



BACKGROUNDER : GNWT announces updates to Northwest Territories Emergency Plan ahead of 2024 high-risk season

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) has announced updates to the Northwest Territories (NWT) Emergency Plan, including Evacuation and Hosting Guidelines and an Emergency Communications Protocol, ahead of the 2024 high-risk season.

The updated Plan incorporates recommendations from the 2021 Flood After Action Review, lessons learned from the 2021 and 2022 flood seasons, and opportunities for improvement identified through the 2023 wildfire season.

Updates reflect the following:

- revised language to better reflect the purpose of the NWT Emergency Plan which is to establish coordination and a planning framework for emergencies and outline how emergency management partners work together;
- clarified roles and responsibilities for Local Authorities as lead for emergency management and response coordination as well as how Indigenous governments, non-government organizations, and the GNWT can support;
- clarified GNWT department and agency specific roles and responsibilities in supporting community governments when their capacity has been exceeded;
- outline what response and hosting costs community governments and how they can seek GNWT reimbursement if the *Disaster Assistance Policy* is applied to a disaster event in response to requests from community governments; and
- articulate the GNWT's approach to emergency-related communications and outline the tactics that will be used to communicate emergency-related information to the public.

No changes were made to roles and responsibilities of the GNWT or community governments in the 2024 Plan update. The Plan remains consistent with the current powers and authorities outlined in the [*Emergency Management Act*](#).

Amendments to the *Act*, the Plan, the *Disaster Assistance Policy*, standard operating procedures, guidelines, etc. may take place in the future dependent on the results and recommendations from the GNWT 2023 Wildfire Emergency Response After Action Review which the public, community and Indigenous government leaders and officials, non-government organizations, and other partners will be asked to participate in.



The public is invited to review 2024 updates to the Northwest Territories Emergency Plan on the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs' (MACA) website [here](#).

Quick Facts:

- The NWT Emergency Plan, developed under the authority of the *Emergency Management Act*, describes the emergency management framework in the NWT, and the roles and responsibilities of departments and partners during emergencies. It includes:
 - a description of the NWT emergency management system;
 - a framework for relationships with other departments, governments, and non-government agencies in preparing for and responding to emergencies; and
 - procedures for the coordination of responses to territorial emergencies and in supporting Local Authorities during emergencies where their capacity has been exceeded and assistance has been requested.