



NWT Water Stewardship Strategy

Action Plan 2021-2025

Plain Language Summary





What is the Action Plan?

Water is very important to the residents of the Northwest Territories (NWT). Water partners want to make sure the waters of the NWT remain healthy and abundant. For years water partners shared ideas about how we should look after water in the NWT and, in 2010, the federal and territorial government worked with water partners to create *Northern Voices, Northern Waters: NWT Water Stewardship Strategy* (Water 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 *NWT Water Stewardship Strategy Action Plan 2021-2025* is the third action plan that water partners have made together. The Action Plan lays out how water partners can work together to look after the water.

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

How was the Action Plan developed?

Water partners played a key role in the development of the Action Plan and were guided by the Water Stewardship Strategy (WSS) Indigenous Steering Committee (formerly the Aboriginal Steering Committee) and the Action Plan Development Committee.

Water partners took part in several engagement activities to develop the Action Plan including:

- An independent review of the work completed through the 2016-2020 Action Plan;
- An online survey about what should be in the new 2021-2025 Action Plan;
- Virtual focus groups to help come up with more specific work items to be included in the 2021-2025 Action Plan;
- A virtual Water Stewardship Strategy Workshop where there were group discussions to learn more about what water partners want in the Action Plan; and
- The review of a draft version to come up with the final 2021-2025 Action Plan.

The public was also asked to provide ideas for the Action Plan through an online survey.

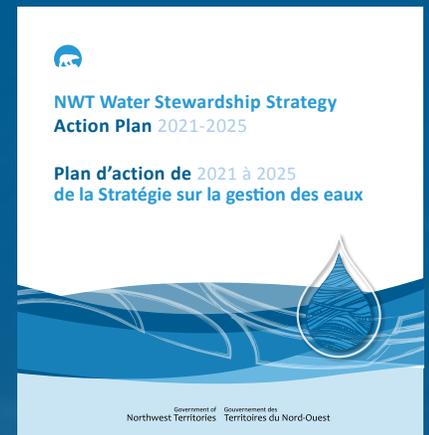
The Action Plan will be reviewed every five years to make sure work is being done to look after NWT waters.

Who is on the WSS Indigenous Steering Committee?

Members of the WSS Indigenous Steering Committee are appointed by IGOs. The Indigenous Steering Committee has members from the 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, Sahtù Secretariat Incorporated, Salt River First Nation, Tłı̨chǫ Government, Akaitcho Territory Government (observer) and Environment and Natural Resources (GNWT).

Who was on the Action Plan Development Committee?

The Action Plan Development Committee had members from the territorial government, Indigenous governments and organizations, regulatory boards, non-government organizations and academic institutions.



What's in the Action Plan?

Work Together

- Make, and strengthen existing, partnerships;
- Communicate and engage with the public to tell them what is being done to protect water;
- Make sure Indigenous knowledge is valued;
- 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.

Use Responsibly

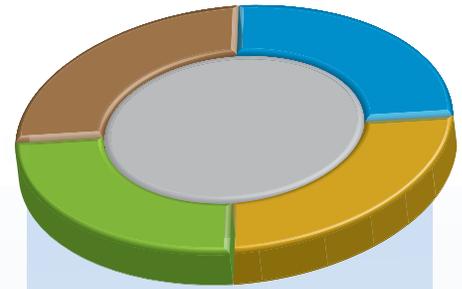
- Improve and share information about drinking water and waste water;
- Teach people about how to protect water, including drinking water; and
- Share information about the regulatory system and water licenses that is easy to understand.

Know and Plan

- Work with communities to gather information about water quality, water quantity and groundwater;
- Use technology to learn more about water quality and quantity;
- Find out more about how climate change and development affect water; and
- Manage and store information in a way that is easy for water partners and the public to get.

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 water partners that will do each Action Item, as well as water partners that support the work, the dates when work should be done and how to tell if the work is getting done.

Where can I find the full 2021-2025 Action Plan?

You can read the full 2021-2025 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.

