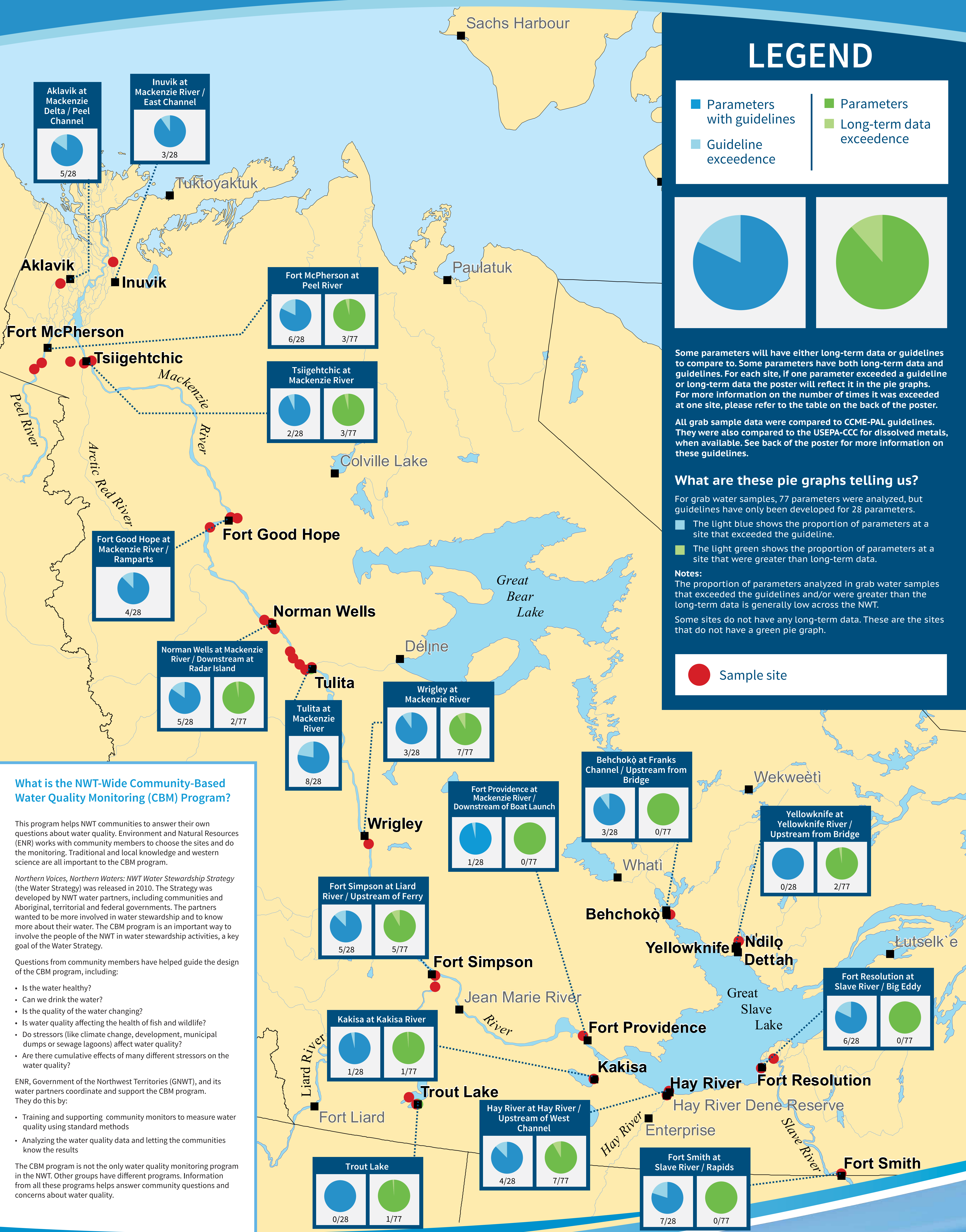


NWT-Wide Community-Based Water Quality Monitoring (CBM) Program – 2013 Results



LEGEND

- Parameters with guidelines
- Guideline exceedence
- Parameters
- Long-term data exceedence



Some parameters will have either long-term data or guidelines to compare to. Some parameters have both long-term data and guidelines. For each site, if one parameter exceeded a guideline or long-term data the poster will reflect it in the pie graphs. For more information on the number of times it was exceeded at one site, please refer to the table on the back of the poster.

All grab sample data were compared to CCME-PAL guidelines. They were also compared to the USEPA-CCC for dissolved metals, when available. See back of the poster for more information on these guidelines.

What are these pie graphs telling us?

For grab water samples, 77 parameters were analyzed, but guidelines have only been developed for 28 parameters.

- The light blue shows the proportion of parameters at a site that exceeded the guideline.
- The light green shows the proportion of parameters at a site that were greater than long-term data.

Notes:

The proportion of parameters analyzed in grab water samples that exceeded the guidelines and/or were greater than the long-term data is generally low across the NWT.

Some sites do not have any long-term data. These are the sites that do not have a green pie graph.

● Sample site

What is the NWT-Wide Community-Based Water Quality Monitoring (CBM) Program?

This program helps NWT communities to answer their own questions about water quality. Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) works with community members to choose the sites and do the monitoring. Traditional and local knowledge and western science are all important to the CBM program.

Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy (the Water Strategy) was released in 2010. The Strategy was developed by NWT water partners, including communities and Aboriginal, territorial and federal governments. The partners wanted to be more involved in water stewardship and to know more about their water. The CBM program is an important way to involve the people of the NWT in water stewardship activities, a key goal of the Water Strategy.

Questions from community members have helped guide the design of the CBM program, including:

- Is the water healthy?
- Can we drink the water?
- Is the quality of the water changing?
- Is water quality affecting the health of fish and wildlife?
- Do stressors (like climate change, development, municipal dumps or sewage lagoons) affect water quality?
- Are there cumulative effects of many different stressors on the water quality?

ENR, Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), and its water partners coordinate and support the CBM program. They do this by:

- Training and supporting community monitors to measure water quality using standard methods
- Analyzing the water quality data and letting the communities know the results

The CBM program is not the only water quality monitoring program in the NWT. Other groups have different programs. Information from all these programs helps answer community questions and concerns about water quality.

