

# NWT Water Strategy Framework

---

**YELLOWKNIFE (June 19, 2008)** – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) in collaboration with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada (INAC) NWT Regional office, is seeking input into the development of a Northwest Territories (NWT) Water Resources Management Strategy to address the current and potential challenges to water resources management in the NWT.

“Wetlands, deltas and water flows throughout northern Alberta and the southern Northwest Territories are changing, and the increased demand for energy and development requires that our concerns about water are heard and acted upon”, said ENR Minister Michael Miltenberger. “A Water Resources Management Strategy should help us ensure that development activities do not substantially alter waters that flow into or through the NWT in quality or quantity.”

A discussion paper entitled Northern Voices, Northern Waters: Towards A Water Resources Management Strategy for the NWT presents a sense of what the future management of NWT waters could be. It sets out both the form of a future Water Resources Management Strategy and the kinds of actions that could be undertaken to develop and implement a Strategy.

NWT residents, Aboriginal governments and organizations, and interested stakeholders will all have opportunity to contribute to the development of a Strategy. An NWT Water Resources Management Strategy will incorporate traditional knowledge and recognize and respect Aboriginal and Treaty rights, land claim agreements and self-government agreements.

“Northern Voices, Northern Waters is presented in the form of an outline,” said Minister Miltenberger. “It shows what could be included in an NWT Water Resources Management Strategy that should help us facilitate sound water resources management, especially regarding community public water supplies, transboundary waters and aquatic ecosystems.”

Consultations with Aboriginal governments and interested stakeholders will continue into the fall of 2008 and a final Strategy will be completed in March 2009.

For more information, contact:

Brad Poulter  
Cabinet Communications  
Office of the Premier  
Government of the Northwest Territories  
(867) 669-2302