



BACKGROUND

ABOUT THE COST-OF-LIVING SUBSIDY

CONTEXT

Electricity rate changes took effect on February 1, 2026, following a review by the Public Utilities Board. The changes reflect increased costs linked to several factors, including wildfire impacts, and system upgrades, as well as the need to recover revenue not collected while the rate application was under review.

Because electricity is more expensive to produce in communities that rely mainly on diesel or other fuel-based generation, these areas were facing the highest bill increases. The South Slave communities served by the Taltson hydro system—Hay River, Fort Smith, and Fort Resolution—were also expected to experience significant increases.

WHAT IS THE COST-OF-LIVING SUBSIDY

The Cost-of-Living Subsidy is a temporary, GNWT-funded, credit designed to limit how much electricity bills increase in the communities that would otherwise see the largest increases. It aims to keep bill increases to no more than about 15 percent compared to 2023–24 costs, and it applies only where increases would exceed that level. The subsidy is in place for the 2026–27 and 2027–28 fiscal years. It does not apply to GNWT or federal government accounts.

HOW IS THE COST-OF-LIVING SUBSIDY APPLIED?

THERMAL COMMUNITIES

The Cost-of-Living Subsidy will limit electricity bill increases in these communities to 8%. Without the subsidy, bills were projected to increase by 33%.

Includes: Aklavik, Colville Lake, Délı̄ne, Fort Good Hope, Fort Liard, Fort McPherson, Fort Providence, Fort Simpson, Gametı̄, Inuvik, Jean Marie River, Kakisa, Łutselk'e, Nahanni Butte, Norman Wells, Paulatuk, Sachs Harbour, Sambaa K'e, Tsiigehtchic, Tuktoyaktuk, Tulita, Ulukhaktok, Wekweètı̄, Whatı̄, Wrigley

TALTSON COMMUNITIES

The Cost-of-Living Subsidy will limit electricity bill increases in these communities to 14%. Without the subsidy, bills were projected to increase by 62%.

Includes: Hay River, Fort Smith, Fort Resolution

SNARE COMMUNITIES

Do not receive the Cost-of-Living Subsidy. Projected increase of 8% falls under the 15% threshold for the subsidy.

Includes: Yellowknife, Dettah, Behchokò

NAKA HYDRO COMMUNITIES

Do not receive the Cost-of-Living Subsidy. GNWT provides support to Naka's wholesale bill so higher costs are not passed on to residents.

Includes: Enterprise, Kátł'odeeche

HOW DO I RECEIVE THE COST-OF-LIVING SUBSIDY?

No application required: If you live in an eligible community, the credit is applied automatically to your electricity bill.