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## **Aquatic Eco-system Research Partnership with Wilfrid Laurier University**

- The GNWT contribution to the research partnership is two million dollars over five years (2010-2015) to complete the \$6.3 million Canadian Aquatic Laboratories for Interdisciplinary Boreal Ecosystem Research (CALIBER) program.
- The GNWT has an interest in preserving the waters of the NWT, including the Mackenzie River Basin, to keep the social, cultural and economic benefits of transboundary watersheds uncompromised.
- Boreal aquatic ecosystems make up Canada's largest freshwater reserve.
- The partnership through the CALIBER program designed to develop leading-edge scientific studies to ensure the sustainability of northern ecosystems.
- CALIBER applies a holistic, interdisciplinary and ecosystem approach based on watersheds and responds to the urgent and serious concerns on the availability (flows and storage processes) of, and the associate effects of nutrients and contaminants on, boreal freshwater.
- Current research undertaken by Laurier includes:
  - Field research near Scotty Creek in Nahanni National Park.
  - Field research near Havikpak Creek near Inuvik.
- The GNWT, with strategic NWT water partners, will play an active role in shaping the research agenda for the CALIBER program.
- Laurier will provide eminent scientists to advance to NWT research on water stewardship including research on basin-scale drainage and energy flow processes in the boreal environment and developing laboratory and field methodologies to improve assessments of contaminant effects.

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**Media requests for interviews with Members of the Executive Council may be directed to:**

Office of the Press Secretary • Premier/Cabinet  
Government of the Northwest Territories • PO Box 1320 • Yellowknife • NT • X1A 2L9  
Tel: (867) 669-2302 • Fax: (867) 873-0111

- The research partnership supports the following keys to success contained in the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy:
  - Advance the physically-based understanding of water and energy cycling as it affects the volume and timing of run-off within and from boreal regions.
  - Improve the understanding of special causal linkages between landscape disturbances and resulting changes in hydrological and geochemical characteristics of northern aquatic systems.
  - Generate knowledge clarify specific links between natural resource development and climate variability on the sustainability of boreal ecosystems.
  - Develop and test comprehensive models that integrate the results of previous research into prediction tools for boreal ecosystems.
  - Create a community of scientists and users that can become partners in discovery and development.
- The GNWT's contribution will help Laurier to acquire the necessary research infrastructure for the CALIBER program including field, lab and personnel support and provide leverage for the partners to acquire future funding.

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