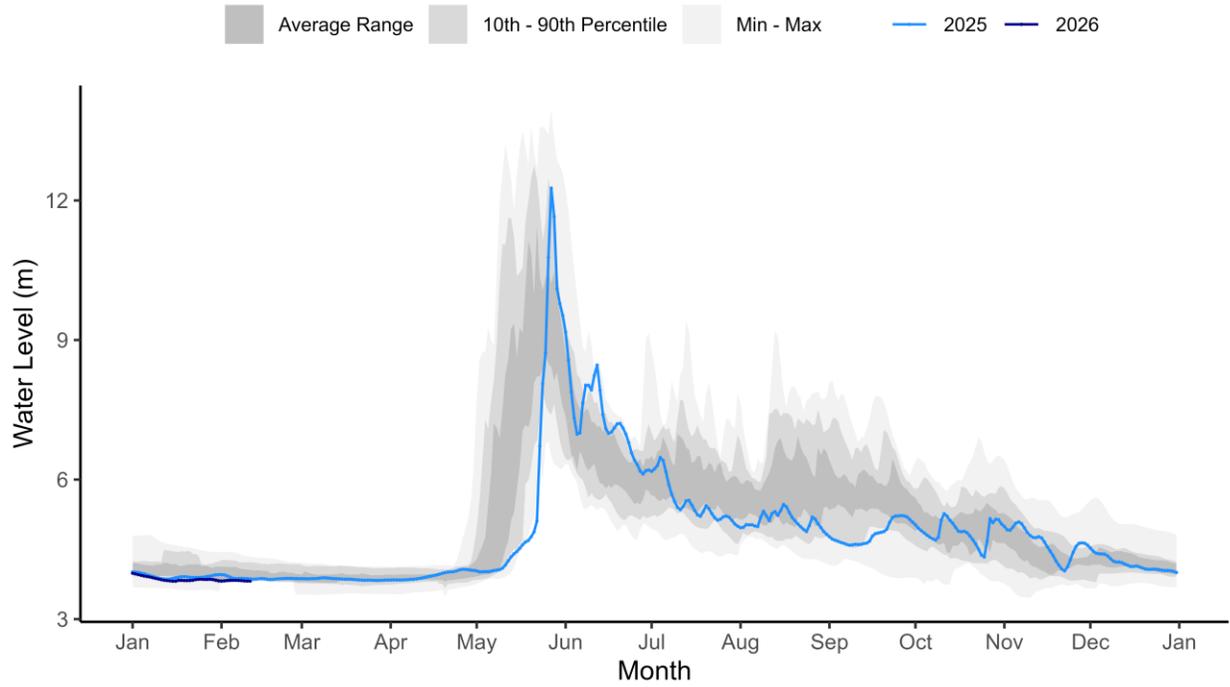
### Arctic Red River near the mouth [10LA002]

Record Length: 23 years | Period of Record: 2002-2021; 2024-2026



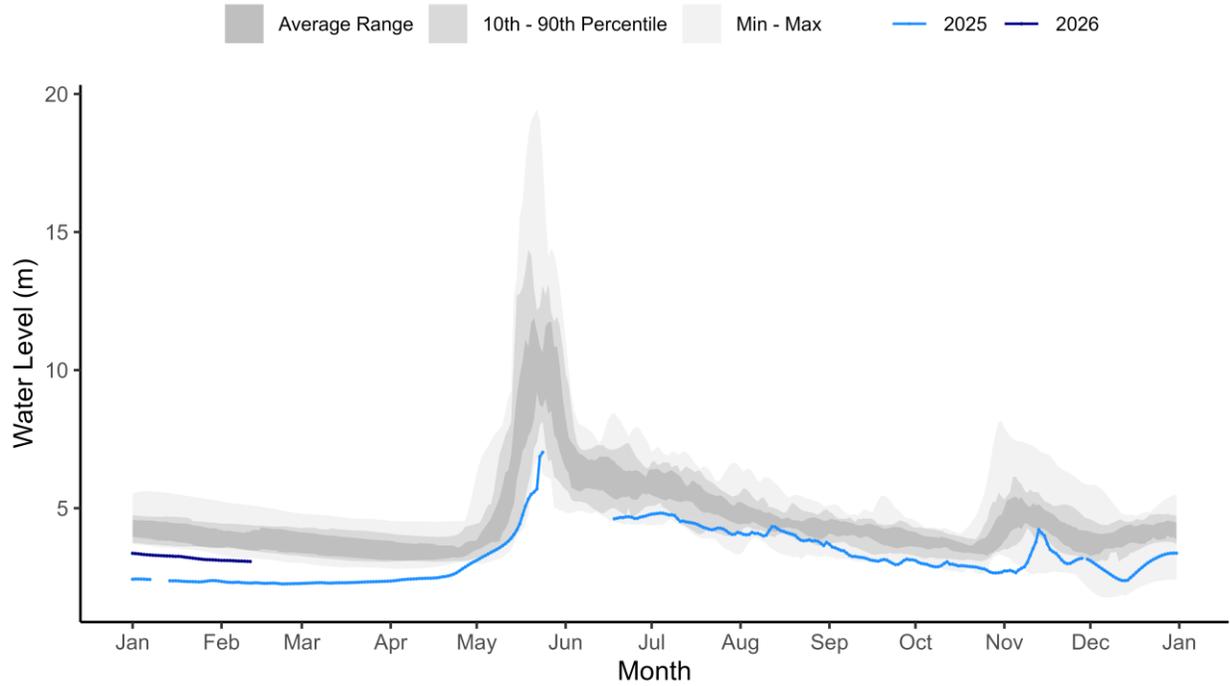
### Peel River above Fort McPherson [10MC002]

Record Length: 20 years | Period of Record: 2002-2018; 2024-2026



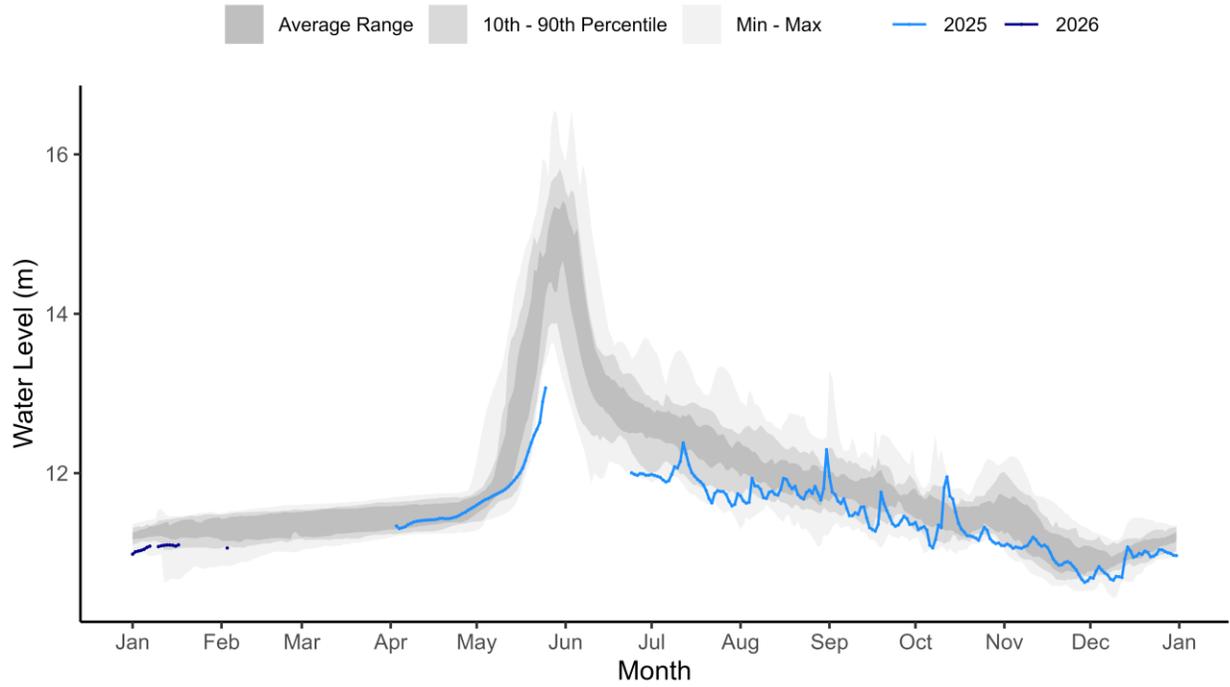
### Mackenzie River at Arctic Red River [10LC014]

Record Length: 21 years | Period of Record: 2002-2019; 2024-2026



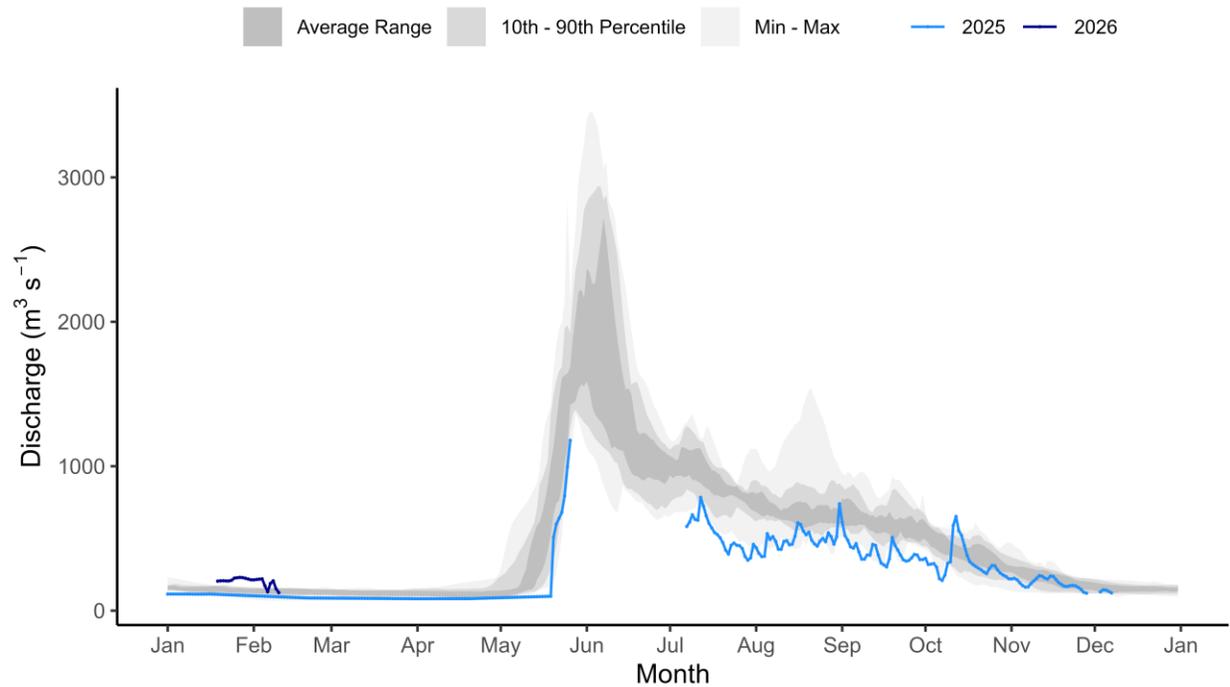
### Mackenzie River (East Channel) at Inuvik [10LC002]

Record Length: 26 years | Period of Record: 1984-1990; 2002-2017; 2024-2026

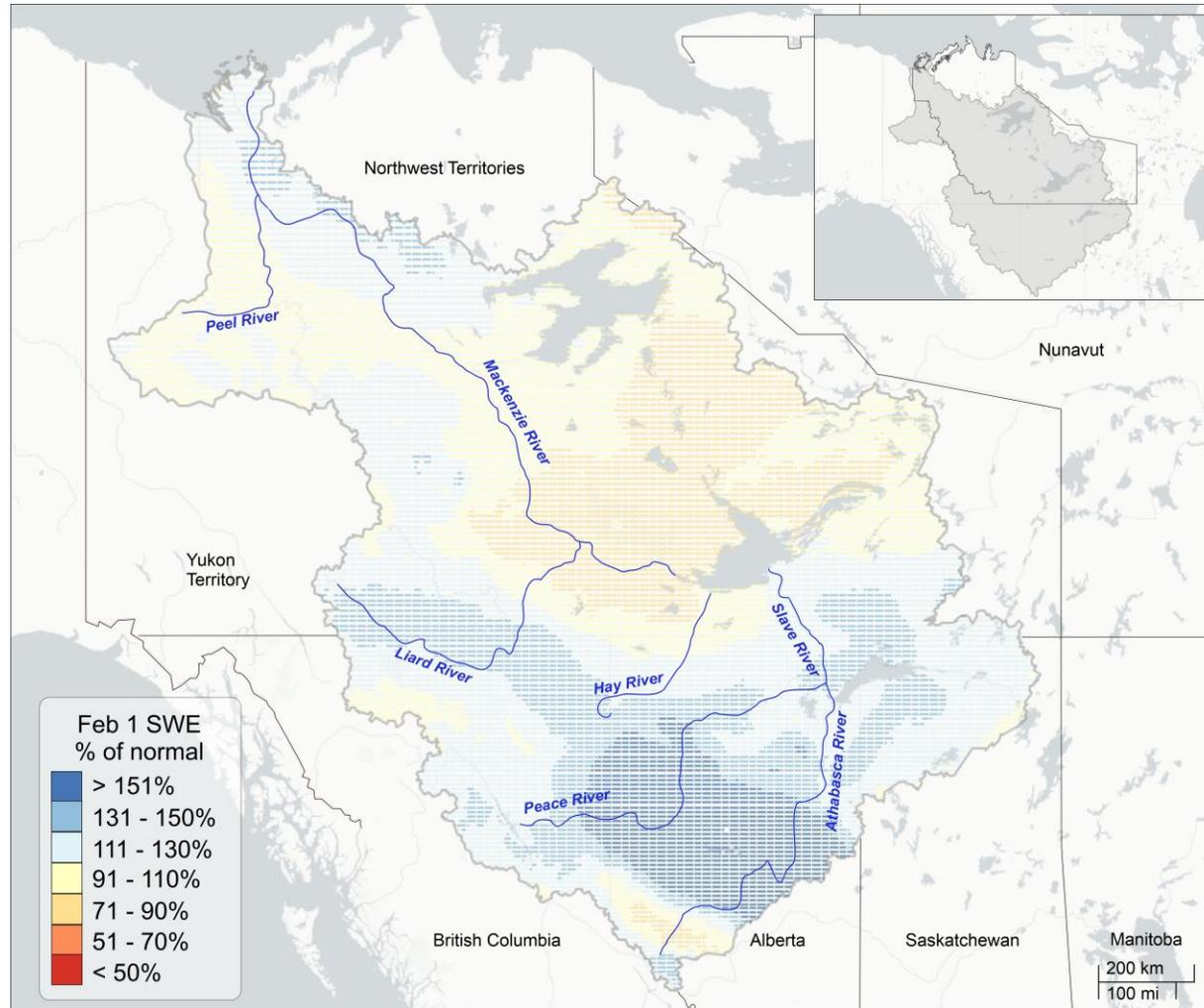


### Mackenzie River (Peel Channel) above Aklavik [10MC003]

Record Length: 17 years | Period of Record: 1974-1977; 2009-2018; 2024-2026



## Snowpack Data

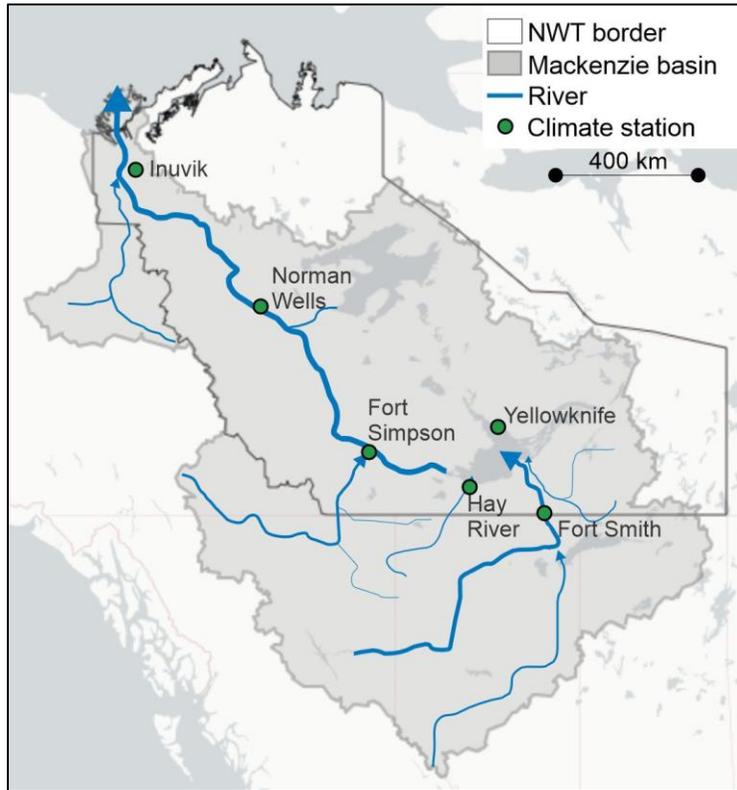


January 31<sup>st</sup> snow water equivalent (SWE, percent of normal) distribution in the Mackenzie River basin. Data are sourced from ERA5-Land<sup>1</sup> and are cropped to the Mackenzie River basin. Data are not perfectly representative of on-the-ground conditions and only general patterns should be interpreted.

(1) Muñoz Sabater, J. (2019): ERA5-Land hourly data from 1950 to present. Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S) Climate Data Store (CDS). DOI: [10.24381/cds.e2161bac](https://doi.org/10.24381/cds.e2161bac) (Accessed on 01-06-2026)

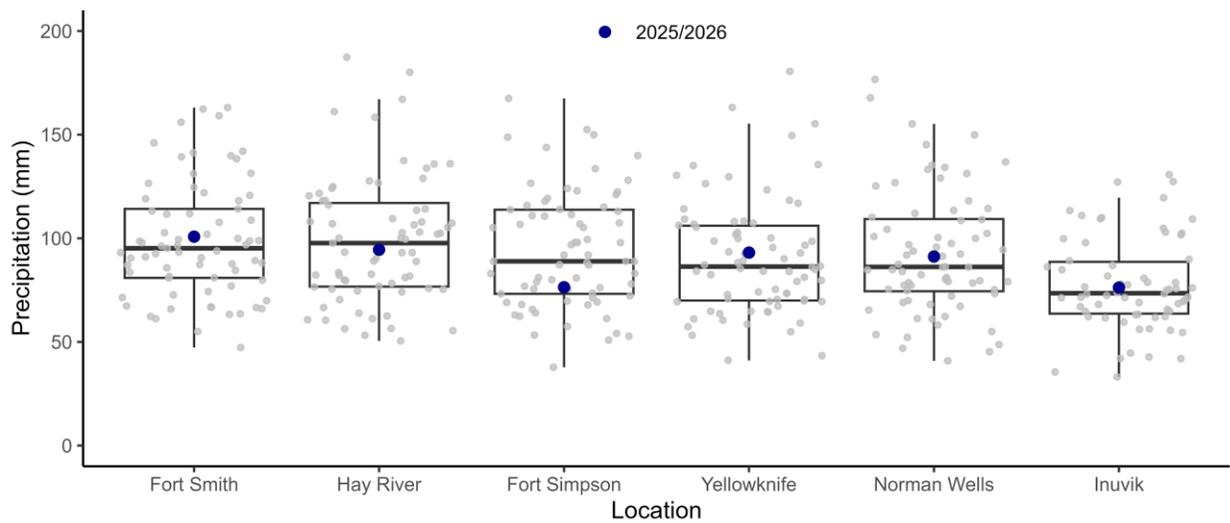
# Climate Data

## NWT communities



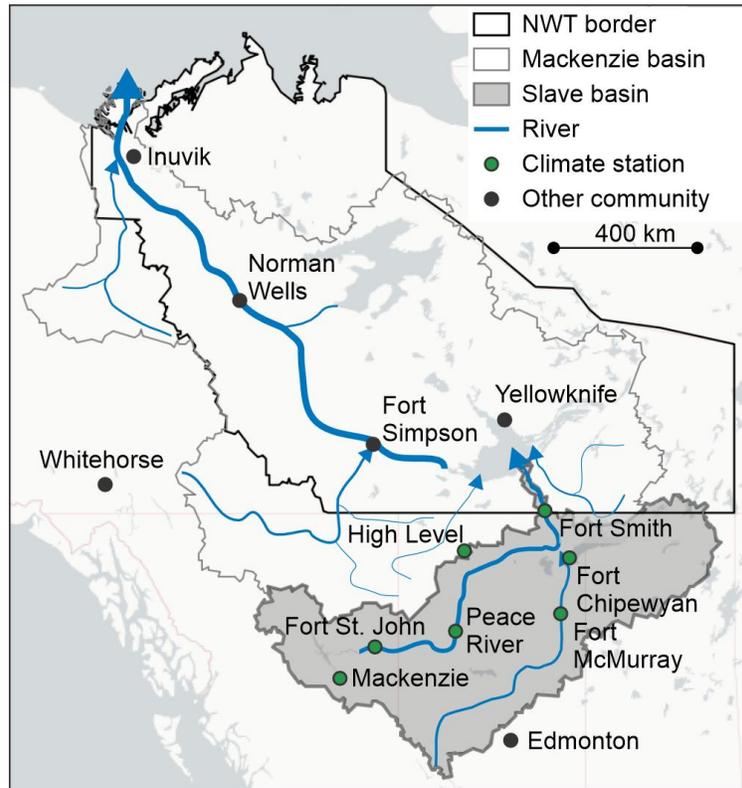
### Cumulative precipitation for select NWT communities

October 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 to February 11<sup>th</sup> 2026



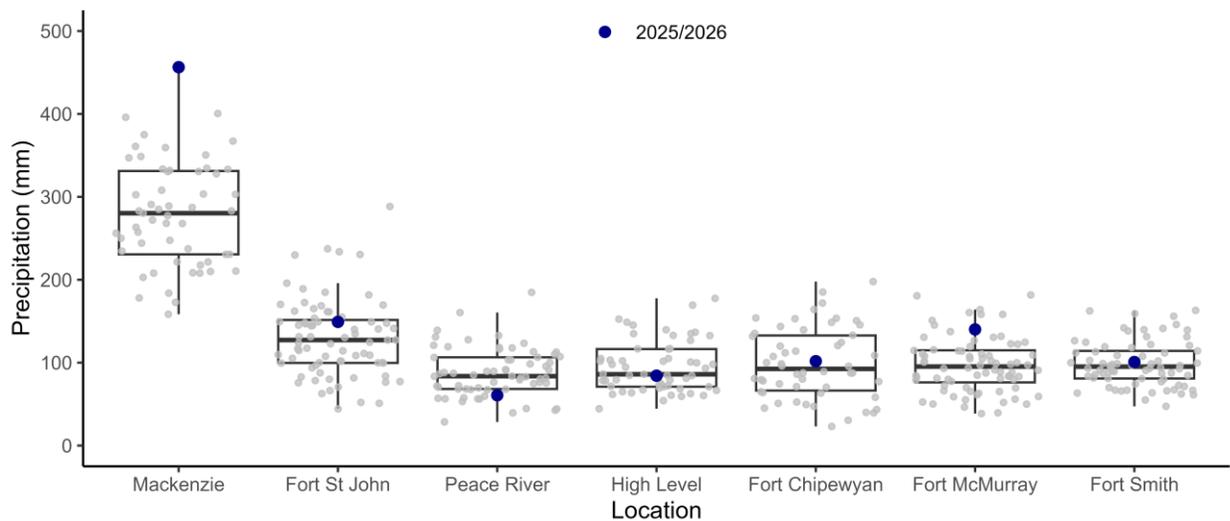
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities across the NWT from October 1<sup>st</sup> until February 11<sup>th</sup>. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

## Slave River basin communities



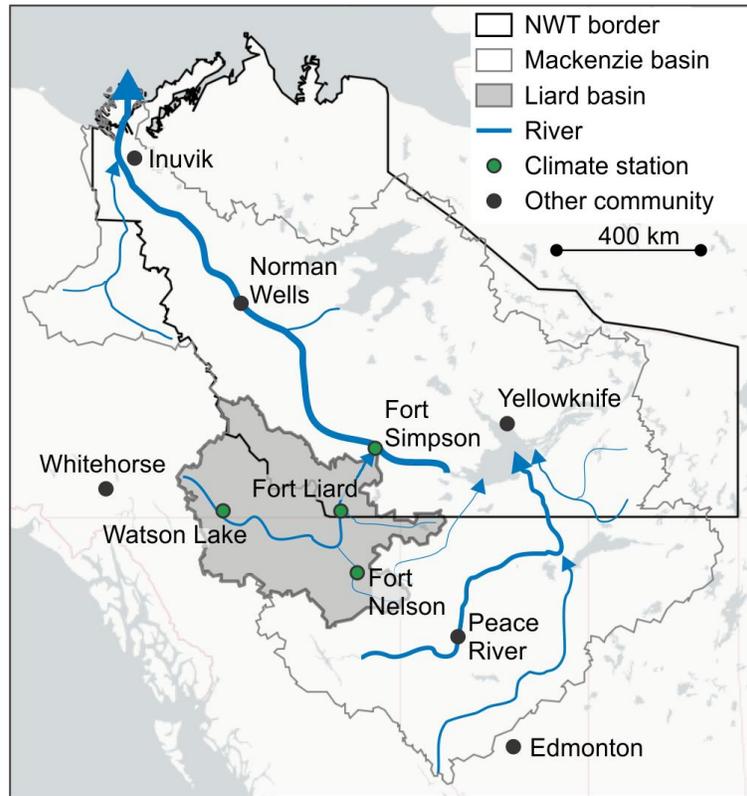
### Cumulative precipitation for AB/BC/NWT communities in the Slave River basin

October 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 to February 11<sup>th</sup> 2026



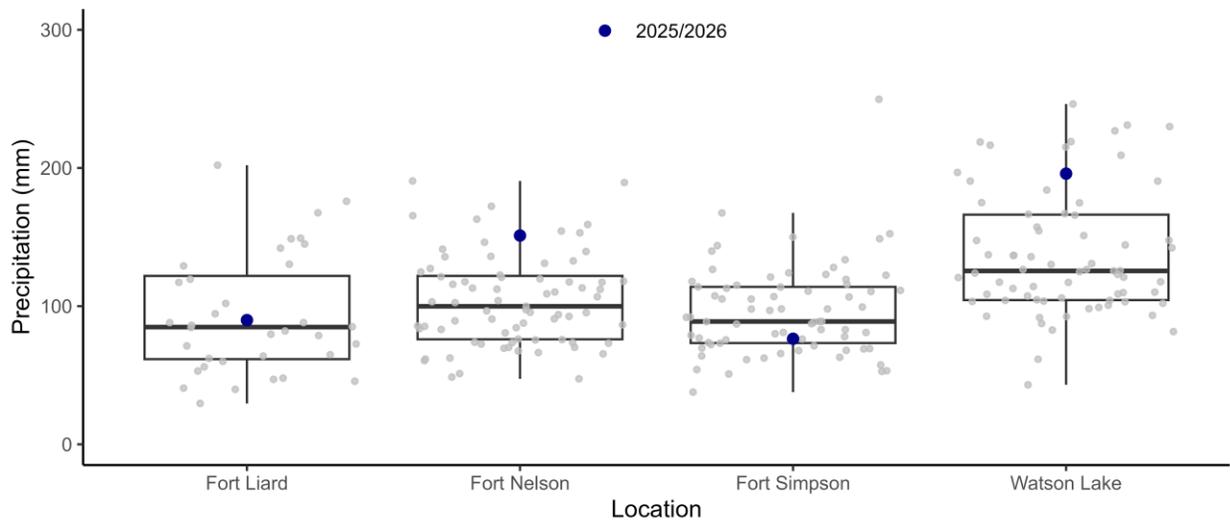
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Slave River basin from October 1<sup>st</sup> until February 11<sup>th</sup>. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

## Liard River basin communities



### Cumulative precipitation for BC/NWT communities in the Liard River basin

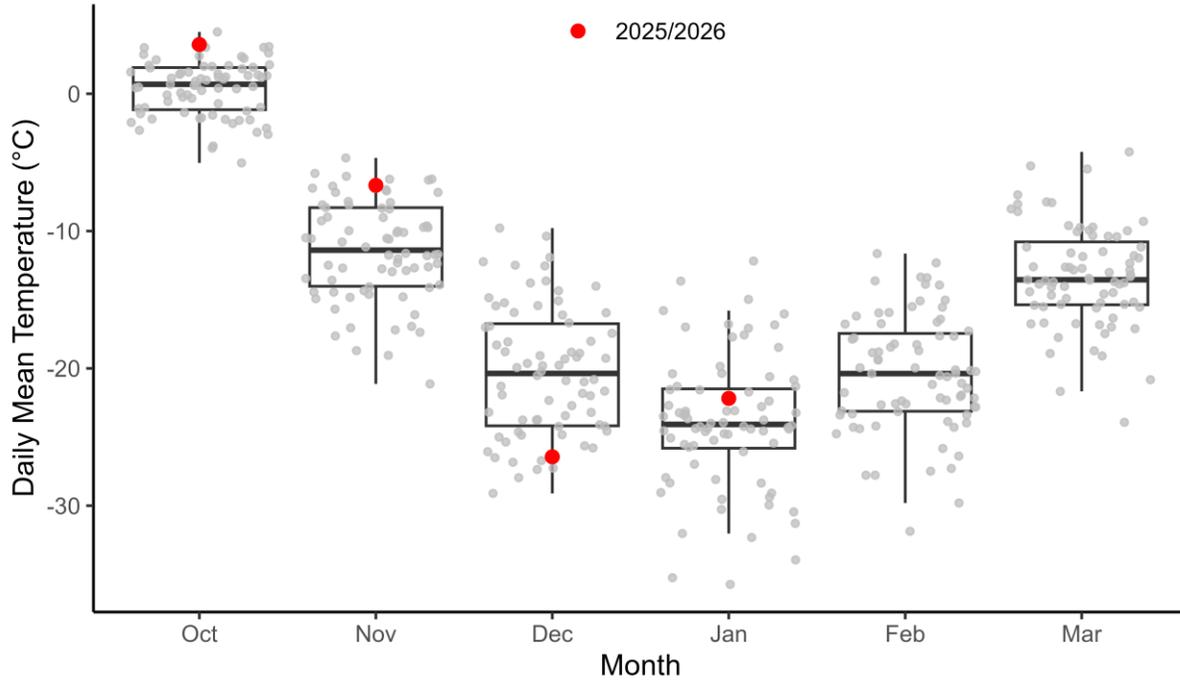
October 1<sup>st</sup> 2025 to February 11<sup>th</sup> 2026



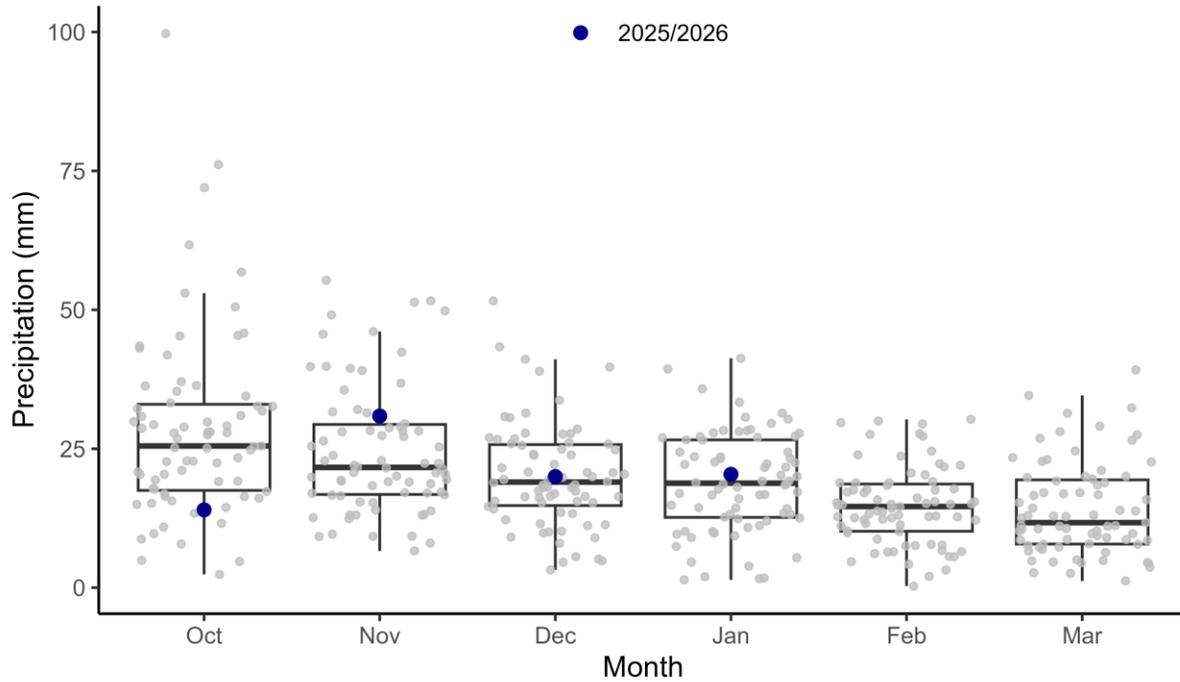
This figure shows total precipitation (rain and snow) that has fallen in select communities in the Liard River basin from October 1<sup>st</sup> until February 11<sup>th</sup>. The blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present. See the map above for geographical context.

Fort Smith

Fort Smith Air Temperatures



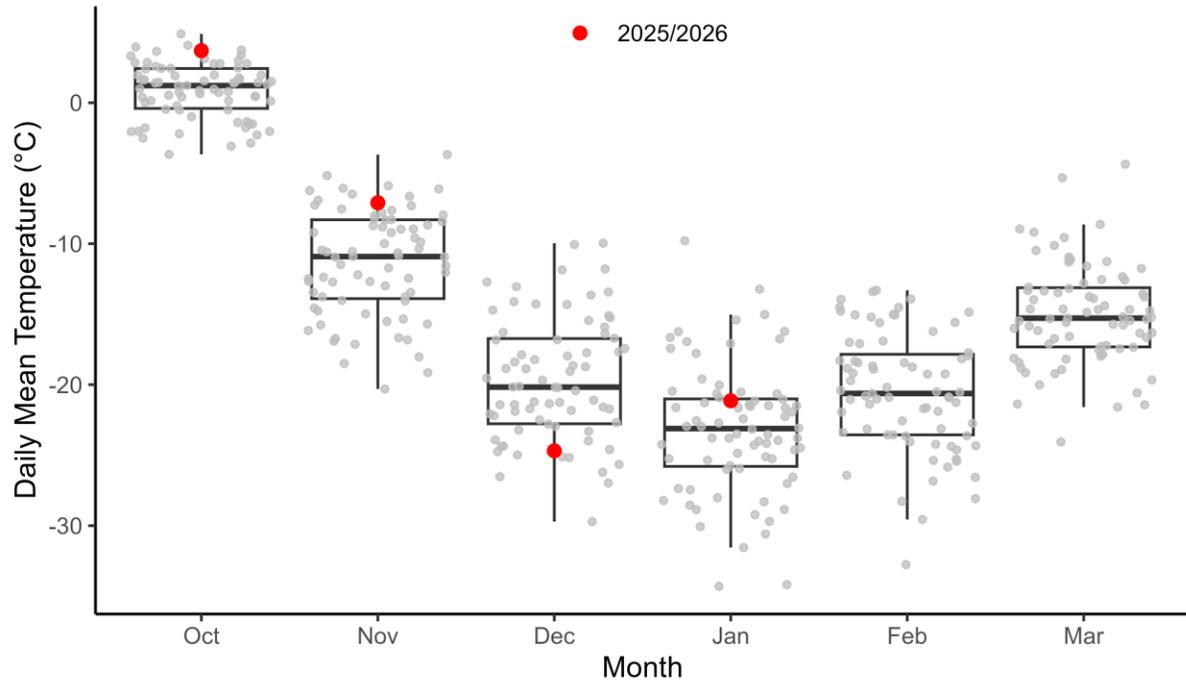
Fort Smith Total Precipitation



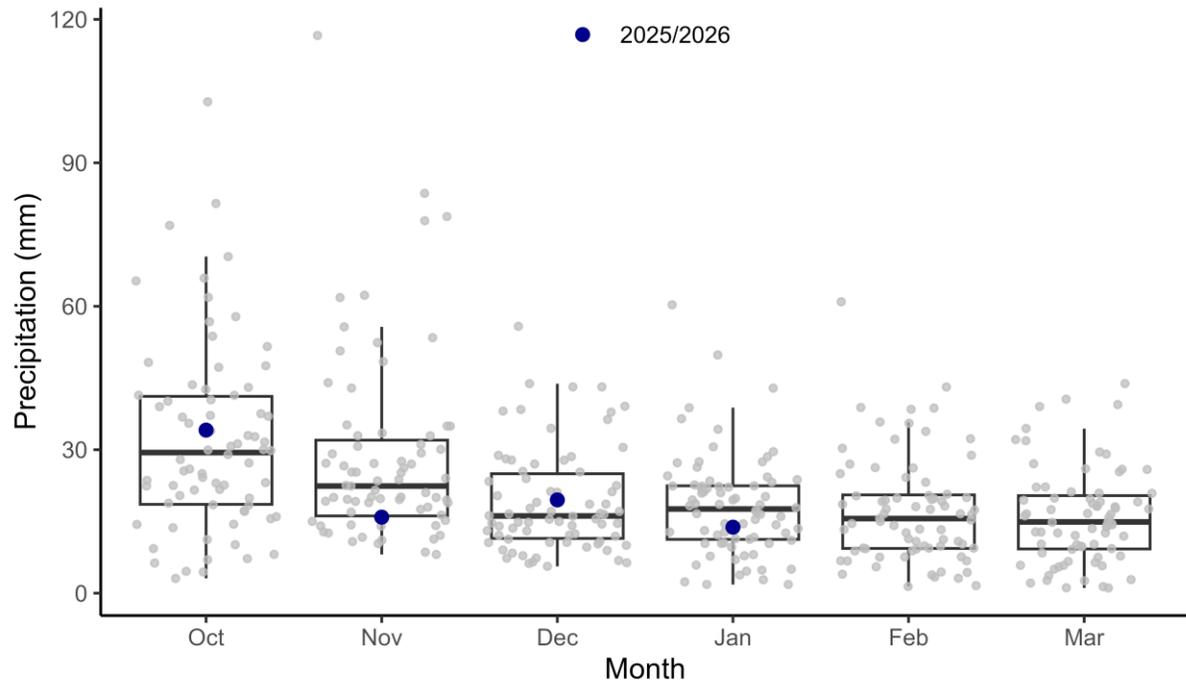
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025. The red or blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

## Hay River

### Hay River Air Temperatures



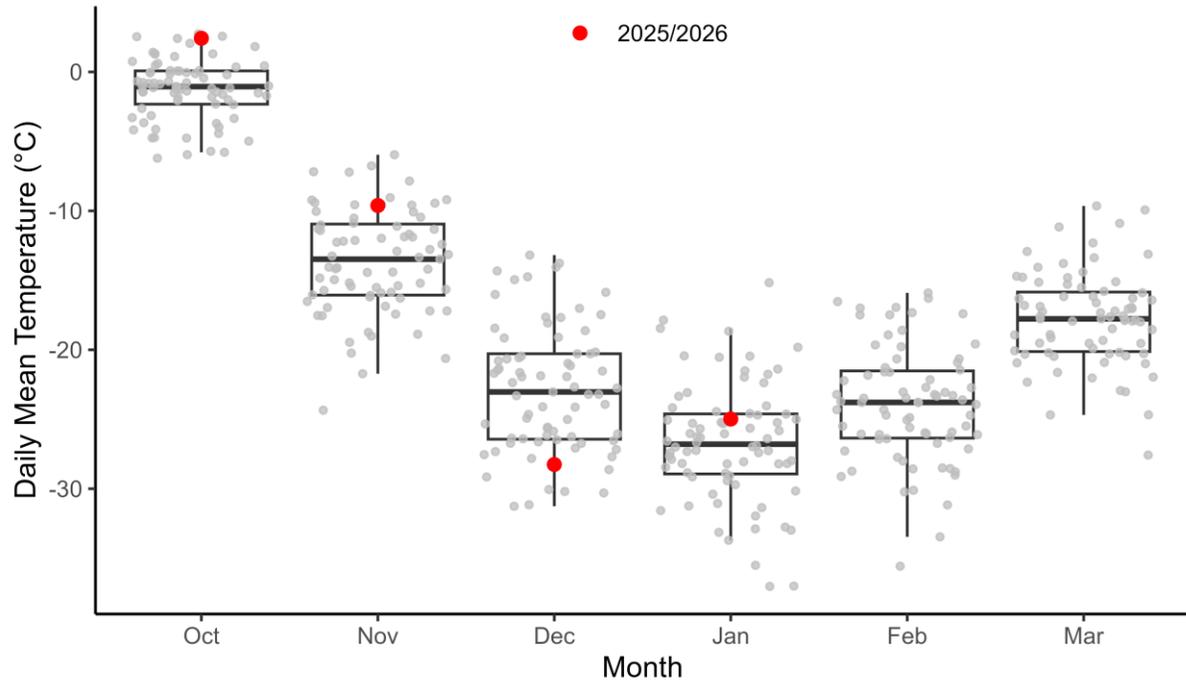
### Hay River Total Precipitation



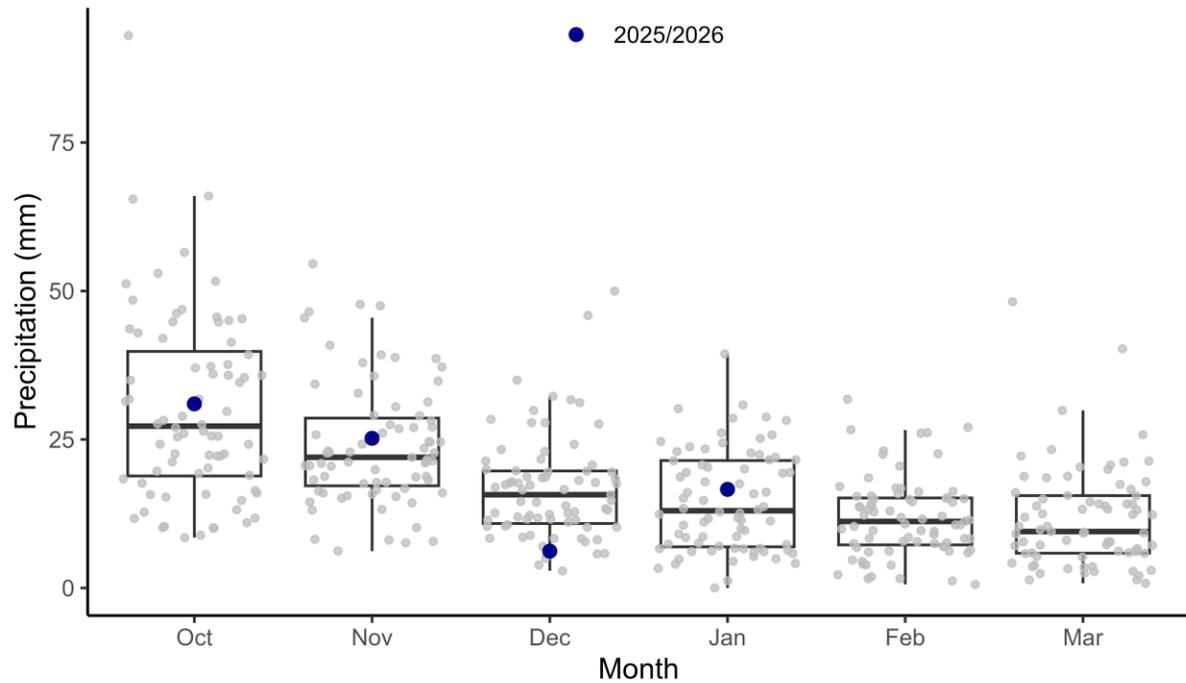
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025. The red or blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

## Yellowknife

### Yellowknife Air Temperatures



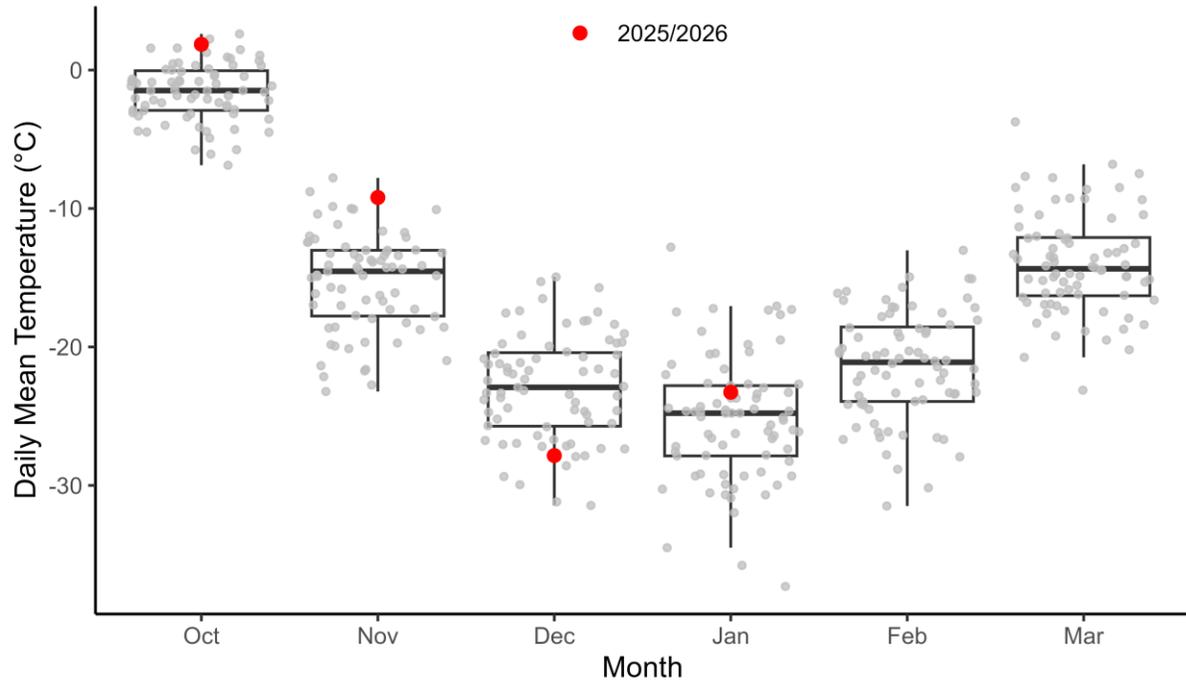
### Yellowknife Total Precipitation



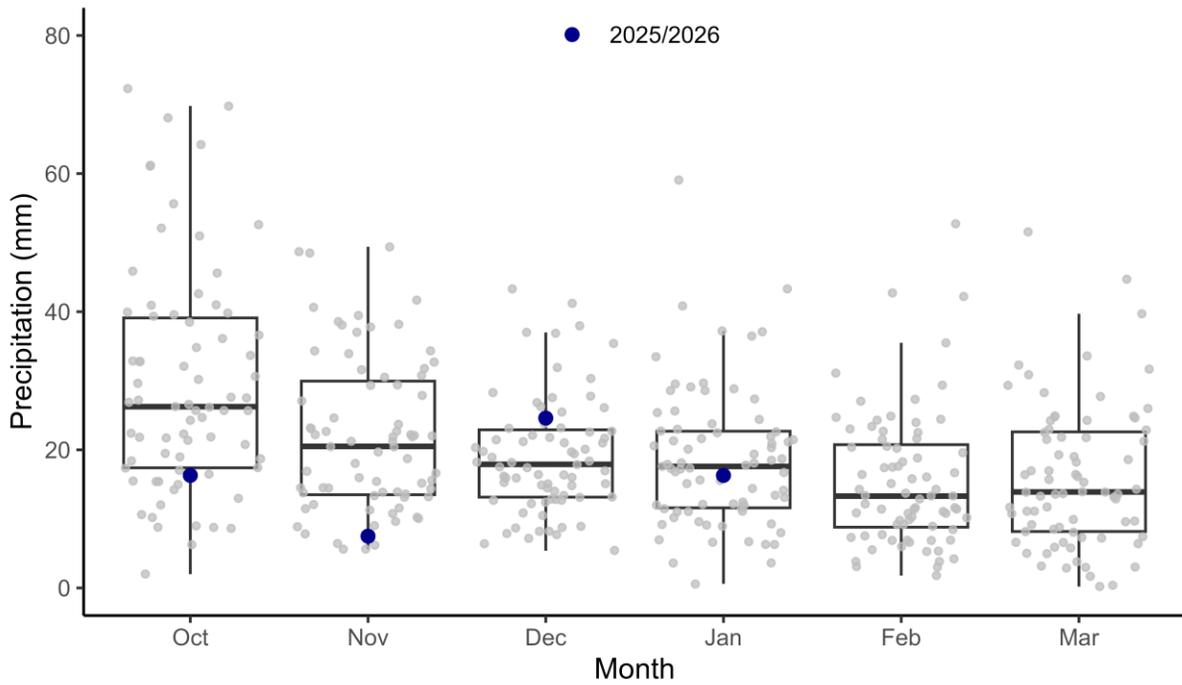
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for the winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025. The red or blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

## Fort Simpson

### Fort Simpson Air Temperatures



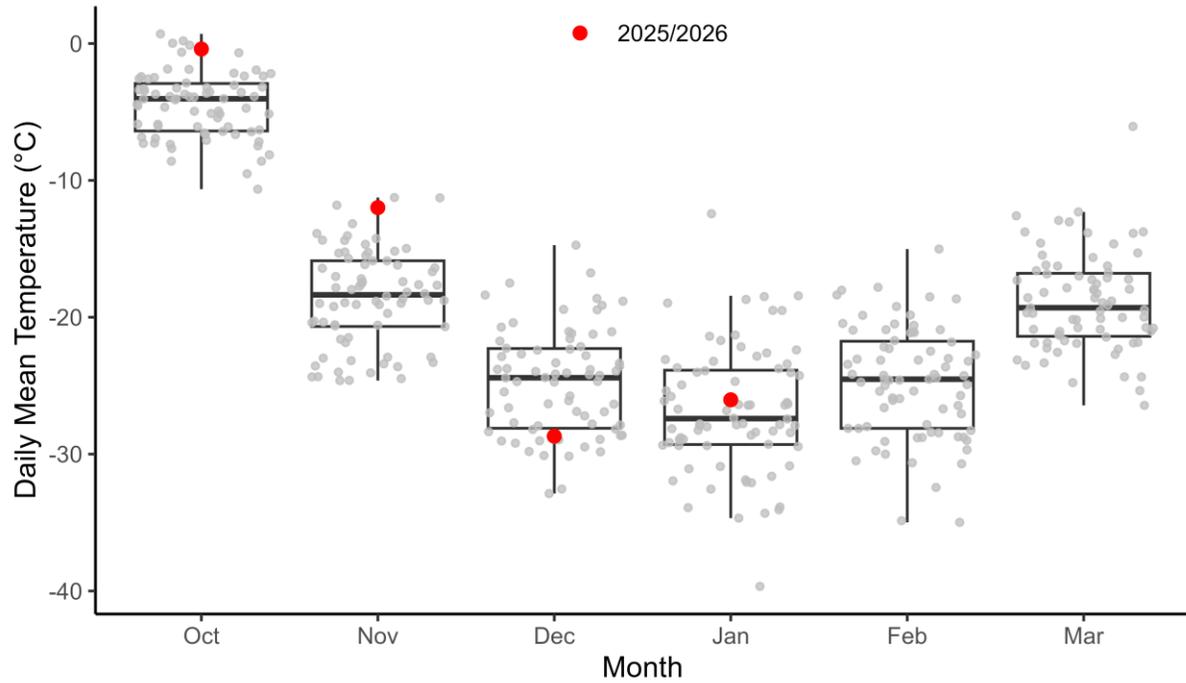
### Fort Simpson Total Precipitation



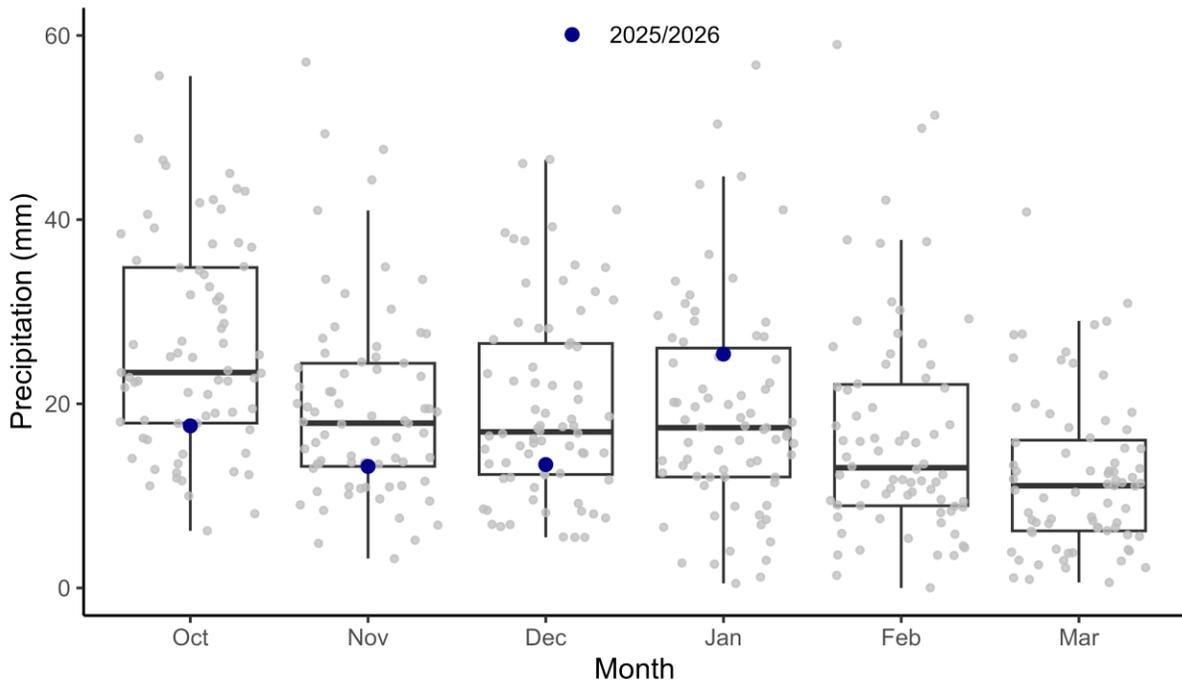
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025. The red or blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

## Norman Wells

### Norman Wells Air Temperatures



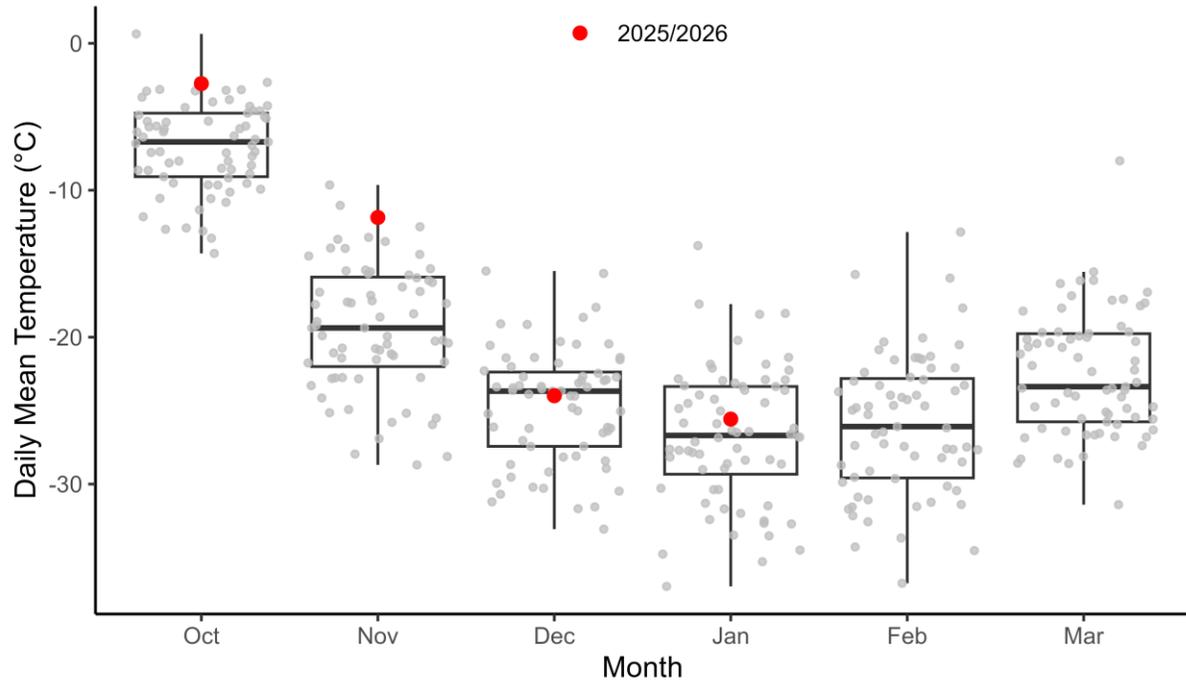
### Norman Wells Total Precipitation



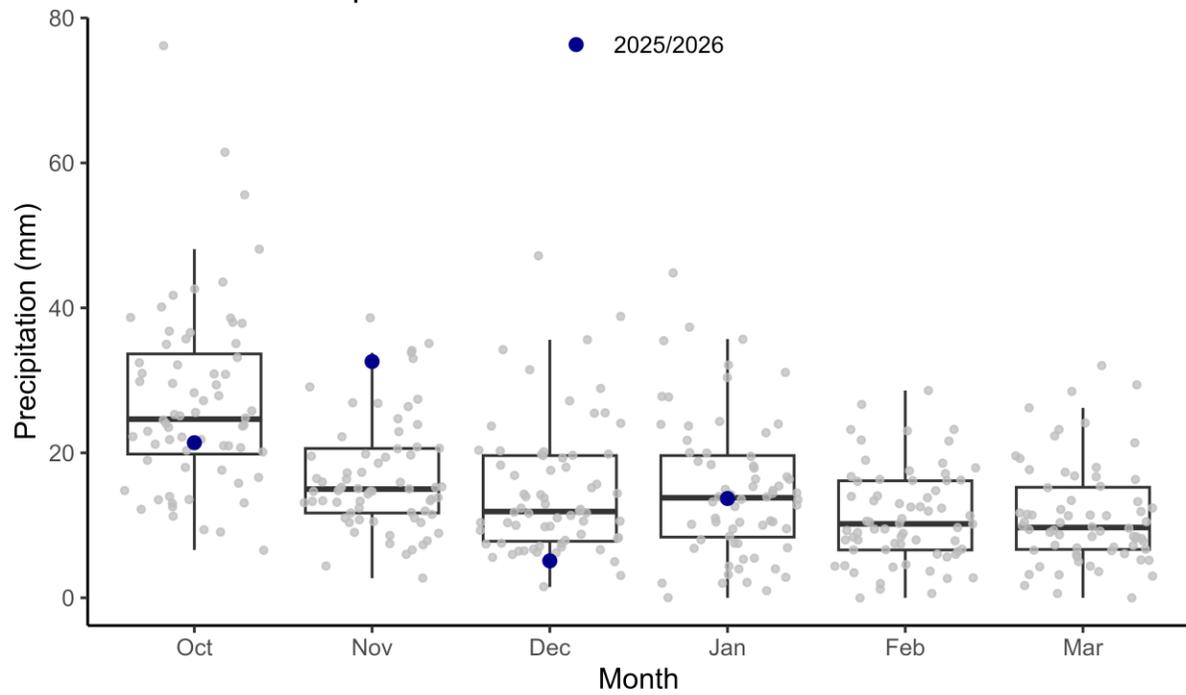
These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025. The red or blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.

## Inuvik

### Inuvik Air Temperatures



### Inuvik Total Precipitation



These figures shown above represent mean monthly air temperature and total monthly precipitation for winter 2025/2026 beginning October 2025. The red or blue dot is the current year, and the grey dots are all previous years from 1950 to present.