

2018
2019

NWT Water Stewardship Strategy



Progress Review Summary



English

French

Cree

Tłuchó

Chipewyan

South Slavery

North Slavey

Gwich'in

Inuvialuktun

Inuktitut

Inuinnaqtun

Francophone Affairs Secretariat: 867-767-9343

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Checking Our Progress

2018/2019 NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Progress Review Summary

Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy (the Water Strategy) is a made-in-the-North strategy developed collaboratively with water partners in the Northwest Territories (NWT). Since the first version of the Water Strategy was released in 2010, two five-year Action Plans have been developed.

The current Action Plan for 2016-2020 is made up of four components, 149 Action Items and 54 Performance Indicators that guide Water Strategy implementation. The *2018/2019 NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Progress Review* is the third annual progress review under the Action Plan and summarizes the status of all 2017, 2018 and 2019 Action Items and provides examples of Performance Indicators. The review is based on survey responses from water partners,¹ communication and meetings with lead water partners, a document review and database analytics. By 2020, our goal is to have fully implemented the Action Plan and contributed to the vision and goals of the Water Strategy.

Data for each Performance Indicator and Action Item are recorded in a comprehensive spreadsheet available at www.nwtwaterstewardship.ca.

Water partners include anyone who has a role in water stewardship, including all levels of government, Indigenous governments and organizations, regulatory boards, non-governmental organizations, academia, industry and NWT communities.

¹ Survey response rates varied by survey question. This variation is reflected in the reported Performance Indicator statistics.

The Water Strategy, Action Plans, 2016/2017 and 2017/2018 NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Progress Review Summaries and more detailed information on the status of 2018/2019 Performance Indicators and Action Items are available online at www.nwtwaterstewardship.ca. You can also request the information by emailing nwtwaterstrategy@gov.nt.ca.

The Four Components

Water Strategy activities are organized into four main components: Work Together, Know and Plan, Use Responsibly and Check Our Progress.

Specific Action Items and Performance Indicators under each of these four components identify what work needs to be done and how its success will be evaluated.

CHECK OUR PROGRESS

Actions ensure progress is made in achieving the Water Strategy vision. This includes measuring and reporting on progress. Reporting results of, and responses to, evaluations and reviews must be transparent.

WORK TOGETHER

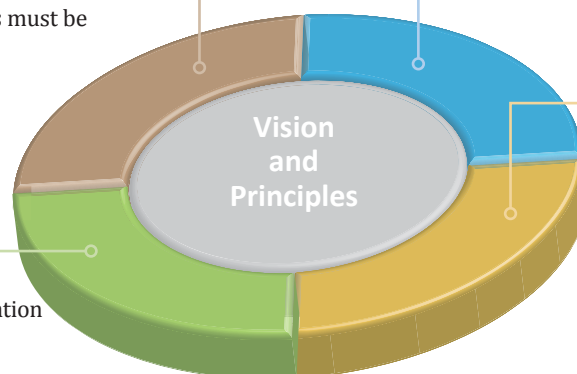
Actions ensure a cooperative environment to support water managers and water partners in sharing information, building capacity and working together.

KNOW AND PLAN

Actions ensure the implementation of multi-disciplinary aquatic monitoring and research programs. These programs consider traditional, local and western scientific knowledge and use of this information in the planning and implementation of water stewardship activities.

USE RESPONSIBLY

Actions ensure water managers have the information necessary to make well-reasoned decisions.





Slave River, NT



Lady Evelyn Falls, NT
Photo: Jeremy (JC) Larter

Aboriginal Steering Committee

The Aboriginal Steering Committee (ASC), which guided the development of the Water Strategy and Action Plans, continues to guide the implementation of the Water Strategy. This guidance makes sure implementation activities represent the values of Indigenous governments and people, while respecting Aboriginal and treaty rights. The ASC includes representatives from the following Indigenous governments and organizations:

- Acho Dene Koe First Nation
- Dehcho First Nations
- Gwich'in Tribal Council
- Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
- Kát'odeeche First Nation
- Nahanni Butte Dene Band
- North Slave Métis Alliance
- Northwest Territory Métis Nation
- Sahtú Secretariat Incorporated
- Salt River First Nation
- Tłıchǫ Government
- Akaitcho Territory Government (observer)

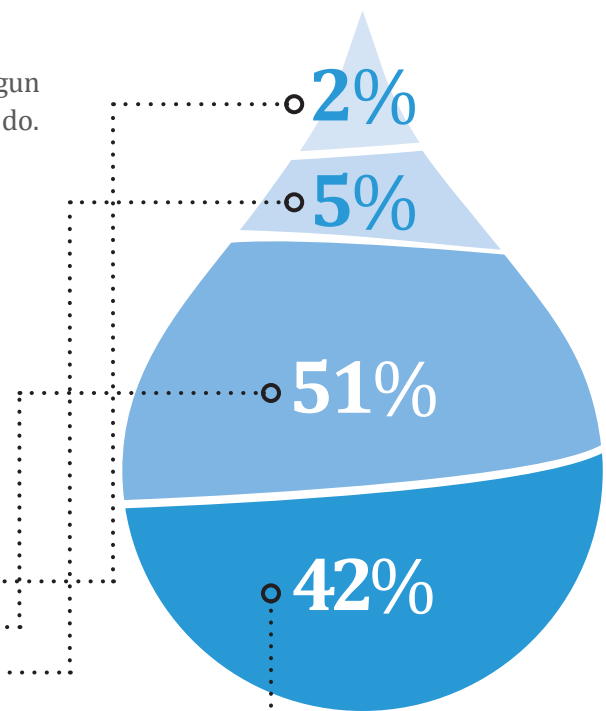
Action Item Status Overview

Progress on Action Items was assessed based on the following criteria:

- **Not started**
Activities towards completion of the Action Item have not started and no deliverables currently exist.
- **In progress**
Activities towards completion of the Action Item have begun and there are deliverables; however, there is still work to do.
- **Complete**
The Action Item is complete and information and deliverables are available to water partners.
- **Complete for reporting period and ongoing**
The Action Item is complete for the current reporting period; however, the Action Item requires ongoing work.

The percentages shown indicate the overall progress for Action Items assessed during the 2018/2019 Progress Review.


- Not started
- In progress
- Complete
- Complete for reporting period and ongoing





OUR VISION

The waters of the Northwest Territories will remain clean, abundant and productive for all time.



NWT waters are important for ecosystems and the people within those ecosystems. The vision of the Water Strategy reflects the importance of working collaboratively to make sure the water continues to sustain our ecosystems and meet health, cultural and economic needs of current and future generations. Collectively and individually, water partners must commit to continue working towards this vision.

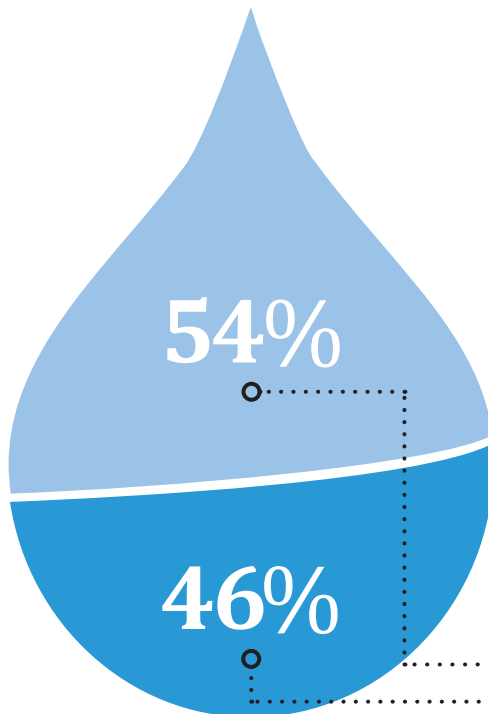
Great Slave Lake, Hay River, NT
Photo: Julianne Groenewegen

1.0 Work Together

- 1.1 Partnerships
- 1.2 Information Management
- 1.3 Communication and Engagement
- 1.4 Capacity Building, Leadership, Training and Education
- 1.5 Transboundary Discussions, Agreements and Obligations

Lead Water Partners for 2018/2019 Action Items

- Aboriginal Steering Committee (ASC)
- Aurora College
- Aurora Research Institute
- Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning (Dechinta)
- Dehcho Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management Program (AAROM)
- Ecology North
- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT)
- Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley and the Inuvialuit Water Board
- ʔehdzo Got'ıne ʔots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
- Tides Canada



Status of Action Item Progress: Work Together

- In progress
- Complete for reporting period and ongoing

1.1

Partnerships

Partnerships are essential for water stewardship in the NWT.

At the 9th Annual Water Strategy Implementation Workshop held in Dettah in October 2018, approximately 80 water partners reviewed progress towards implementing the goals and vision of the Water Strategy and Action Plan. The theme drew on the strengths of different knowledge systems and ways of knowing to achieve the vision and goals of the Water Strategy. Discussion topics included:

- Shared learning and resources to increase community capacity
- Youth engagement in water stewardship and bridging knowledge systems
- Tools to improve data management and accessibility
- Importance of traditional knowledge collection, use and sharing
- Incorporating traditional knowledge and local knowledge into water decisions and regulatory processes
- Ways to support existing and emerging guardian programs

The workshop saw increased attendance and participation of Indigenous governments, organizations and communities, particularly among youth. Discussions highlighted the need to learn by working together and sharing, to continue to increase collaboration and to improve the use of traditional knowledge to inform decision-making. Building community capacity also remains a challenge. The *2018 Water Strategy Implementation Workshop Summary Report* is available on the NWT Water Stewardship website.

7 NWT watershed and natural resource planning and management frameworks reference the Water Strategy.

30% (13 out of 43) water partners indicated they are actively engaged in specific Keys to Success.



Slave River, NT

The workshop and progress reviews also advance progress on Action Items under the Action Plan *Section 1.1 Partnerships* by encouraging water partners to share implementation successes and challenges.

In September 2018, ENR released a *Summary of Water Partners' Responsibilities in the 2016-2020 Action Plan*, available on the NWT Water Stewardship website. This document addresses Action Item 1.1 B: *create and routinely update a plain language document outlining water partners' roles and responsibilities for the Water Strategy and Action Plan*.

Additional successes include increased engagement and training opportunities for youth, increased opportunities for water partners to exchange information and build relationships, and regular and clear Water Strategy communication to help maintain engagement.

1.2

Information Management

Water stewardship activities and decisions must be supported by adequate, accurate, current and accessible data and information. This includes the best available scientific, traditional and local knowledge.

The NWT Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program – ENR (NWT CIMP) is currently working with the Land and Water Boards (the Boards) to develop and implement water quality reporting guidelines. These guidelines will help address inconsistencies in the water quality information posted to the public registry and provide clear expectations for project proponents.

The NWT Discovery Portal and Mackenzie DataStream provide platforms to share water monitoring and research data and information among water partners and the public. Additional long-term water quality monitoring data are stored by ENR in its Lodestar database and are available to water partners upon request. Data from the NWT-wide Community-based Water Quality Monitoring Program are shared through Mackenzie DataStream. A five-year technical review of the NWT-wide Community-based Water Quality Monitoring Program was published in 2018 and a plain language summary is available on the ENR website.



Hay Lake, NT
Photo: Zane Spilchak

47% (18 out of 38)
water partners indicated
they use traditional and
local knowledge often in
decision-making.

71% (27 out of 38)
of water partners indicated
they use western science
often in decision-making.

The Aurora Research Institute (ARI) continues to support and encourage technical experts and researchers to share information aimed at NWT communities through various means. For example, ARI maintains a Compendium of Research that provides a plain language summary of current and past research projects in the NWT. ARI staff also liaise with researchers and communities to help facilitate communications. Templates for communicating research results with communities are available on ARI's website.

The ASC continues to provide ongoing advice to researchers undertaking water-related projects. In 2018/2019, six projects received advice from the ASC regarding traditional knowledge. The ASC also supports and promotes the use of traditional knowledge protocols to ensure research and monitoring projects respect community values and traditional knowledge is gathered in meaningful ways to inform decision-making.

The NWT Discovery Portal averaged 151 monthly users and Mackenzie DataStream averaged 433 monthly users.

Sahtú region, NT



1.3

Communication and Engagement

Good communication and engagement are necessary for building and maintaining effective relationships and keeping water partners and the public informed about water stewardship.

Water partners used different communication and engagement methods to keep water partners and the public informed about water stewardship in 2018/2019. For example, many water partners participated in panel presentations and led knowledge sharing group discussions at the October 2018 Water Strategy Implementation Workshop. Water partners also provided specific implementation updates through community meetings and fairs, research collaborations, workshops, annual reports, conferences and other forums.

9 water stewardship projects received advice from the Aboriginal Steering Committee (ASC) in 2018/2019.

ASC members continue to liaise with their respective Indigenous governments about the Water Strategy, communicating regularly and providing updates before, during and after ASC meetings. The ASC also provides ongoing guidance on Water Strategy implementation activities, including work related to information sharing and traditional knowledge. Seven ASC meetings were held in 2018.



Little Doctor Lake, NT
Photo: Kynidi Robillard

Ecology North visited some communities in the NWT, taking part in Community Healthy Living Fairs. At their *Drinking Water Education* booth, community members learned about the health and ecological impacts of plastics. They also continued to encourage the public to do their part through the #loveNWTwater campaign.

Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy, originally published in 2010, was updated and released in 2018. The updated strategy reflects significant policy changes stemming from the *NWT Lands and Resources Devolution Agreement*, which came into effect in April 1, 2014.

8 updates were
made to the water
stewardship website
in 2018.

The NWT Water Stewardship website provides educational information about water research and monitoring in the NWT. This includes an overview of aquatic ecosystem health and how it is measured, community-based monitoring programs in the NWT, information for researchers pursuing water-related work in the NWT, and ways to access NWT monitoring and research information. Upgrades to the website content and architecture are underway and are anticipated to be complete in late 2019.

1.4

Capacity Building, Leadership, Training and Education

Increasing local capacity, technical skills and knowledge of water stewardship through education, training and engagement is crucial to the continued success of the Water Strategy.

24 water stewardship outreach activities were delivered during 2018/19.

85% (28 out of 33) communities are involved in aquatic community-based monitoring.

Water partners hosted and supported a range of water education and leadership programming across the NWT, including classroom education and community events to promote Canada Water Week, a two-day Youth Water Stewardship Gathering Workshop, the 3rd Annual Youth Water Stewardship Multimedia Contest, Rivers to Oceans Day, and various on-the-land and community-led research and monitoring initiatives.

In May 2018, the Tracking Change research collaboration hosted its third annual Youth Knowledge Fair at the University of Alberta campus. Forty youth, from communities across the Mackenzie River Basin, took part in the three-day workshop. Objectives of the knowledge fair were to: create opportunities for youth to connect with each other; support youth to learn their own histories, ecosystems and communities; encourage the development of research and written/oral communication skills; and create opportunities for youth and schools to network on issues of climate change.



Black Mountain Creek, NT
Photo: Dean Charlie

ENR partnered with communities from across the NWT to provide opportunities for community monitors to build capacity and gain experience in water quality monitoring using different sampling techniques and equipment. Training was provided as part of the NWT-wide Community-based Water Quality Monitoring Program and through additional NWT CIMP-funded projects.

Through the NWT On The Land Collaborative, partners supported on-the-land and community-led research and monitoring programs across the NWT. For example, Tides Canada provided funding to support Indigenous guardian programs and hosted a pan-northern Indigenous Guardian gathering in Yellowknife. Discussions focused on the training needs of guardian programs, including building skills for effective water monitoring and management.

In 2018, ENR announced a new pilot grant program to support NWT youth in making their water stewardship project ideas a reality. The grant program is intended to support youth engagement and build leadership skills in water stewardship. The program offered support through mentorship and small project grants.

South Nahanni River, NT
Photo: Brayden Matou



1.5

Transboundary Discussions, Agreements and Obligations

Successful transboundary discussions, agreements and obligations with neighbouring jurisdictions help ensure the waters of the NWT remain clean, abundant and productive for all time.

15 implementation activities were in progress and 9 were completed under the Alberta-NWT Agreement in 2018.

3 implementation activities were in progress under the BC-NWT Agreement in 2018.

The second annual report (2016/2017) for the Alberta-NWT Bilateral Water Management Agreement (BWMA) was released in November 2018. Information about implementation progress of the Alberta-NWT BWMA was also communicated during ASC meetings, through various presentations – for example, the 2018 Water Stewardship Implementation Workshop and the Watershed and Partnership Advisory Council Annual General Meeting in Peace River, AB – and on the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy website. The 2017/2018 annual report is being drafted and public release is anticipated for late 2019.



Photo: Dean Charlie

In addition to ongoing monitoring of the quality and quantity of transboundary surface waters, work on biological monitoring progressed in 2018. A biological indicators workshop took place in January 2018 to begin planning biological monitoring under the Alberta-NWT BWMA; the workshop report is available on the ENR website. Benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring on the transboundary reaches of the Slave and Hay Rivers continued in 2018.

A British Columbia (BC)-NWT BWMA implementation highlights report for 2015-2018 was released in November 2018. BC and NWT continue to discuss implementation priorities and the BC-NWT Bilateral Management Committee terms of reference.

The NWT and Yukon signed a transboundary water agreement in 2002. Discussions on updating this agreement to align with more recently signed agreements continued in 2018.

The NWT anticipates the negotiation of a Saskatchewan-NWT BWMA once Saskatchewan is ready to continue negotiations and a NWT-Nunavut BWMA once Nunavut has completed a territorial water strategy.

Additional Information

More information on Work Together implementation activities can be found in the following websites and resources.

Websites

- [Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca)
www.enr.gov.nt.ca
- [Ecology North](http://www.ecologynorth.ca)
www.ecologynorth.ca
- [Mackenzie DataStream](http://www.mackenziedatastream.ca)
www.mackenziedatastream.ca
- [NWT Discovery Portal](http://www.nwtdiscoveryportal.enr.gov.nt.ca)
www.nwtdiscoveryportal.enr.gov.nt.ca
- [NWT On The Land Collaborative](http://www.nwtontheland.ca)
www.nwtontheland.ca
- [NWT Science Focus](http://www.nwtsciencefocus.ca)
www.nwtsciencefocus.ca
- [NWT Water Stewardship](http://www.nwtwaterstewardship.ca)
www.nwtwaterstewardship.ca
- [#loveNWTwater Campaign](http://www.lovenwtwater.ca)
www.lovenwtwater.ca
- [NWT Research Database – Aurora Research Institute](http://www.data.nwtresearch.com)
www.data.nwtresearch.com

Resources

- [NWT CIMP plain language videos](http://www.nwtcimp.ca)
www.nwtcimp.ca
- [Water Strategy Implementation Workshop Summary Report – 2018](http://www.nwtwaterstewardship.ca)
www.nwtwaterstewardship.ca
- [Working Together to Manage Our Shared Waters: Alberta-NWT BMC Annual Report to Ministers 2016-2017](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/128-ab-nt_bilateral_ar_press_final.pdf)
www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/128-ab-nt_bilateral_ar_press_final.pdf
- [Workshop Report: Towards Selecting Biological Monitoring Indicators under the AB-NWT Bilateral Water Management Agreement](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/biological_indicators_workshop_report_final.pdf)
www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/biological_indicators_workshop_report_final.pdf
- [Implementation Highlights 2015-2018: Mackenzie River Basin Bilateral Water Management Agreement between the Government of British Columbia and the Government of the Northwest Territories](http://www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/bcnt_bilateral_agreement_en.pdf)
www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/bcnt_bilateral_agreement_en.pdf
- [NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Action Plan – audio summaries:](https://soundcloud.com/user-760585040/nwt-water-stewardship-action-plan-english)
soundcloud.com/user-760585040/nwt-water-stewardship-action-plan-english

2.0 Know and Plan

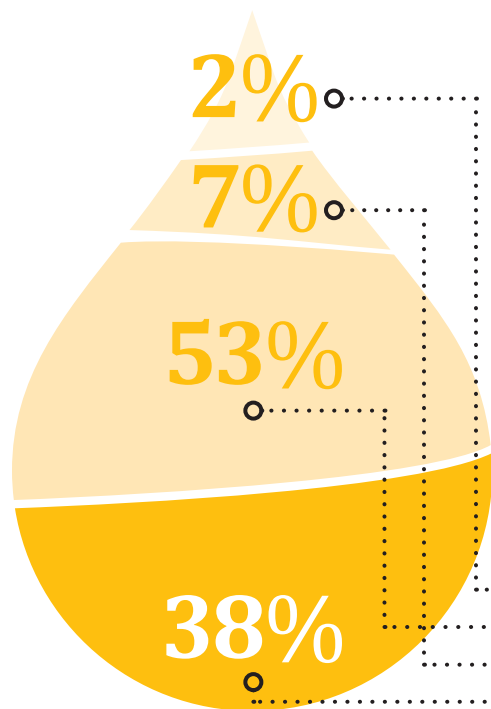
- 2.1 Aquatic Ecosystems, including Water Quality, Water Quantity, Groundwater and Biological Components
- 2.2 A Collaborative Approach to Community-based Monitoring

Lead Water Partners for 2018/2019 Action Items

- Academic partners
- Aurora College
- Aurora Research Institute
- Dehcho AAROM
- Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC)
- Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC)
- ENR
- Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley and the Inuvialuit Water Board
- Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB)
- NWT Centre for Geomatics, GNWT

Status of Action Item Progress: Know and Plan

- Not started
- In progress
- Complete
- Complete for reporting period and ongoing



2.1

Aquatic Ecosystems, including Water Quality, Water Quantity, Groundwater and Biological Components

Research and monitoring are critical to more fully understand the structure and function of aquatic ecosystems and impacts and cumulative effects on NWT waters.

206 stations and sites make up the current water quality and quantity networks.²

NWT water quality and water quantity networks are maintained by several lead water partners, in collaboration with other partners, to maximize resources. Most water quality monitoring programs use standardized sampling protocols to ensure data comparability within programs; however, most protocols are not standardized across programs due to different monitoring objectives.

NWT CIMP funded 27 projects in 2018/2019 to improve the understanding of cumulative impacts in the NWT. Findings were shared publicly through a community-oriented results workshop in December 2018, held in Yellowknife, and at other community meetings. Two projects previously funded by NWT CIMP were highlighted in the NWT Environmental Research Bulletins.

² Excluding Surveillance Network Program (SNP) and Aquatic Effects Monitoring Program (AEMP) sites established under water licences.



Peel River Ferry Crossing, NT
Photo: Sarah Booth

39% (12 out of 31)
water partners indicated their
organization is currently using
geomatic tools.

In 2018, water partners led and supported a range of research projects exploring different dimensions of human interactions and relationships with the aquatic environment. Brock University and the University of Alberta continued to work in partnership with the communities of Délı̨ne and Łutselk'e to explore land-based water consumption practices and the factors that influence perceptions of water quality on the land. The project *Bottled Water on the Land* will identify opportunities for source water protection planning, public education and outreach needs, and potential new community-based monitoring sites to address community concerns.

ENR has initiated work to explore the integration of datasets produced from various historic and ongoing research and monitoring programs for the Slave River. Historical and ongoing studies have focused on metals or organic compounds in one or two components of the aquatic ecosystem (e.g. in fish, sediment or surface water). Little is known about the way these pollutants move through the aquatic ecosystem. This work will explore the linkages between biological and water quality indicators, and will support the development of triggers and biological objectives, while identifying key knowledge gaps that will guide future work.

Frame Lake, Yellowknife, NT
Photo: Randy Hiebert



DUC continues to lead the advancement of the wetland classification inventory, which is based on satellite imagery, field data and supplementary information collected for each project area. The Akaitcho Wetland Mapping Inventory project was under development in 2018 and will be completed in 2019. Akaitcho Treaty 8 Tribal Corporation plans to use imagery for future land use planning initiatives in the Akaitcho region. The Dehcho Wetland Mapping Inventory is in progress and will be completed in 2020. The Wood Buffalo National Park Wetland Mapping Inventory project will also be completed in 2020. DUC is also working with the community of Fort Good Hope and the Tłıchǫ Government on wetland mapping inventory projects.

Cameron Falls, NT
Photo: Leah Kanzler



2.2

A Collaborative Approach to Community-based Monitoring

Collaborative community-based monitoring fosters a range of innovations and benefits, including increased awareness of water stewardship, improved traditional knowledge collection and applications, and increased community involvement in research and monitoring program design.

Of the 85 water-related research licences issued by the Aurora Research Institute in 2018, 29 projects actively involved communities. Ten of those projects were community-led.

The NWT-wide Community-based Water Quality Monitoring Program is the largest community-based monitoring program in the territory, building capacity and partnerships in 21 communities through frequent training sessions and hands-on monitoring. Other community-based monitoring programs in the NWT, which vary in scope, size and approaches to monitoring, include:

- Lower Mackenzie Whitefish Project
- NWT Métis AAROM
- Akaitcho AAROM
- Dehcho AAROM and Dehcho K'éhodi guardian programs
- Imaryuk Monitoring Program
- Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation Ni hat'ni Dene Watching the Land Monitoring Program

- Tłıcho Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Project
- Marian Watershed Stewardship Program
- Long-term Monitoring of Great Bear Lake Fisheries and the Aquatic Ecosystem

Common approaches to capacity building and community participation supported by ENR include: active involvement in field work; providing water quality sample collection and sampling equipment; quality assurance and quality control training; and community input into project design.

In 2018/2019, ENR continued to work in partnership with C-CORE, which is leading the Slave River and Delta and Great Slave Lake Community-based Water Portal Project – *Water Ecosystems Monitoring using Earth Observations (WEMEO)*. The program monitors key environmental indicators using both satellite imagery and community-based sampling data. Indicators include temperature, ice build-up, suspended sediment and chlorophyll. All data are currently available through free and accessible online services through C-CORE's web portal – LOOKNorth Services.

Water partners continue to work with communities to enable them to take over responsibility and leadership of applicable research projects. The NWT-wide Community-based Water Quality Monitoring Program has helped other programs to build capacity, advance local programming and develop new partnerships. Dehcho AAROM continues to collaborate with all Dehcho communities to ensure continued success of monitoring programs. Dehcho AAROM and the Dehcho K'éhodi Guardians have combined their monitoring work with other research initiatives, partnering with University of Waterloo, Wilfrid Laurier University, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Environment and Climate Change Canada, Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada, and ENR.

11 aquatic
community-based monitoring
programs were active in the
NWT in 2018/2019.

Additional Information

More information on Know and Plan implementation activities can be found in the following websites and resources.

Websites

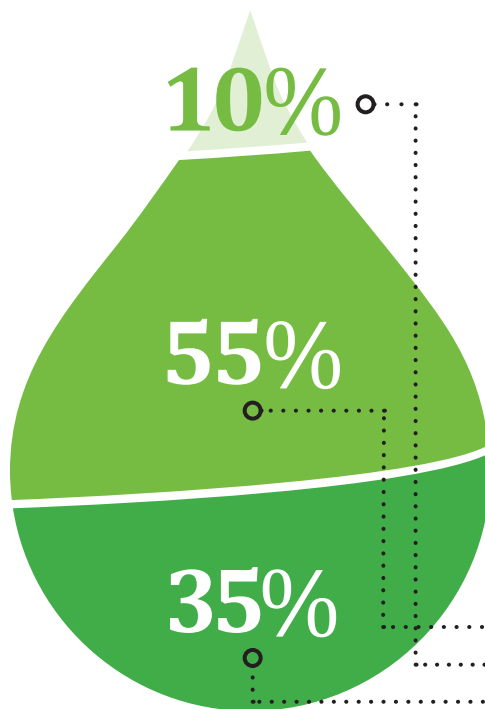
- **Dechinta Centre for Research and Learning**
www.dechinta.ca
- **Mackenzie DataStream**
www.mackenziedatastream.ca
- **NWT CIMP**
www.nwtcimp.ca
- **NWT Discovery Portal**
www.nwtdiscoveryportal.enr.gov.nt.ca
- **Tracking Change**
www.trackingchange.ca
- **NWT Métis Nation AAROM Program**
www.nwtmetisnation.ca
- **Dehcho AAROM/Dehcho K'éhodi**
www.dehcho.org
- **Akaitcho AAROM**
www.akaitcho.ca
- **C-CORE Web Portal**
www.looknorthservices.com/watermonitoring

Resources

- **NWT Environmental Research Bulletin**
www.enr.gov.nt.ca/en/services/cumulative-impact-monitoring-program-cimp/nwt-environmental-research-bulletin
- **Dehcho K'éhodi Program**
www.dehcho.org/resource-management/dehcho-kehodi
- **ECCC National Water Quantity Data**
www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/search/real_time_e.html
- **ECCC National Long-term Water Quality Monitoring Data**
www.data.ec.gc.ca/data/substances/monitor/national-long-term-water-quality-monitoring-data/?lang=en
- **Tłıchǫ Lands Protection Water Monitoring Activities**
www.research.tlcho.ca/research/monitoring-activities
- *Long-term Monitoring of Great Bear Fisheries and the Aquatic Ecosystem: Project Update 2015/16*
www.enr.gov.nt.ca/sites/enr/files/resources/128-cimp_summary_sheet_sahtu_p2.pdf
- **Ni hat'ni Dene Watching the Land Monitoring Program**
www.landoftheancestors.ca/team/ni-hatni-dene-program.html
- **NWT-wide Community-based Water Quality Monitoring Program**
www.nwtwaterstewardship.ca/en/community-based-monitoring

3.0 Use Responsibly

- 3.1 Municipal
- 3.2 Industrial Development



Lead Water Partners for 2018/19 Action Items

- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), GNWT
- GNWT Interdepartmental Drinking Water and Waste Management Committee
- Health and Social Services (HSS), GNWT
- Land and Water Boards of the Mackenzie Valley and the Inuvialuit Water Board
- Lands, GNWT
- Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB)
- Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA), GNWT

Status of Action Item Progress: Use Responsibly

- In progress
- Complete
- Complete for reporting period and ongoing

3.1

59% (17 out of 29)
water partners agreed the
roles and responsibilities
associated with drinking
water in the NWT are clear.

55% (16 out of 29)
water partners agreed the
roles and responsibilities
associated with a municipal
water licence (water use,
wastewater and waste)
are clear.

Municipal

Compliance with municipal water licences, consideration of traditional knowledge, ongoing sharing of information and improving water and wastewater systems are essential for ensuring confidence in community drinking water.

The 2018 GNWT Report on Drinking Water is anticipated for release in late 2019. The NWT Drinking Water website (nwtdrinkingwater.ca) is currently being redesigned. Relevant information is temporarily being stored on the MACA website to maintain public access.

Communicating the importance of maintaining healthy drinking water practices, including water tank maintenance and proper cleaning, is key to ensuring safe drinking water in the NWT. HSS and MACA continue to encourage annual water tank cleaning. Instructional videos, which provide directions on how to clean your water tank, are available on the HSS website.

Chemical data from 2018 onwards are in a new public database maintained by WaterTrax. Output from the new database is available on the MACA website. Chemical data from previous years are available on the legacy database and on the MACA website.

MACA continues to remotely monitor drinking water parameters in nine community water treatment plants. An additional six community water treatment plants will have remote monitoring systems installed by the end of 2020.

The Land and Water Boards commonly work with communities to determine Surveillance Network Program (SNP) sampling locations. Traditional knowledge may influence determination of SNP monitoring sites for municipal facilities, design and placement of municipal facilities, and licence conditions related to traditional knowledge and land use.

3.2

Industrial Development

Improving understanding of water use, waste and wastewater processes, and knowledge of guidelines and regulations is critical to water partners' effective participation in regulatory and environmental assessment processes.

The Guidelines for Aquatic Effects Monitoring Programs (AEMP Guidelines) were finalized in March 2019. These guidelines clarify the role of AEMPs in water licensing and to describe the expectations of the Boards and the GNWT for AEMP design, implementation and adaptive management.

The Boards continue to work to ensure plain language information on regulatory processes for environmental assessments and water licensing is available to water partners. The MVEIRB provides plain language environmental assessment information to the public, including: information outlining the various environmental assessment steps; environmental assessment guidelines and overview guidelines; and pop up displays for use at tradeshow, environmental assessment events and outreach activities. In collaboration with the NWT Board Forum, the MVEIRB also facilitated the development of reference guides and online courses, including an Orientation to Resource Management in the NWT.

The Inuvialuit Water Board (IWB) has developed a step-by-step water licensing process for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, available on the IWB website.

59% (17 out of 29)
water partners agreed
industrial water licensing
roles and responsibilities
are clear.

59% (17 out of 29)
water partners indicated
they know who to contact
about regulatory roles and
responsibilities.

4 regulatory guidelines and policies relevant to water management
were reviewed in 2018/2019.

The MVEIRB, Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board and ENR hosted a Resource Co-Management Workshop in Inuvik in early 2019. The workshop discussed all aspects of resource management, including opportunities for Indigenous communities and the public to get involvement. The workshop report is available on the MVEIRB website. The MVEIRB also hosted or participated in various other outreach events in multiple regions of the NWT to help people understand and participate effectively in environmental assessment processes.

A review of the *Waters Act* and Waters Regulations began in 2016 and is ongoing.

Additional Information

More information on Use Responsibly Water Strategy implementation activities can be found in the following websites and resources.

Websites

- [Municipal and Community Affairs, GNWT](http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca)
www.maca.gov.nt.ca
- [Gwich'in Land and Water Board](http://www.glwb.com)
www.glwb.com
- [Inuvialuit Water Board](http://www.inuvwb.ca)
www.inuvwb.ca
- [Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board](http://www.mvlwb.com)
www.mvlwb.com
- [Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board](http://www.reviewboard.ca)
www.reviewboard.ca
- [Sahtú Land and Water Board](http://www.slwb.com)
www.slwb.com
- [Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board](http://www.wlwb.ca)
www.wlwb.ca

Resources

- [Municipal water licence templates and guidelines](http://www.mvlwb.com/resources/resources-municipalities)
www.mvlwb.com/resources/resources-municipalities
- [*Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act \(MVRMA\) Workshop Final Report*](http://www.reviewboard.ca/reference_material/practitioners_workshop.php)
www.reviewboard.ca/reference_material/practitioners_workshop.php
- [Industrial water licence policies and guidelines](http://www.mvlwb.com/resources/policy-and-guidelines)
www.mvlwb.com/resources/policy-and-guidelines
- [Inuvialuit Water Board Step-by-Step Licence Process](http://www.inuvwb.ca/licencing/do-i-need-licence-my-project)
www.inuvwb.ca/licencing/do-i-need-licence-my-project
- [Draft EA Initiation Guidelines for Developers of Major Projects \(MVEIRB\)](http://www.reviewboard.ca/process_information/guidance_documentation/draft_guidelines)
www.reviewboard.ca/process_information/guidance_documentation/draft_guidelines

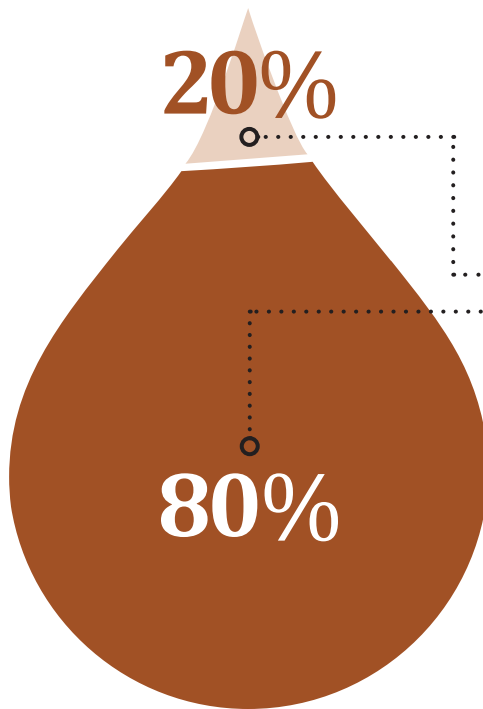
4.0 Check Our Progress

4.1 Routine Checks

4.2 Independent Evaluation

Lead Water Partners for 2018/19 Action Items

- Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), GNWT



Status of Action Item Progress: Check Our Progress

- Not started
- Complete for reporting period and ongoing

Alexandra Falls, NT
Photo: Don Wilson



4.1

Routine Checks

Regular reviews of Water Strategy implementation ensure progress is being made and adjustments can be made as necessary.

Water Strategy implementation progress for 2017/2018 was communicated to water partners and the public through the release of *Check Our Progress – 2017/2018 NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Progress Review Summary* and spreadsheet. Water partners also shared updates of recently completed, ongoing and planned implementation activities through discussions, posters and panel presentations at the October 2018 Water Strategy Implementation Workshop.

54 Performance Indicators and 131 Action Items were reviewed during the 2018/2019 Progress Review.

In April 2019, ENR circulated an online survey to more than 100 lead and supporting water partners to collect information for the 2018/2019 Progress Review. Fifty-four (54) water partners responded to the survey. Additional document reviews, website analytics and email, phone and in-person communications with lead water partners also informed the Progress Review.

South Nahanni River, NT
Photo: Faith Vital



4.2

The 2018/2019 Progress Review is the third review under the NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Action Plan 2016-2020.

Independent Evaluation

An independent evaluation of the Water Strategy will take place every five years and will recommend actions to be undertaken.

ENR plans to begin discussions with the ASC and water partners in 2019 to establish an advisory committee that will guide the next independent evaluation of the Water Strategy.



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Government of the Northwest Territories

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Great Slave Lake, NT
Photo: Jeanne Yurris