

Drowning Prevention Action Plan

There are a number of departments and agencies of the Government of Northwest Territories that have responsibilities for the prevention of drowning. They work together under the Injury Prevention pillar of the [Healthy Choices Framework](#) (HCF).

The lead departments for HCF's Injury Prevention work are Health and Social Services (HSS), Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), and Transportation (DOT). Other GNWT partners include Industry Tourism and Investment (which administers the territorial parks system), Coroner's Office, Workers Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC), and the Office of the Chief Public Health Officer. Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Dene Nation, Transport Canada's Office of Boating Safety and the NWT Recreation and Parks Association (NWTRPA) are also members.

- HSS leads on the collection and reporting of data related to all preventable injuries in the Northwest Territories, compiling data from all sources to get a complete picture of factors that contribute to drownings in the NWT. It also coordinates programming related to injury prevention.
- DOT is responsible for communications, social marketing and awareness campaigns related to drowning prevention, including efforts to improve the use of lifejackets and reduce the number of impaired boaters.
- MACA connects and works with other partners to build collaborations and coordinate efforts for drowning prevention in the NWT.
- ITI is responsible for commercial boat safety in the territory, as well as waterfront safety at territorial parks.
- WSCC sets standards and best practices to avoid work-related drownings, and investigates all work-related incidents and work sites to ensure safe practices are followed.
- Coroner's Office investigates all drownings, and supplies data on each drowning incident to help ensure that drowning prevention efforts in the NWT are evidence-based.

Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:

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- The Office of the Chief Public Health Officer liaises with the medical community to provide timely information on preventable injuries, including drownings, to help the committee prioritize activities to those that are currently most needed.
- The Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Dene Nation representatives contribute knowledge of Aboriginal practices and perspectives, advice on best approaches and guidance on priorities in their regions.
- Through the NWTRPA, the partners connect with the member of the NWT Aquatics Committee which represents most aquatics groups in the NWT.

Some of the activities supported by the drowning prevention work of Healthy Choices Framework include:

1. Partnership with Lifesaving Society of Alberta and the NWT to deliver the Water Smart and Swim to Survive programs to every community in the NWT;
2. Support for boat safety training in communities such as Deline where the renewable resources council sponsored intensive boat safety training for commercial boat operators, traditional use boaters and recreational boaters;
3. Supply of lifejackets/personal flotation devices to support community lifejacket loaner programs;
4. Supply of funding for SPOT personal locator devices for community-led initiatives; and
5. Awareness and social marketing campaigns.

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