



**May 28, 2021  
Public Safety Notice**

**GNWT's Response to  
Flooding in the Dehcho, South Slave and Sahtu**

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:**

- On May 28<sup>th</sup>, the local EMO met to discuss next steps and contingency plans for the coming days. 24 home care patients and elders were sent to Inuvik.
- On May 29<sup>th</sup>, 1 additional home care client went on the sched flight to Inuvik.
- On May 30<sup>th</sup>, the community declared a State of Local Emergency and evacuation began.
- 166 residents have been evacuated to Inuvik and efforts are ongoing.
- 27 (17 adults, 10 children) evacuees are currently utilizing the evacuation center in Inuvik. Other evacuees are staying with family and friends or have made other arrangements.
- The Inuvik Region EMO has been working closely with the Community of Aklavik to support the movement of evacuees to Inuvik and working with the Town of Inuvik and regional partners to put evacuation arrangements in place to host evacuees.
- The Town of Norman Wells has confirmed that they can accommodate 100 persons if required.

**Fort Simpson:**

- On May 17, Fort Simpson council passed a motion requesting the Disaster Assistance Policy be applied to the recent flooding event.
- A GNWT official has been assigned to have a liaison role between the damage assessor and the Village of Fort Simpson to assist with logistics and ensure information is shared as needed.
- The Village of Fort Simpson is posting updates on their Facebook page.
- The Village is still accepting 'large' donations of cleaning supplies. Cash donations can be made through United Way NWT at: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/united-way-nwt/>

**Jean Marie River:**

- On May 18, Jean Marie River council passed a resolution requesting the Disaster Assistance Policy be applied to the recent flooding event.
- A GNWT official has been assigned to have a liaison role between the damage assessor and Jean Marie River to assist with logistics ensure information is shared as needed. Work will begin as of May 31, 2021.

- The evacuation centre in Fort Providence continues to support evacuees from Jean Marie River.
- The EMO is assessing the need for additional supports for evacuees.

**Fort Good Hope:**

- Water levels in Fort Good Hope continue to drop.
- On May 27, Fort Good Hope council passed a resolution requesting the Disaster Assistance Policy be applied to the recent flooding event.
- On May 28, the community EMO provided the GNWT with a listing of an initial assessment of flood damaged property. This list will inform the damage assessment requirements.
- 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.

Monitoring of flood conditions continues across the NWT with focus on the following communities:

- Tulita
- Fort McPherson
- Tsiigehtchic

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):**

- Long term care residents are returning to Fort Simpson today

**From the Department of Infrastructure (INF):**

**Jean Marie River**

- Contractors continue to work on repairs to boiler and electrical systems where it is safe to do so.
- Regional staff have conducted an initial site inspection of GNWT assets within the community. A commercial grade de-humidifier and fan is currently drying out the crawl space in the school. Friday, the Department received three commercial grade de-humidifier and fans that were scheduled to be repositioned to Jean Marie River on Monday to assist with the Band Office and Health Cabin.
- The access road to the community was graded on Thursday.

**Fort Simpson**

- Contractors continue to work on repairs to boiler and electrical systems where it is safe to do so.
- Regional staff have completed building inspections on all GNWT assets in the community. Minimal water penetration was found in three assets. These assets are being remediated.

**Fort Good Hope:**

- The INF inspection team arrived in Fort Good Hope on Friday to complete electrical and boiler inspections on homes and buildings that have been affected by the flood.
- Fort McPherson:
- INF provides fuel for NTPC in Fort McPherson. The Department is currently monitoring that community for flood-related risks to its fuel supply and storage.

**Aklavik:**

- INF staff have been made available to assist where needed, including in the case of an evacuation from Aklavik to Inuvik.

**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 Education, Culture and Employment (ECE):**

- Income Assistance Access for Residents in Flood Zones: If you live in an area affected by flooding and are receiving Income Assistance or experiencing financial difficulties, contact an [ECE Client Services Officer \(CSO\)](#).
- Residents of Fort Good Hope can contact the CSO at 867-598-2414
- Arrangements are being made to issue Emergency Allowance payments for Income Assistance applicants residing in Zones 1, 2 and 3 of Fort Good Hope. Applicants should receive these payments within the next 2 to 5 business days.

**From the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR):**

**Fort Good Hope Flood Response:**

- Water Resource Officer concluding investigations of environmental impacts over. One sewage spill detected by officers in the community. Supporting responsible party to ensure assessment and cleanup are completed.
- Working with affected hunters and trappers to file claims under the Hunters and Trappers Disaster Compensation Fund.

- Renewable Resource Officers assessing damage and documenting flood impacts.
- Supporting local Emergency Measures Office.

**Flood preparation efforts down-river:**

- Water monitoring and management following an increase in water levels closely in the southern part of the Beaufort Delta.
- Regional office in Beaufort Delta working with local and regional Emergency Measures Offices to monitor and prepare for potential flooding.

**Water monitoring intelligence:**

- Daily briefings and reports on water levels and ice conditions are provided to local, regional, and territorial EMOs to inform risk assessments and preparation. **Extensive ice jams discovered on radar through the main channels. Ice jams are a significant cause of floods and could impact communities like Aklavik.**
- 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:**

- Ongoing monitoring for bears and other wildlife.
- Supporting responsible parties to identify and report spills and ensuring that spills are assessed and cleaned up.

**Continuing assistance to Jean Marie River:**

- Renewable Resource Officer on site to monitor for bears and other wildlife.
- 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:**

- Continued advertising of [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. [Contact a regional office to get started.](#)
- Working directly with hunters and trappers to get claims submitted.

**From the Department of Lands:**

- In the Sahtu and Beaufort Delta offices regional staff are participating in RMC & EOC meetings to monitor the situation. No requests have been brought forward to Lands.
- In the Dehcho, no needs have been identified and earlier offered items such as sea can storage and cots were not required

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

- All five NWTCH units have been impacted, including overturned fuel tanks.
- A professional assessment report has been received.
- A cost benefit analysis is to be completed on repairs, replacements and remediation options

**Fort Simpson**

- A professional assessment report is expected in the next few days.
- Two NWTCH units have damage in living space, including the need for electrical repairs.
- An analysis on repair options is to be completed next 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**

- The NWTTC is awaiting assessment reports in order to take action on repairs.

**Inuvik**

- No unit flooding is anticipated.

**Aklavik**

- The NWTTC has done everything it can in preparation for flooding. Sewer tank covers are being replaced with plastic sheets.

**Fort McPherson**

- All units are low risk

**From the Northwest Territories Power Corporation (NTPC):**

- NTPC will continue to work with the GNWT electrical inspector to get power restored to remaining customers in Fort Good Hope when it is deemed safe to do so
- Two powerline technicians remain in Aklavik to provide support to the local plant operator if flooding occurs
- NTPC continues to support customers in in Fort Simpson as they return to their homes/businesses and request reconnection
- Temporary generator continues to provide reliable power in Jean Marie River as cleaning and repairs are ongoing at the power plant
- NTPC will be closely monitoring water levels in Aklavik over the next several days