



**June 14, 2021
Public Safety Notice**

**GNWT's Response to
Flooding in the Dehcho, South Slave, Sahtu and Inuvik Regions**

The Government of the Northwest Territories is actively working through the Regional Emergency Management Organizations (REMO) in affected communities to ensure that the response to flooding is coordinated, timely and responsive to the rapidly evolving situation. GNWT departments are working to provide a variety of assistance and support according to their respective mandates.

The flooding section on www.gov.nt.ca/public-safety continues to be enhanced with relevant content from MACA and other departments as content is updated.

From the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA):

The departments of MACA and Finance have created the Emergency Disaster Assistance Advance Program (EDAAP). This program allows for immediate payments to provide funding to residents, small businesses and community governments impacted by this year's flooding in the Northwest Territories.

Residents, small businesses and community government who will be submitting a claim for assistance through the regular Disaster Assistance Policy (DAP) process are able to access an advance of up to 50% now. Once they do submit their claim, any funding provided under this new policy would be deducted from their final eligible claim under the DAP.

Maximum funding available under this program is as follows:

- Residential Property – 50% of the preliminary assessment up to \$10,000;
- Small business owners - 50% of the preliminary assessment up to \$10,000;
- Community Governments – 50% of the preliminary assessment up to \$100,000.

Eligible expenses include:

- Emergency provision of essential community services;
- Security measures including the removal of valuable assets and hazardous materials from a threatened area;
- Repairs to public buildings and related equipment;
- Repairs to public infrastructure such as roads and bridges;
- Removal of damaged structures constituting a threat to public safety;
- Restoration, replacement or repairs to an individual's dwelling (principal residence only);
- Restoration, replacement or repairs to essential personal furnishings, appliances and clothing;
- Restoration of small businesses including buildings and equipment; and
- Costs of damage inspection, appraisal and clean up.

Ineligible expenses include:

- Repairs that are eligible for reimbursement through insurance;
- Costs already reimbursed by another government program; and
- Normal operating expenses of a government department or agency.

Affected residents, small businesses and community governments should contact their MACA Regional Offices with any questions related to their eligibility to apply and to submit their applications for the EDAAP. More information is available on our [website](#).

Aklavik:

- Residents have returned to the community.
- Thankfully there was no significant damage to any structures in the community and will not require damage assessment.

Fort Simpson:

- The assessors from Laurin Adjusters Ltd are in the community. Information on their schedule is being posted on Fort Simpson Facebook sites and other locations.
- Work to undertake urgent repairs to prevent further damage and do mould abatement has begun.

Jean Marie River:

- As on June 14, there are 6 rooms currently occupied by individuals affected by flooding in the Nahanni Inn in Fort Simpson with more rooms available if required.
- There are 16 people affected by flooding moving to the Nahanni Inn in Fort Simpson.
- Work is underway to address housing needs of affected residents
- Assessment work has been completed. We are anticipating receiving their findings shortly.
- Work to undertake urgent repairs to prevent further damage and do mould abatement has begun.

Fort Good Hope:

- Assessment work has been completed. We are anticipating receiving their findings shortly.
- Contracts have been developed to undertake urgent repairs to prevent further damage and do mould abatement.

Hay River/ Little Buffalo River

- We are in the process of scheduling damage assessment for Hay River and Little Buffalo River.

MACA has created an updated webpage on the 2021 flood season. For more information please visit: www.maca.gov.nt.ca/services/flooding

From the Department of Health and Social Services (DHSS) and Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA):

- The NTHSSA will be finalizing their spring break-up response this week through a review of response planning and activities, to help inform future emergencies.
- Assessment of the delivery of health services in Jean Marie River is ongoing, as the damage to the health cabin has not allowed services to resume. In the interim, all evacuees have been provided the option of mental health and addictions counseling, in addition to social support for the hardship and devastation of losing homes or valuables.
- The health regions worked cooperatively to ensure long term care and home care clients were evacuated to communities where services could be maintained, and where possible these clients were evacuated with their personal support workers to ensure familiarity and comfort during a difficult time.

From the Department of Infrastructure (INF):

Fort Simpson:

- Contractors continue their clean-up of the Department of Infrastructure's Public Works and Services compound site.

Aklavik:

- INF's regional Community Maintainer continues to assist the community where needed.

From the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR):

- Continuing to monitor and provide information to local, regional, and territorial authorities on water levels in the Taltson and Liard River Basins as upland snowmelt begins.
- Continue to provide advice on environmental recovery in all flood-affected communities as necessary.

From the COVID Secretariat:

- Isolation centres are providing accommodations to anyone who may be in self-isolation but must move to another location because of the flood.
- ProtectNWT is keeping track of Individuals who have filed Self-Isolation Plans and are self-isolating in communities at risk of floods and is in regular contact with them as the flooding situation evolves.
- ProtectNWT is informing individuals self-isolating of what they need to do if there is an evacuation in their community.
- Isolation Centre staff have confirmed there are sufficient rooms available to receive and host isolating community residents in the regional-hub Isolation Centres, if needed.
- If required, COVID Secretariat will work with MACA and individuals to ensure they have safe transportation to an alternate isolation location.
- The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer reviews exceptional circumstance requests submitted to ProtectNWT to isolate in small, non-regional hub communities and will take into consideration the risk of possible flooding as part of the overall health risk assessment.
- COVID Secretariat communications staff is collaborating with MACA to ensure information is provided to the public and impacted communities in a timely manner about the evolving flood situation.

From the NWT Housing Corporation:

- In Jean Marie River, all five NWTHC units have been impacted, including overturned fuel tanks. A professional assessment report has been received. A cost benefit analysis has been completed on repairs, replacements, and remediation options, which includes relocation of units to higher ground. The unit repairs await input from the community, regarding relocation options, provided to determine the needs for repairs and replacements.
- In Fort Simpson, A professional assessment report has been done. Two NWTHC units have damage in their living space, including the need for electrical repairs. An analysis on repair options is done.
- In Fort Good Hope, the NWTHC has one asset affected. An assessment report regarding action on repairs has been completed.
- In Aklavik, the NWTHC did everything it can to prepare for flooding. Currently the NWTHC is awaiting information on whether specific driveways were washed out and are required to be filled. A contingency shelter plan was led by the community.

From the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC):

- The power plant in **Jean Marie River** has been cleaned and repaired and has been providing power to the community since Monday, June 7
- All customers in **Fort Simpson** and **Fort Good Hope** with buildings that have been approved for reconnection by an electrical inspector have had their power restored – only buildings that require further remediation and approval from a GNWT electrical inspector have not yet been re-energized