



May 31, 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 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:

- May 31st, 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 is taking care of hosting and feeding arrangements for evacuees at the reception centre.
- The Town of Norman Wells has confirmed that they can accommodate 100 persons if required.
- The Regional EMO continues to provide additional support to over 30 evacuees being hosted at the Inuvik reception centre.

Fort Simpson:

- An assessor is scheduled to start assessments of damaged structures this week.
- 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.

Jean Marie River:

- An assessor is scheduled to start assessments of damaged structures this week.
- 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.
- The EMO is assessing the need for additional supports for evacuees.

Fort Good Hope:

- The GNWT is reviewing a list 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.
- 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 (HSS) and Northwest Territories Health and Social Services Authority (NTHSSA):

- DHSS sending 4 comfort care kits (gowns, towel sets, pillows) and 150 blankets to Inuvik to prepare for evacuees (125 evacuees to Inuvik so far Sunday)
- NTHSSA sending cleaning supplies and PPE for EMO reception center as identified and requested to DHSS Sunday.
- Supplies going to Inuvik 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.
- INF staff are in the community to inspect the crawl space at the school and have brought de-humidifiers and fans to assist in remediation at the Band complex and Health Cabin.

Fort Simpson

- Contractors continue to work on repairs to boiler and electrical systems where it is safe to do so.
- Contractors have begun to clean up the Department of Infrastructure's Public Works and Services compound site.

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. A total of nine buildings had been disconnected. Over the weekend, seven buildings had their power restored.

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 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 Department of Education, Culture and Employment:

- The Income Assistance program is available to residents who are experiencing financial difficulties and have a need greater than their income.
- Current Income Assistance recipients that have questions regarding their June 2021 assessment can contact an ECE Client Services Officer.
- Residents of Aklavik who are experiencing financial difficulties and wish to apply for Income Assistance are encouraged to contact a Client Services Officer in Inuvik toll-free at 1-855-283-9311 or 867-777-7365.

From Aurora College:

- On May 28, Town of Inuvik set up a processing centre in the student lounge at the Aurora College student residence.
- Three Aklavik residents are staying at the Aurora College student residence.
- Aurora College staff are eligible to volunteer to assist with flood relief efforts during the work day with supervisor approval.

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

- Flood response in Aklavik
 - Two ENR staff activated to provide logistical support to evacuation centre.
 - Provided supplies to Town of Inuvik to support feeding of people staying at the evacuation centre in Inuvik.
 - Prepared for donations to be received and assisted the registration process at the evacuation centre.
- 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 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.
 - 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:

- A GNWT assessor is scheduled to be in Jean Marie River today, to inspect or assess 16 damaged homes. The Dehcho office is aware and on standby for assistance.
- The Dehcho Regional Superintendent will be meeting this week with the Regional Management Committee to discuss flood impacts and claims.
- The Sahtu and Beau-Del offices remain involved with their local EOC's and stand by to provide any assistance possible if requested.

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 remains dry – NTPC has not been required to de-energize any customers despite rising water levels over the weekend
- 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
- Temporary generator continues to provide reliable power in Jean Marie River as cleaning and repairs are ongoing at the power plant