

# Pan-Territorial Permafrost Workshop

The Pan-Territorial Permafrost Workshop was held in Yellowknife, NT November 4-7, 2013, to discuss the impacts of climate change on permafrost and to identify opportunities to reduce these impacts.

## CONTEXT

Permafrost thaw is one of the largest and most costly impacts from climate change in the north. Warming air temperatures, due to human-induced climate change, have resulted in the increased instability of permafrost across the territories.

There is a large amount of work being done to address permafrost thaw in the North, but often these results are not disseminated well to communities. There continues to be a stronger need for more two-way dialogue between researchers and local decision makers to ensure that research and infrastructure needs are being met.

Photo credit: Pan-Territorial Adaptation Partnership



## OBJECTIVE

The workshop was hosted by the Pan-Territorial Adaptation Partnership (PTAP), a collaboration between the Governments of Nunavut, NWT and Yukon. The workshop brought together knowledge-holders, both western and traditional, and decision-makers, from all levels of government, to share information and build relationships, helping to advance PTAP objectives. This workshop facilitated the transfer of knowledge across

the three territories, allowing for better response to the impacts of permafrost thaw.

## APPROACH

The workshop occurred over three days, with a further one-day permafrost and transportation short course. The workshop was made possible due to contributions from AANDC and CanNor. Participants invited to the workshop included community and government representatives, traditional knowledge holders, engineers and university researchers.

The three days involved sectoral presentations followed by a break-out discussion sessions in which participants addressed the key challenges and solutions associated with each sector. These sectors included: mapping and communities, building infrastructure, transportation, and mining and oil and gas.

## EXPECTED RESULTS

The workshop resulted in identifying emerging themes and challenges common across the North as well as actions for dealing with current and projected impacts of thawing permafrost on northern communities, infrastructure and landscapes.

The workshop has expanded professional relationships within the three northern territories, and has generated ideas and momentum to address the impacts of permafrost thaw and climate change. It will be up to all stakeholders to incorporate these themes into future planning and to keep the dialogue ongoing. Videos of the workshop presentations, and other workshop material is available online at [www.northernadaptation.ca](http://www.northernadaptation.ca)

## Significance

*The Pan-Territorial Permafrost Workshop brought together a diverse group of 200 participants to discuss the impacts of permafrost thaw and the potential adaptation and mitigation methods to lessen these impacts.*

## Partners

- The Government of Yukon
- The Government of the Northwest Territories
- The Government of Nunavut
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada (AANDC)
- Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CanNor)

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