



**June 2, 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):

Aklavik:

- June 2nd, there have been no new requests to evacuate additional residents out of Aklavik. 166 residents in total have been evacuated to Inuvik.
- The Inuvik Regional EMO has been working closely with the Community of Aklavik to support the needs of evacuees in Inuvik.
- The Town of Inuvik continues with hosting and feeding arrangements for evacuees at the reception centre.
- The EMO is arranging for 50 grocery hampers to support families hosting evacuees in Inuvik.
- The Regional EMO continues to provide additional support to 34 evacuees being hosted at the Inuvik reception centre.

Fort Simpson:

- An assessor is scheduled to start assessments of damaged structures this week.
- The GNWT Pathfinders visited the community on June 1st and met with local officials to discuss recovery efforts.
- The Village of Fort Simpson is posting updates on their Facebook page.
- The GNWT is holding three (3) one-hour public meetings on Thursday, June 3 at 3:00, 6:00 and 7:00p.m. at the Recreation Centre Community Hall. Attendance is limited to the first 25 people (because of COVID restrictions). Information will be provided on the GNWT response and the application process related to the Disaster Assistance Program. Coffee and snacks will be provided.

Jean Marie River:

- On May 31st, the assessor and the GNWT liaison traveled to the community to begin damage assessments.
- The GNWT Pathfinders visited the community on May 31st and met with local officials to discuss recovery efforts.
- The EMO is assessing the need for additional supports for evacuees.

Fort Good Hope:

- The GNWT is working with the hired damage assessment company to bring up additional staff in order to expedite the damage assessment process in the community. All COVID restrictions and protocols are being followed.
- 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

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.
- The EMO is procuring 100 cots to replace those borrowed from communities in support of hosting needs. This will serve to increase hosting capacity across the NWT for future events.

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 DHSS urgently deployed comfort care kits to Inuvik on Sunday to support the emergency social needs of evacuees. The supplies were received yesterday and brought to the reception center and were well received by the evacuees who now have an extra blanket, comfy pillow and set of towels. Evacuees staying at the reception center and those staying with family or friends have access to these supplies.
- It was reported last evening that the evacuees were very appreciative for the supplies provided by the DHSS and through generous donations from the community of Inuvik that provide comforts of home in a time when they cannot be at home due to emergency circumstances.
- The DHSS and NTHSSA continue to work closely with MACA to address the needs of evacuees and support the spring break-up response.

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 continues to monitor GNWT assets.
- INF's regional Community Maintainer continues to assist the community where needed.
- Electrical and boiler inspectors remain on standby.

From the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR):**Flood response in Aklavik**

- Local staff on standby to provide assistance to local and regional Emergency Measures Office when requested.

Flood response in Fort Good Hope:

- Working directly with hunters and trappers whose equipment or cabins were affected to get compensation claims filed.

Water monitoring information

- Daily briefings and reports on water levels and ice conditions are provided to local, regional, and territorial Emergency Measures Offices 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:

- Completed work supporting responsible parties to identify and report spills.

Continuing assistance to Jean Marie River:

- Completed work supporting responsible parties to identify and report spills.

Disaster relief programs:

- Continuing advertising and direct outreach with hunters and trappers regarding the 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.

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 Lands:

- The Department of Lands regional offices continue to offer assistance as needed.

From the NWT Housing Corporation:

Aklavik

- The local housing organization reports that none of the NWTTC units have sustained damage so far.

Inuvik

- No unit flooding is anticipated.

Fort Good Hope

- The local housing organization is repairing the single NWTTC unit that was damaged.

Jean Marie River and Fort Simpson

- Nothing new to report.

Tulita, Norman Wells and Fort McPherson

- All units are at low risk.

From the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC):

- The power plant in **Aklavik** continues to remain dry – NTPC has not been required to de-energize any customers
- Two powerline technicians remain in **Aklavik** to provide support to the local plant operator if flooding occurs
- NTPC has restored power to almost all of its customers in **Fort Good Hope** – two buildings experienced significant flooding and require further remediation and approval from a GNWT electrical inspector before they can be re-energized
- NTPC continues to support customers in **Fort Simpson** as they return to their homes/businesses and request reconnection
- NTPC has been able to successfully test two of the generators at the **Jean Marie River** power plant – the third generator requires additional repairs – a temporary generator will continue to provide reliable power to the community until the local plant can be restarted