

NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Action Plan 2016-2020

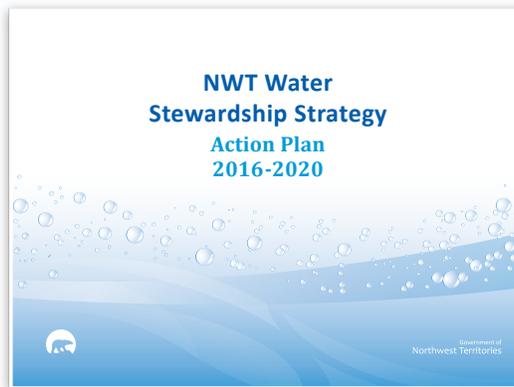
Plain Language Summary

What is the Action Plan?

Water partners want to make sure the waters of the Northwest Territories (NWT) are clean, healthy and full of life forever.

In 2010, water partners got together and shared ideas on how, and why, we should look after water in the NWT and produced the Water Strategy (*2010 Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy*).

The vision of the Water Strategy is that *“the waters of the Northwest Territories will remain clean, abundant and productive for all time.”*



The goals of the Water Strategy are to make sure:

- waters that flow into, within or through the NWT are substantially unaltered in quality, quantity and rates of flow;
- residents have access to safe, clean and plentiful drinking water at all times;
- aquatic ecosystems are healthy and diverse;
- residents can rely on their water to sustain their communities and economies;
- residents are involved in and knowledgeable about water stewardship; and
- all those making water stewardship decisions work together to communicate and share information.

The water partners developed a plan, called the *NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Action Plan for 2011-2015*, to start doing things to properly look after the water.

A new five-year Action Plan was done for the years 2016-2020.

Water partners are anyone with a role in water stewardship. This includes Aboriginal, territorial and federal governments, Aboriginal organizations, communities, regulatory boards, non-government organizations, industry and academic institutions.

How was the Action Plan developed?

A group, called the Aboriginal Steering Committee helped guide water partners in putting together the Action Plan. Members of the Aboriginal Steering Committee are appointed by Aboriginal governments and the Government of the Northwest Territories.

The water partners also:

- took part in an independent study done on the work completed through the 2011-2015 Action Plan;
- took part in a survey about what new actions should be in the new 2016-2020 Action Plan;

- helped identify more specific work items to be included in the 2016-2020 Action Plan;
- attended an annual Water Strategy Workshop where they went over the details of the Action Plan and changed it if needed; and
- reviewed a draft version to come up with the final 2016-2020 Action Plan.

The Action Plan will be reviewed every five years to make sure work is being done to look after NWT waters.



Who is on the Aboriginal Steering Committee?

The Aboriginal Steering Committee has members from the Dehcho First Nations, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation, Kát'odeeche First Nation, North Slave Métis Alliance, Northwest Territory Métis Nation,

Sahtù Secretariat Incorporated, Salt River First Nation, Tłı̨chq̓ Government, Akaitcho Territory Government (observer) and Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT).

What's in the Action Plan?

Work Together

- Make, and strengthen existing, partnerships;
- Gather good information about water and share scientific and traditional knowledge;
- Tell others what is being done to protect water;
- Support people who want to learn about water and how to protect it; and
- Make agreements with provincial and territorial governments about water that crosses boundaries.

Know and Plan

- Work with communities to gather information about water quality, water quantity and groundwater; and
- Find out more about how climate change and development affect water.

Use Responsibly

- Improve and share information about drinking water and waste water;
- Train people to test drinking water; and
- Share information about the regulatory system and water licenses that is easy to understand.

Check Our Progress

- Check on progress regularly and let people know the results; and
- Have progress checked by experts who are not water partners.

The Action Plan also lists the main and supporting water partners, the dates when work must be done and how to tell if the work is getting done.



Where can I find the full 2016-2020 Action Plan?

You can read the full 2016-2020 Action Plan online at www.nwtwaterstewardship.ca.

You can also ask for a paper copy from Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) by calling 867-767-9234 or by emailing nwtwaterstrategy@gov.nt.ca.