

# Northwest Territories Adaptation Coordination

Several Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) departments have partnered together in an effort to improve the capacity of the GNWT to proactively address climate change impacts across the Northwest Territories.

## CONTEXT

The Canadian Arctic and subarctic are undergoing some of the most intense impacts of climate change. Changes in temperature and precipitation have been observed and will continue into the foreseeable future. The people of the Northwest Territories are beginning to adapt to these changes in climate. By working together, government organizations within the north can build capacity helping to ease or eliminate the impacts felt by those living in the area. This inter-departmental partnership will work to solidify working relationships, and create new and concrete adaptation projects aimed at improving the NWT's ability to adapt to our changing environment.

Government of the Northwest Territories



## OBJECTIVE

Four objectives were outlined at the onset of this project. They are to increase the capacity of the GNWT to manage and implement adaptation projects; to increase the capacity for extension and mainstream of adaptation

projects by updating the NWT Discovery Portal to incorporate climate change adaptation; to provide a gap analysis of permafrost mapping in the NWT; and to review options for developing a digital elevation model for the NWT.

## APPROACH

Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) has partnered with the NWT Centre for Geomatics, the Northwest Territories Geoscience Office (NTGO), Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), Education, Culture and Employment (ECE), and Public Works and Services (PWS) to allow for inter-organizational coordination of climate change adaptation resources. These partners helped to identify the objectives of this project.

Furthermore, an Intern was hired by the Climate Change Section of ENR to help build capacity within the section to meet these four objectives.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

Progress will be measured in each of the identified objectives throughout the year. These objectives have been chosen to assist several other PTAP projects, such as the permafrost gap analysis and the digital elevation model helping supporting the permafrost displacement mapping project by groundtruthing it.

The additional capacity provided by the intern also allowed for new adaptation ideas to evolve. Additional reports and projects, outside of the objectives of this project, have been undertaken and completed as a result of this increase in capacity.

## Significance

Climate Change Adaptation is necessary for all government agencies to consider and address. By working with other governmental departments to increase the GNWT's climate change capacity, the people of the NWT will be supplied with stronger adaptation actions to reduce climate change impacts.

## Partners

- *Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)*
- *Northwest Territories Centre for Geomatics*
- *Northwest Territories Geoscience Office*
- *Municipal and Community Affairs*
- *Education, Culture and Employment*
- *Public Works and Services*
- *Environment and Natural Resources*

## FOR MORE INFO

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