



**June 1, 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](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):**

**Aklavik:**

- June 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 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 1<sup>st</sup> and met with local officials to discuss recovery efforts.
- The Village of Fort Simpson is posting updates on their Facebook page.

**Jean Marie River:**

- On May 31<sup>st</sup>, the assessor and the GNWT liaison traveled to the community to begin damage assessments.
- The GNWT Pathfinders visited the community on May 31<sup>st</sup> 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](mailto: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.
- MACA has created an updated webpage on the 2021 flood season. For more information please visit: [www.maca.gov.nt.ca/services/flooding](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/services/flooding)

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

- No updates in regards to any change in service for Jean Marie River or Fort Simpson at this time; Aklavik continues to be on emergency services.
- NTHSSA is arranging vaccination clinics for evacuees in Inuvik and Fort Providence (Jean Marie River evacuees) and hope to do a clinic in Simpson as well, once the community has settled.

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

- INF staff are in the community to inspect the crawl space at the school.

**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 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**

- ENR staff are on standby until call back from Regional Emergency Measures Office.
- Monitoring water levels in Aklavik.

**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:**

- **Concerning ice jams and potential for backwater pressure near Aklavik being monitored closely. Potential for further raising water levels in Aklavik.**
- 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:**

- Supporting responsible parties to identify and report spills and ensuring that spills are assessed and cleaned up.
- Distribution of food and supplies.

**Continuing assistance to Jean Marie River:**

- 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:**

- Continuing advertising 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 Department of Lands:**

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

**From the NWT Housing Corporation:****Jean Marie River**

- The cost analysis of repair options for five damaged units has begun. This will include relocation of units to higher ground.

**Fort Simpson**

- An analysis on repair options is to be completed this week.

**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**

- One unit has minor damage. Priority is to re-connect sewer tanks and electrical.

**Inuvik**

- No unit flooding is anticipated.

**Aklavik**

- The NWT HC is awaiting results of EMO assessment team.

**Fort McPherson**

- All units are 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