



**May 27, 2021**  
**Public Safety Notice**

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

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](http://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):**

**Fort Simpson:**

- GNWT officials were in Fort Simpson on May 25 & 27 to discuss damage assessment needs with the Village.
- The Village of Fort Simpson is posting updates on their Facebook page.
- The Village is still accepting 'large' donations of cleaning supplies. Cash donations can be made through United Way NWT at: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/united-way-nwt/>

**Jean Marie River:**

- GNWT officials were in Jean Marie River on May 26<sup>th</sup> to discuss damage assessment needs with the community.
- The evacuation centre in Fort Providence continues to support evacuees from Jean Marie River.
- The EMO is assessing the need for additional supports for evacuees.

**Tulita:**

- The community continues to monitor flood conditions.
- The Regional EMO is working with the community to ensure resources are in place should flooding occur and support be requested.

**Fort Good Hope:**

- Water levels in Fort Good Hope have dropped by approximately 4m.
- The community EMO is conducting initial assessments of damage, has found long-term housing to support residents of two homes which were significantly impacted by flood waters and is working with the Regional EMO on the path towards recovery.
- The communication between the local, regional and territorial EMO is ongoing and community needs are under constant evaluation.
- **Due to operational requirements on the ground, media are asked to direct questions about flood response to EMO headquarters. Enquiries can be directed to [Jay\\_Boast@gov.nt.ca](mailto:Jay_Boast@gov.nt.ca)**

**Aklavik:**

- The community reports that water levels continue to fluctuate.
- Residents should be aware of flood risk and are advised to consider personal and household flood preparation activities.
- The Regional EMO is prepared to support an evacuation if requested. The community continues to monitor and provide feedback on flood response needs.

**Other:**

- The EMO is planning for water level surveys to be completed in Hay River, KFN, Jean Marie River, Fort Simpson, Fort Good Hope and other communities who may be affected by high water levels causing flooding this spring.

Monitoring of flood conditions continues across the NWT. Risk is also ELEVATED in the following communities:

- Fort McPherson
- Tsiigehtchic

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

- Plan in place to return all Ft. Simpson LTC residents home on Friday, May 28<sup>th</sup>.
- Ft. Simpson health care center is back in full operation.
- Health care center staff in Fort Providence continue to provide mental health and addictions services to all JMR evacuees.
- Inuvik is well prepared to host evacuees with cots and blankets in place and including a plan in place to feed evacuees through a local catering company and community volunteers.
- Residents in JMR who need medical advice or attention should call the Fort Simpson Health Centre at 867-695-7000. Residents are advised to let the staff know they are a resident of JMR, and a nurse at the health centre will be triaging requests on a case-by-case basis.
- A Community Health Nurse in Fort Simpson is being designated for prioritizing continuing care for JMR residents and arranging medical travel for those that must attend health services in Fort Simpson.

**From the Department of Infrastructure (INF):****Jean Marie River**

- Contractors continue to work on repairs to boiler and electrical systems where it is safe to do so.
- Regional staff have conducted an initial site inspection of GNWT assets within the community. Staff are also inspecting the school crawl spaces and carpets to determine what remediation may be required. The Department has rented a dehumidifier for the crawl space until a new one arrives.
- INF has engaged a contractor to grade the community's access road.

**Fort Simpson**

- Contractors continue to work on repairs to boiler and electrical systems where it is safe to do so.

- Regional staff have completed building inspections on all GNWT assets in the community. Minimal water penetration was found in three assets. These assets are being remediated.
- The Public Works and Services compound sustained extensive flood damage to all GNWT buildings. Extensive remediation/clean-up will be required.

#### **Fort Good Hope:**

- The INF inspection team will arrive in Fort Good Hope on Friday to complete electrical and boiler inspections on homes and buildings that have been affected by the flood. Provided further flooding does not occur and if safe to do so, it is expected that power could be restored to these homes and buildings by the end of the weekend.
- The bridge to the airport in Fort Good Hope is no longer considered to be under threat.

#### **Fort McPherson:**

- INF provides fuel for NTPC in Fort McPherson. The Department is currently monitoring that community for flood-related risks to its fuel supply and storage.

#### **Aklavik:**

- The Department has provided storage space for cots and blankets.
- INF staff have been made available to assist where needed, including in the case of an evacuation from Aklavik to Inuvik.
- Currently working to ensure INF assets are secure and on high ground.
- Currently moving school biomass to higher ground.
- The Department has contacted the northern air carriers to assess availability in the event an evacuation is required. The air carriers have provided INF with aircraft type and availability.

#### **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 Department of Education, Culture and Employment (ECE):**

- Income Assistance Access for Residents in Flood Zones:

- If you are residing in an area affected by flooding and are currently receiving Income Assistance or experiencing financial difficulties, contact an ECE Client Services Officer (CSO).
- Residents of Fort Good Hope can contact the CSO in Tulita at 867-588-3211. Collect calls accepted.

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

#### **Fort Good Hope Flood Response:**

- Water Resource Officer on-site investigating environmental impacts. One sewage spill detected by officers in the community. Supporting responsible party to ensure assessment and cleanup are completed.
- Working with affected hunters and trappers to file claims under the Hunters and Trappers Disaster Compensation Fund.
- Renewable Resource Officers assessing damage and documenting flood impacts.
- Continued deployment of other regional staff to assist with recovery.
- Supporting local Emergency Measures Office.

#### **Flood preparation efforts down-river:**

- Water monitoring and management following an increase in water levels closely in the southern part of the Beaufort Delta. Aklavik currently 10cm away from high water level from last year.
- Regional office in Beaufort Delta working with local and regional Emergency Measures Offices to monitor and prepare for potential flooding

#### **Water monitoring intelligence:**

- Daily briefings and reports on water levels and ice conditions are provided to local, regional, and territorial EMOs to inform risk assessments and preparation.
- Coordinating acquisition and interpretation of satellite imagery from the Government Operations Centre and Natural Resources Canada, and optical imagery from Joint Task Force North and other sources.
- Consulting with Alberta river ice experts to better predict potential ice movement.

#### **Continued assistance to Fort Simpson effort:**

- Ongoing monitoring for bears and other wildlife.
- Supporting responsible parties to identify and report spills and ensuring that spills are assessed and cleaned up.
- Distribution of food and supplies to those still displaced

#### **Continuing assistance to Jean Marie River:**

- Renewable Resource Officer on site to monitor for bears and other wildlife.
- Supporting responsible parties to identify and report spills and ensuring that spills are assessed and cleaned up.
- Distribution of food and supplies.

#### **Disaster relief programs:**

- Continued advertising of [Hunters and Trappers Disaster Compensation Fund](#) on social media and radio. Hunters and trappers may be eligible for support if they have lost equipment or cabins. [Contact a regional office to get started.](#)
- Working directly with hunters and trappers to get claims submitted

#### **From the Department of Lands:**

- The Department of Lands Regional offices are standing by and willing to provide support where and when needed.
- The Department of Lands Sahtu and Beaufort Delta offices continue to monitor and prepare for potential flooding.

#### **From the NWT Housing Corporation:**

##### **Jean Marie River and Fort Simpson**

- A damage assessment report for each community is expected in the next two days.

##### **Tulita**

- All units are at low risk. The situation continues to be monitored.

##### **Norman Wells**

- All units are at low risk. The situation continues to be monitored.

##### **Fort Good Hope**

- The NWT HC is waiting for advice on when it will be safe to travel. Knowing the NWT HC has one asset affected, it is trying to combine the NWT HC assessment with MACA.

##### **Inuvik**

- No unit flooding is anticipated.

##### **Aklavik**

- The NWT HC has done everything it can in preparation for flooding.

##### **Fort McPherson**

- All units are low risk.

#### **From the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC):**

- Power was restored to all customers in Fort Good Hope on Wednesday, except those who required an electrical inspection before their home could be re-energized – NTPC will work with the electrical inspector to get power restored to remaining customers when it is safe to do so
- NTPC sent two powerline technicians into Aklavik on Thursday morning to provide support to the local plant operator if flooding occurs – rising water levels downstream of Aklavik prompted this proactive action
- NTPC continues to support customers in in Fort Simpson as they return to their homes/businesses and request reconnection
- Temporary generator continues to provide reliable power in Jean Marie River as cleaning and repairs are ongoing at the power plant