







Climate Change Curriculum

A climate change course aimed at equipping community government decisionmakers and employees with the knowledge necessary to adapt to climate change impacts being felt by Northern communities.

CONTEXT

The School of Community Government (SCG) of the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) with the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) provides training to community governments and their staff, and organizations that support community governments. The SCG consists of a number

Photo Credit: Government of the Northwest Territories

	Instructor		Watch video
	Student (solo) work		Website
	Group work		Climate Change Connection

of training program areas. Climate change training was identified as a gap in the programs they currently offer.

OBJECTIVE

The objective of this project was to design and develop a course of study in "Climate Change and its Impact on Community Governments" to present to Northwest Territories (NWT) community councils and government staff wanting to increase their understanding of climate change in the NWT and its effects. This curriculum will allow communities with limited resources to build capacity within their organization.

APPROACH

The course was created with the help of a contractor, Ecology North (EN). The Northwest Territories Association of Communities (NWTAC), Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) and MACA worked with EN to ensure that the curriculum included traditional knowledge examples, experiences and adaptation techniques when possible.

A final draft of the two-part (instructor and student manuals) curriculum was created February 2015. It includes learning objectives, assignments, and exercises for a three day workshop. The goal is to provide an understanding of climate change and what communities can do to mitigate and adapt to it in areas like infrastructure development, community planning, and emergency response.

EXPECTED RESULTS

MACA and the NWTAC led a focus group delivery during the initial stages of the workshop (pilot phase). Overall, participants found the workshop informative. Ecology North will revise content and adapt facilitation using the feedback from the pilot delivery to update both manuals. The course will also be able to adapt to delivery through distance education as a self-study and an online course.

There is a workshops scheduled for delivery in 2015/16. The NWTAC will support staff and council from community governments to attend.

Significance

Understanding climate change is essential for communities to be able to adapt, and in order to understand it there needs to be a way to convey that information.

Partners

- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada
- GNWT Municipal and Community Affairs, School of Community Government
- Ecology North
- Northwest Territories Association of Communities.

FOR MORE INFO

School of Community Government
Department of Municipal and Community Affairs
Government of the Northwest Territories
PO Box 1320
Yellowknife, NT
X1A 2L9
(867) 920-6176
<http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/>

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