



**June 3, 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 3rd, there have been no new requests to evacuate additional residents out of Aklavik. 166 residents in total have been evacuated to Inuvik.
- The EMO has received reports that some evacuees have chosen to return to Aklavik. The EMO has yet to determine when it will be demobilizing remaining evacuees in Inuvik.
- The Inuvik Regional EMO continues to work 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.
- 50 grocery hampers were made available to support families hosting evacuees in Inuvik.

Fort Simpson:

- An assessor is scheduled to start assessments of damaged structures this week.
- The Village of Fort Simpson is posting updates on their Facebook page.
- The GNWT Pathfinders held three (3) one-hour public meetings on Thursday, June 3 at 3:00, 6:00 and 7:00 p.m. at the Recreation Centre Community Hall. Attendance was limited to the first 25 people (because of COVID restrictions). Information was provided on the GNWT response and the application process related to the Disaster Assistance Program.

Jean Marie River:

- The damage assessor continues damage assessment work.
- The EMO is assessing the need for additional supports for evacuees.

Fort Good Hope:

- The GNWT has received approval for the hired damage assessment company to bring up additional staff from Alberta in order to expedite the damage assessment process in the community. All COVID restrictions and protocols are being followed.

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 has hired damage assessors who are conducting damage assessments for affected structures in flood impacted communities.
- The EMO is in the process of developing emergency work contracts for affected structures in all flood impacted communities.
- 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 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.

Jean Marie River:

- INF staff are conducting Air Quality Sampling at Jean Marie River school.

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.

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 Beaufort Delta office flew over Aklavik to gather aerial photos of the community to help assess the damage.
- The Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations will be participating in the Disaster Assistance Committee meeting to initiate the GNWT's response to the application of the Disaster Assistance Policy (DAP) to the 2021 flood season.

From the NWT Housing Corporation:

Aklavik

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

Inuvik

- No unit flooding is anticipated.

Fort Good Hope

- The local housing organization is repairing the single NWT HC 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):

- A one-hour outage is required in **Jean Marie River** on Friday, June 4 @ 2 p.m. to complete required maintenance on the emergency generator powering the community – residents have been notified -
- NTPC expects to have the local plant restarted in the near future
- 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 is closely monitoring water levels near Nahanni Butte to ensure it is ready to activate if needed