



Meeting: GO 70-18-2018

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

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**THURSDAY, MARCH 8, 2018
COMMITTEE ROOM "A"
12:00 P.M. - 1:00 P.M.**

AGENDA

1. Prayer
2. Review and Adoption of Agenda
 - a) Decision on *In Camera* items (items marked with an asterisk [*] may be dealt with in camera)
3. Declarations of Conflicts of Interest
4. Today's Committee Business:
 - a) Public Briefing on the Northwest Territories Emergency Management Modernization Plan, with the Minister of Municipal and Community Affairs, Honourable Caroline Cochrane.
5. Date and Time of Next Meeting:
 - Tuesday, March 13, 2018 at 7:30 A.M. (Joint SCOGO and SCOSD)
 - Thursday, March 15, 2018 at 10:30 A.M.
6. Adjournment

**OPENING REMARKS
HONOURABLE CAROLINE COCHRANE
MINISTER OF MUNICIPAL AND COMMUNITY AFFAIRS**

STANDING COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES EMERGENCY PLAN MODERNIZATION

I am here today to brief Committee members on a newly modernized Northwest Territories emergency management plan and framework.

With me from MACA are Eleanor Young, Deputy Minister; Ivan Russell, Manager, Emergency Measures, Kevin Brezinski, Director of Public Safety, Melissa Kruger, Senior Policy and Legislative Advisor; and my Ministerial Special Advisor, Mira Dunn.

A short presentation has been provided to help describe the new emergency management plan and framework, and the path which has led us to these documents.

As you know, revitalizing the NWT Emergency Plan is a priority for the 18th Legislative Assembly.

Climate change and recent emergency events have highlighted a real need to improve the GNWT's approach to emergency management.

Working closely with all GNWT departments, these instruments represent lessons learned from previous events, and best practices from across Canada. They provide the structure and guidelines on how the GNWT and its partners work together to support community governments and meet a collective responsibility in responding to territorial emergencies.

I wish to acknowledge the contributions of staff from all GNWT departments who contributed significantly to the development of these important documents, and the preparations which are now taking place to put these instruments into practice.

Ms. Young will now deliver the presentation and your comments and input are most welcome afterwards.

Thank you.



NWT Emergency Management Plan Modernization Standing Committee on Government Operations

February 2018

**Government of
Northwest Territories**

Purpose

GNWT Mandate Item #5.4.7: “We will work with stakeholders to develop and propose amendments to modernize the Civil Emergency Measures Act and to revitalize the Territorial Emergency Response Plan.”

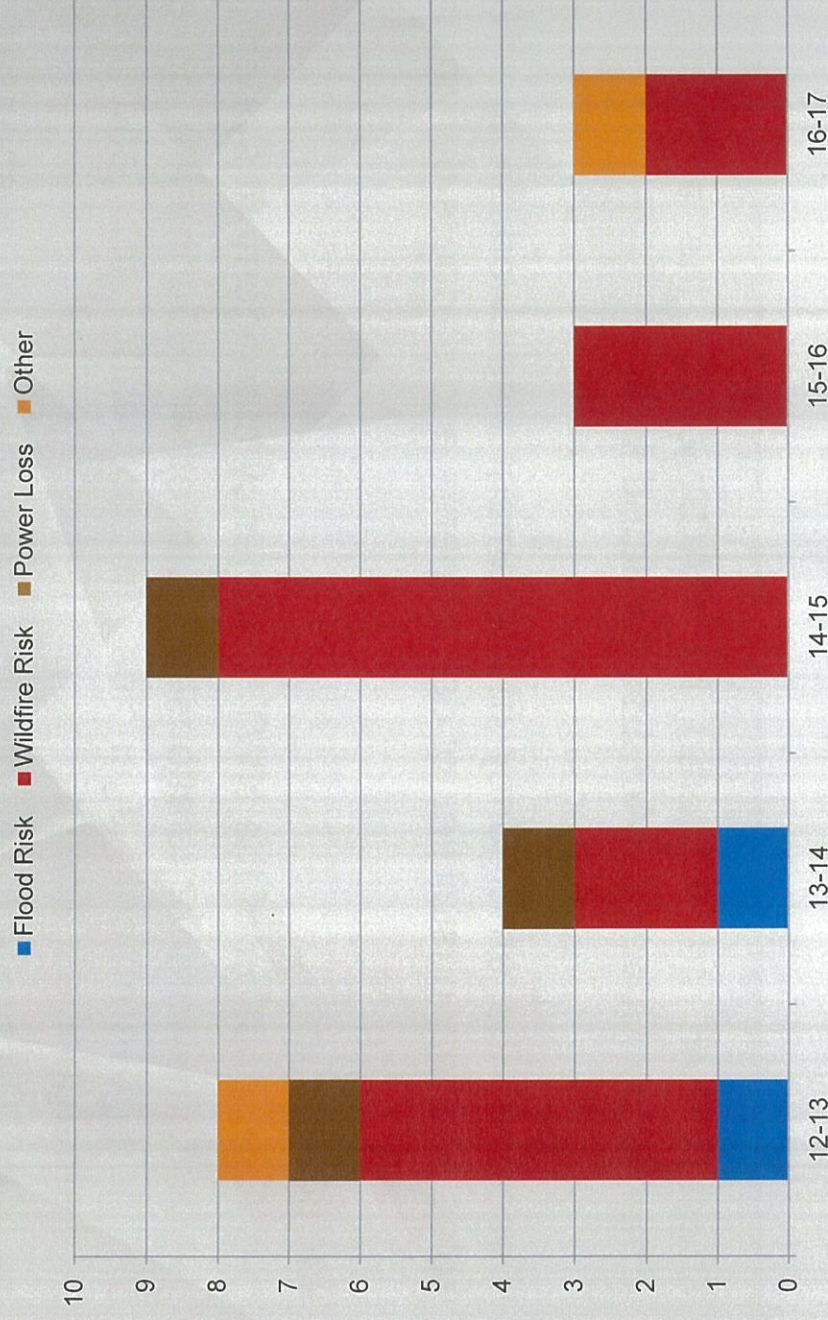


What is the NWT Emergency Plan?

- Created and administered by MACA under the authority of the *Civil Emergency Measures Act*. Last updated in 2001;
- Describes the emergency management framework in the NWT, and the roles and responsibilities of departments and partners during emergencies;
- 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
 - GNWT procedures for the coordination of responses to territorial emergencies and in supporting communities during disasters.



NWT Emergency Plan Activations



Progress to Date

- NWT Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (2014);
- Public discussion - Modernizing the Civil Emergency Measures Act (2014);
- Comprehensive After Action Review – 2014 Wildfires (2015);
- Legislative Proposal – Emergency Management Act (2015);
- Established an interdepartmental committee to update the NWT Emergency Plan (2015 – 2017);
 - Researched relevant best practise across Canada;
 - Validated departmental roles and responsibilities in support of civil emergency response (relative to HIRA);
 - Developed a new regional and headquarters delivery model based on the Incident Command System (ICS);
 - Created a new NWT Emergency Management Framework;
 - Updated the NWT Emergency Plan;
 - Created guidelines for community evacuations;
 - Updated the Emergency Communications protocol;
 - Developed an executive communications plan;
 - Developed an implementation strategy; and
 - Started formal ICS training with assistance from the Alberta Emergency Measures Agency.
- Drafting of a bill underway for the new *Emergency Management Act (2017-2018)*.



Why are we modernizing the plan?

- Current plan and approach are old and they do not follow a conventional systems approach;
- NWT Hazard environment is changing - events are becoming more intense and frequent (climate change and other factors);
- Canada is becoming much more rigid in administering the Disaster Financial Assistance and we need to be better organized;
- Political and public expectations across the NWT and Canada are evolving.

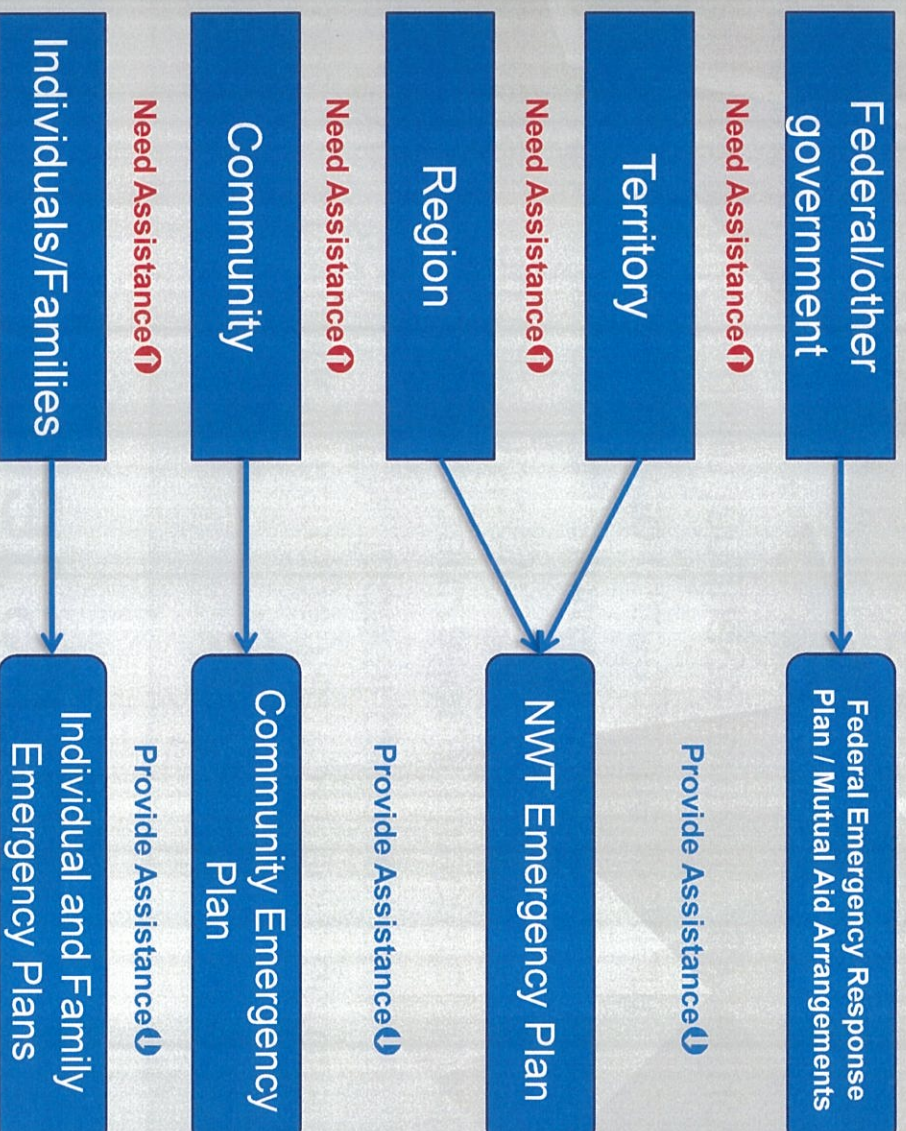


What's New

- Incident Command System
 - In use by emergency management partners across the NWT (e.g. ENR, RCMP, JTFN, federal partners, etc.)
 - Offers a standardized organizational structure, functions, processes, and terminology.
 - Standardized processes allow all involved in a response to formulate a unified plan to manage the incident.
 - Standardized ICS plain language terminology reduces the risk of miscommunication.
 - The system is scalable, which allows officials to use only those aspects that are necessary for a given incident.
 - Training is readily available.



Concept of Operation



Surge Capacity

- GNWT personnel capable of supplementing resources at the territorial and regional Emergency Operation Centres (EOC) during periods of intense or prolonged activity;
- Most events may be managed by MACA personnel;
- Additional contingent desired - ten (10) in HQ and six (6) in regional centres (to ensure sufficient availability);
- Roles involve communications, logistics, planning and operations;
- ICS/EOC training provided and maintained via table-top or live exercises;
- Volunteers approved by Deputy Ministers;
- Participation in operations and training activity must be approved by immediate supervisor;



Subject Matter Experts

- Pre-identified GNWT positions capable of informing emergency planning and response efforts relative to prevalent hazards and departmental roles and responsibilities specified in the NT Emergency Plan;
- Access to departmental resources and approval authorities;
- If and when required;
- Basic ICS training provided;
- Identified by NWT EMO and approved by Deputy Ministers;



NWT Emergency Planning Committee

- Coordinate and lead emergency management planning for the GNWT;
- Provide advice to the Emergency Management Organization;
- Develop and maintain the Territorial Emergency Plan; and
- Carry out testing of the Territorial Emergency Plan.



Implementation Plan

- Update current Emergency Operations Centres consistent with the ICS model;
- Develop standard operating procedures to guide planning and decision-making;
- Train and develop EOC staff (participants selected from current emergency response committees); and
- Communications with stakeholders concerning new system and available tools; and
- Activate, orient and coordinate Territorial Planning Committee;
- Use Op Nanook 2018 (includes major civil emergency response scenario) to validate new plan and SOPs (Sept 2018);
- Summer 2019 – assess response activity and lessons learned and update Plan and SOPs as required
- Sustainment training.



Next Steps

- Sept 2017 – Sept 2018: training, exercises and preparation;
- Nov 6 – 24, 2017: Departmental feedback on draft framework documents;
- Dec 8, 2017: Priorities and Planning Committee of Cabinet;
- Jan 2018: Finalize draft Bill for new NT Emergency Management Act (EMA);
- Jan 2018: Decision Paper seeking direction to proceed with approval of new plan and briefing to Standing Committee;
- **Feb 2018: Briefing to Standing Committee;**
- Mar 2018: 1st and 2nd reading of EMA Bill;
- April 2018: ICS Training for Executives and Senior Officials (1/2 day);
- May 2018: Ministerial approval of new plan (coming into force – Sept 2018);
- July 2018: Establishment of the Territorial Planning Committee (TPC);
- Aug 2018: SME identification; Orientation to Departmental SMCs upon request;
- Sept 2018: Op Nanook (final validation for new plan before go-live);
- Aug - Sept 2018: External communications announcing new system to stakeholders and partners;
- Sept 2018: Go Live! (Pending Assent of EMA);
- Ongoing: Sustainment training, system maintenance via TPC engagement, establish surge capacity.



