FACT SHEET

NWT CIMP PROJECTS (2025-26)

Introduction:

The Northwest Territories Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (NWT CIMP) currently supports 29 monitoring and research projects that address key cumulative impact monitoring priorities of land and water use decision-makers. These decision-makers include co-management boards, federal, territorial, and Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations.

In the final year of three years, NWT CIMP is collaborating with Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR) for barren-ground caribou monitoring and research through the *Collaborative Barren-ground Caribou Initiative: understanding drivers of population trends.* This initiative is in addition to our regular funding for projects focusing on caribou, water or fish. The seven projects receiving these funds are noted in brown font and with a "BG" designation at the end of their CIMP number.

Approximately $2.2 million is allocated in 2025/26 to support the 29 projects. This amount includes $650,000 from POLAR Knowledge Canada, allocated towards the seven Collaborative Barren-ground Caribou Initiative projects. From this total amount, $476,095 is distributed towards new projects.

Of the 29 funded projects,

- o   seven are Traditional Knowledge-focused
- o   twenty-one are science-focused
- o   one combines Traditional Knowledge and science

The following table provides a brief description and intended outcome of NWT CIMP projects for the 2025-26 fiscal year. Overall,

- o   seven projects are starting
- o   seven projects are mid-term
- o   fifteen projects are in the final year

Table 1. Purpose, status and intended outcomes of 2025-26 NWT CIMP funded projects

Purpose	Current Status	Intended Outcome
Caribou Projects		
1. **Ekwǫ̀ Nàxoèhdee K'è – Boots on the Ground (CIMP94-BG)** To monitor the Kokètì ekwǫ̀ (Bathurst ekwǫ̀ herd) and Sahtı ekwǫ̀ (Bluenose East ekwǫ̀ herd) on their summer and fall range. In addition to ongoing monitoring, ekwǫ̀ harvest monitoring and assessment of annual harvest levels of the Kokètì ekwǫ̀, Sahtı ekwǫ̀ and Beverly ekwǫ̀ herds that Tłı̨chǫ depend on to practice their culture, language, and way of life will be incorporated. • *Tłı̨chǫ Government* *Petter Jacobsen* *petterfjacobsen@gmail.com*	Project Year – 16 of 16 Region - Wek'èezhìi Type – Traditional Knowledge Decision-makers who may use results: TG, WRRB, GNWT	This project continues to provide results directly to decision-making processes regarding the Bathurst caribou herd and their habitat, through several caribou management initiatives.
2. **Collaboratively Forecasting Landscape Change and Population Dynamics of the Cape Bathurst, Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East, and Bathurst Herds of Barren-ground Caribou (CIMP207-BG)** To expand on the current project to simulate cumulative effects of landscape change and subsequent risks to barren-ground caribou herds, and to develop decision-support tools (ALCES Online). • *Wek'èezhìı Renewable Resources Board* *Jody Pellissey* *jpellissey@wrrb.ca* •	Project Year – 6 of 6 Region - Wek'èezhìi Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: GNWT, GRRB, SRRB, WMAC, WRRB	Project results will support decision-making and improve the capacity of northern decision-makers to test management strategies and explore research questions and drivers of barren-ground caribou population dynamics.
3. **Community-defined and monitored indicators of recovery**	Project Year – 3 of 3	This project will identify and document

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in barren-ground caribou (CIMP239-BG) To strengthen the role of Traditional Knowledge and community-based sampling in understanding caribou ecology and guiding evidence-based, pro-active stewardship actions for caribou populations. To identify the species of herpes and pestiviruses that infect caribou and how these viruses may affect caribou populations. • *University Of Calgary* *Susan Kutz* *skutz@ucalgary.ca*	Region – Dehcho, Sahtú, Inuvialuit Type – Traditional Knowledge, Science Decision-makers who may use results: KAA, ACCWM, GNWT, WRRB, SRRB, GRRB, ECCC	community-defined health indicators of the Bluenose East caribou herd, compare them to decreasing herds and establish benchmarks. It will also improve understanding of the viruses that affect caribou and their influence on survival and reproduction. Results will contribute to the development of a management tool to assess population status using community-defined indicators and benchmarks.
4. **Contaminants, caribou epigenetics and genomic health (CIMP240-BG)** To explore relationships between contaminants in caribou and the sublethal effects that may affect survival, reproduction and recruitment. • *McGill University* *Rowan Barrett* *Rowan.barrett@mcgill.ca*	Project Year – 3 of 3 Region – North/South Slave, Gwich'in Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: VGG, CIRNAC, GNWT, GRRB, SRRB, WMAC, WRRB	Using genomic tools, this project will provide information on contaminants that may be influencing gene expression linked to negative outcomes for reproduction and survival.
5. **Comparative analysis of factors affecting caribou survival patterns (CIMP241-BG)** To describe barren-ground caribou survival rates and how they may vary across ranges, years and seasons. • *State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry* *Chloe Beaupré/ Eliezer Gurarie* *cbeaupre@esf.edu / egurarie@esf.edu*	Project Year – 3 of 3 Region – All NWT Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: WRRB, TG, GNWT, BCWG	Project results will provide insights into factors influencing survival to better understand demographic trends regionally. Findings may help assess the effectiveness of the Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone and the wolf management program.

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6. **Using animal-borne sensors and acoustic recording units to monitor caribou behaviour, insect harassment and sound disturbance (CIMP242-BG)** To study disturbance effects on barren-ground caribou caused by insect activity and human-made noise, by adding sound recorders and accelerometers to collars. • *State University of New York, College of Environmental Science and Forestry* *Megan Perra / Eliezer Gurarie* *Mperra@syr.edu / egurarie@esf.edu*	Project Year – 3 of 3 Region – North/South Slave, Sahtú, Wek'èezhìi Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: NSMA, YKDFN, GNWT, WRRB, SRRB, GRRB, MVEIRB, EMAB, IEMA, TG	Understanding population-level effects of insect harassment and sound disturbance will support managers' ability to predict calf survival rates and population trends. Findings will inform land-use decisions and may support efforts to monitor and mitigate human-made sound impacts on caribou.
7. **North Slave Métis Alliance Winter Road Monitoring Program (CIMP243-BG)** To quantify spatial and temporal relationships between caribou occurrence and mortality, and disturbance factors, along the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road. • *North Slave Métis Alliance* *Noah Johnson* *noah.johnson@nsma.net or lands@nsma.net*	Project Year – 3 of 3 Region – North Slave Type – Traditional Knowledge Decision-makers who may use results: NSMA, GNWT, BCWG, CGC, MVLWB, WLWB, WRRB	This project will establish a monitoring baseline along the Tibbitt to Contwoyto Winter Road from a Métis perspective. The community-led and implemented project builds capacity and addresses community concerns.

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8. **Documenting Traditional Knowledge on Boreal Caribou in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region (CIMP244)** To document Traditional Knowledge on boreal caribou and their habitat and to identify areas important for supporting management decisions. • *GNWT – Environment and Climate Change* *Lisa Worthington* *lisa_worthington@gov.nt.ca*	Project Year – 2 of 2 Region - Inuvialuit Type – Traditional Knowledge Decision-makers who may use results: IGC, IRC, EIRB, WMAC-NWT, HTC's, ECCC, GNWT	The results of this project will directly inform the development of the Inuvialuit Boreal Caribou Range Plan.
9. **Using Traditional Knowledge and camera-trapping to understand the relationship between boreal caribou and the Deninu Kue First Nation in response to a changing environment (CIMP245)** To understand how the relationship between the DKFN people and boreal caribou has changed over time due to habitat changes. • *LGL Limited for Deninu Kue First Nation* *Marc d'Entremont* *mdentremont@lgl.com or* *lands@dkfn.ca*	Project Year – 2 of 3 Region – North Slave Type – Traditional Knowledge Decision-makers who may use results: DKFN, Tech Metals Ltd., Pine Point Mining Ltd., GNWT, MVEIRB	Project results will support DKFN's involvement in the assessment of proposed and future exploration and development projects, including the proposed Pine Point Mine. They will also inform iterations of the southern NWT boreal caribou regional range plan.
10. **Participatory monitoring of wildlife community responses to landscape change in the South Slave (CIMP246)** To document and analyze occurrence data for wildlife communities, including boreal caribou. • *GNWT – Environment and Climate Change* *Brad Woodworth* *Brad_Woodworth@gov.nt.ca*	Project Year – 2 of 3 Region – South Slave Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: FSMC, SLFN, NWTMN, GNWT, ECCC, PC, MVEIRB	Project results will improve understanding of both cumulative impacts and baseline conditions. Findings will contribute to conservation and management decisions, including species at risk, recovery strategies and management plans.

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11. **Environmental and human factors that best predict boreal caribou survival and population trends in the NWT (CIMP247)** To test the suitability of the national recovery strategy framework for boreal caribou in the NWT and investigate which factors have the greatest impact on survival. • *GNWT – Environment & Climate Change* *James Hodson* *James_hodson@gov.nt.ca*	Project Year – 2 of 3 Region - North/South Slave, Dehcho, Wek'èezhìi Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: IGIOs, MVEIRB, MVLWB, ECCC, GNWT	Project results may be used to propose new NWT-specific models and management actions that best predict boreal caribou adult female and calf survival. These updated parameters will support habitat management for self-sustaining boreal caribou populations.
12. **Forecasting potential habitat and range expansions or retractions of boreal and barren-ground caribou under changing climate, wildfire, anthropogenic disturbance, permafrost thaw, and vegetation (CIMP256)** To forecast range changes of boreal and barren-ground caribou under four major stressors — anthropogenic disturbance, climate change, wildfire, and permafrost thaw — and assess cumulative impacts at decadal intervals through 2075. • *Natural Resources Canada* *Eliot McIntire* *eliot.mcintire@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca*	Project Year – 1of 3 Region – All NWT Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: GNWT, GRRB, SRRB, WRRB, TG, NSMA, NWTMN, DFN, DRRC	This project will inform federal and territorial recovery strategies, range and management plans, and other land use planning initiatives for both boreal caribou and barren-ground caribou.
Water Projects		
13. **How are changes on the land affecting water resources around Fort Good Hope and Ts'ude Niline Tuyeta? (CIMP215)** To build on current research to quantify the cumulative impacts of stressors on	Project Year – 6 of 6 Region - Sahtú Type – Science Decision-makers who	Project results will help identify and understand permafrost degradation trends and anticipate cumulative impacts of climate warming and anthropogenic (human-

Purpose	Current Status	Intended Outcome
key ecosystem components by monitoring and predicting the response of aquatic ecosystems to environmental changes. • *Institut national de la recherche scientifique* *Jerome Comte* *Jerome.Comte@inrs.com*	may use results: KGF, KGG, FGHRRC, SLWB, GNWT	caused) disturbances on aquatic health. Results will be provided for consideration in co-management resource decisions.
14. **Fort Smith Métis Council Ecotoxicology and Monitoring of Cumulative Effects on the Slave River (CIMP232)** To develop an aquatic monitoring program along the Slave River. • *Fort Smith Métis Council* *Jon McDonald* *fieldworker@fortsmithmetis.ca*	Project Year – 3 of 3 Region – South Slave Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: FSMC, NWTMN, GNWT, Town of Fort Smith	This project will provide baseline data and fill knowledge gaps. The community-led and implemented project will build capacity and answer community concerns.
15. **Mapping and Monitoring Permafrost with Sahtú Communities (CIMP233)** To characterize surficial geology and permafrost conditions to better understand the impacts of permafrost thaw on water quality associated with terrain variability. • *NWT Geological Survey* *Ashley Rudy* *Ashley_rudy@gov.nt.ca*	Project Year – 3 of 3 Region – Sahtú Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: KGF, TMB, FGHRRC, GNWT	This project provides surficial geology and permafrost terrain sensitivity maps to support community land use planning. Results will help our understanding of permafrost variability in the Sahtú region.
16. **Cumulative effects assessment in the Liard and Petitot River Basins (CIMP236)** To develop an improved historical and current understanding of aquatic ecosystem health in the Liard River and Fisherman Lake area. • *Acho Dene Koe First Nation*	Project Year – 3 of 3 Region - Dehcho Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: ADKFN, GNWT	This project will improve understanding of current and historical conditions of key waterbodies within Acho Dene Koe territory and build community capacity to establish a continuous monitoring program.

Purpose	Current Status	Intended Outcome
Mark MacDougall *lands@adkfirstnation.ca*		
17. **Assessing the impact of aerator installation on the chemical and biological recovery of Frame Lake (CIMP237)** To investigate the effects of aerator installation on Frame Lake's chemical and biological recovery. • *Aurora Research Institute* *Mike Palmer* *mpalmer@auroracollege.nt.ca*	Project Year – 3 of 3 Region – North Slave Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: YKDFN, NSMA, GNWT, City of YK, MVLWB	This project is testing whether aeration improves biological and chemical conditions as well as diversity at lower trophic levels. If successful, there are management implications for other regional lakes.
18. **Lake ice processes – fundamental for assessing ice road climate risks and vulnerability under current and future warming (CIMP238)** To monitor lake water and ice using real-time monitoring systems and satellite data to determine how climate change will affect ice conditions and ice road safety in the NWT. • *Wilfrid Laurier University* *Homa Kheyrollah Pour* *hpour@wlu.ca*	Project Year – 3 of 3 Region – North/South Slave, Sahtú Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: LKDFN, NSMA, DGG, ECCC, GNWT, ARI	Project results will help develop user-friendly model to predict lake ice conditions and ice road safety risks under a warming climate.
19. **Impacts of wildfire on runoff response and downstream water chemistry in a region with rapid permafrost loss (CIMP249)** To assess how wildfires and permafrost thaw affect water resources in the Dehcho and South Slave regions. • *University of Alberta* *David Olefeldt* *olefeldt@ualberta.ca*	Project Year – 2 of 3 Region – North/South Slave, Dehcho Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: LKFN, Dehcho AAROM, KFN, MVLWB, GNWT	This project will work at a local peatland scale to understand controlling processes, and a larger catchment scale to understand broader impacts. The water quality analyses will help inform decisions related to water flow and chemistry for food and water security, as well as flood risk management.
20. **Wildfires and contaminated**	Project Year – 2 of 3	This project will examine

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landscapes: The impact of wildfire on the mobility, transport and fate of metal(loids) in a subarctic shield landscape (CIMP250) To investigate how wildfire influences metal and metalloid stability in contaminated and pristine environments. • *Aurora Research Institute* *Mike Palmer* *mpalmer@auroracollege.nt.ca*	Region – North/South Slave Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: YKDFN, TG, GNWT, MVEIRB, MVLWB	the cumulative impacts of wildfire and legacy mining contamination on surface water and the potential downstream effects on Great Slave Lake. Project results will help inform how environmental baselines are changing with increased severity and frequency of wildfire.
21. **Science and management of blue-green algal (cyanobacteria) blooms in Sambaa K'e (CIMP251)** To investigate how climate factors and municipal wastewater influence nutrients and cyanobacteria in Sambaa K'e. • *York University* *Jennifer Korosi* *jkorosi@yorku.ca* mailto:heidi.swanson@uwaterloo.ca	Project Year – 2 of 3 Region - Dehcho Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: SKFN, Dehcho AAROM, DFN, GNWT, MVLWB	This project will improve understanding linkages between cyanobacteria blooms and nutrient cycling, providing new baseline data on discharge and nutrient loading in the Island River.
22. **Great Bear Lake Water Quality Monitoring (CIMP254)** To study the effects of thawing permafrost and legacy sewage on water quality in Great Bear Lake. • *Wilfrid Laurier University* *Homa Kheyrollah Pour* *hpour@wlu.ca*	Project Year – 1 of 3 Region – Sahtú Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: DGG, DRRC, DFO, GNWT	This project will improve understanding of how climate and historical contaminants influence water quality and carbon and nutrient cycling in thawing permafrost regions.
23. **NWT Streams and Rivers of the future: How permafrost thaw and groundwater activation are changing water resources (CIMP255)** To study how permafrost thaw affects runoff and streamflow in discontinuous	Project Year – 1 of 3 Region – North/South Slave Type – Science Decision-makers who	Project results will improve streamflow prediction and understanding at the catchment scale, contributing to flood mapping and water management.

Purpose	Current Status	Intended Outcome
permafrost regions. • *Queen's University* *Stephanie Wright* *stephanie.wright@queensu.ca*	may use results: DFN, ECCC, GNWT, LKFN, MVLWB, NWTCG, NRCan, SKFN, TG, WRRB	

	Fish Projects	

Purpose	Current Status	Intended Outcome
24. **Application of habitat suitability modeling and mapping to the development of Great Slave Lake Fisheries Management Strategies (CIMP132)** To determine the quality and quantity of essential habitats needed for commercially important Lake Whitefish populations in the main basin of Great Slave Lake. • *Fisheries and Oceans Canada* *Xinhua Zhu* *Xinhua.zhu@dfo-mpo.gc.ca*	Project Year – 14 of 15 Main Topic – Fish, Water Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: DFO	This project will produce habitat maps outlining the location, quality, and quantity of suitable habitats for Lake Whitefish in Great Slave Lake. Results will support the Great Slave Lake Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) and contribute to an Ecosystem-based Approach to Fisheries Management (EAFM) framework.
25. **Understanding and predicting spatial variability in fish mercury levels in the Dehcho region lakes (CIMP154)** To understand the factors that affect the safety and quality of key subsistence fish species and to anticipate how environmental change could influence mercury concentrations and fish health. • *University of Waterloo* *Heidi Swanson* *heidi.swanson@uwaterloo.ca*	Project Year – 13 of 18 Region - Dehcho Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: DFN, GNWT	This project will help identify priority variables and lake systems for mercury monitoring and determine which areas are are most vulnerable to changes that increase mercury concentrations in fish. The findings will help communities identify safe subsistence fishing locations and better understand the impacts of environmental change on fish health.
26. **Community-Based Monitoring of Cumulative Impacts to Dolly Varden Char Habitat within the Gwich'in Settlement Area**	Project Year – 1 of 3 Region – Gwich'in	Project results will support a predictive understanding of cumulative threats to habitat and inform

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(CIMP253) To develop a community-based monitoring program to identify environmental changes affecting Dolly Varden distribution and/or abundance. • *Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board* *David Hamilton* *Alissa Sallans* *dhamilton@grrb.nt.ca* *asallans@grrb.nt.ca*	Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: GRRB, GTC, RRCs, RRWG, IFMP SC, DFO	development of a monitoring protocol for use by Guardian programs or other community-led monitoring initiatives. This will contribute to longer-term data on cumulative impacts.
Traditional Knowledge Collection Projects		
27. **North Slave Métis: Understanding the Past and Planning for the Future (CIMP248)** To document NSMA Traditional Knowledge of environmental change and to restructure a database for use in decision-making. • *North Slave Métis Alliance* *Jessica Smart* *Jessica.smart@nsma.net or* *lands@nsma.net*	Project Year – 2 of 3 Region – North Slave Type – Traditional Knowledge Decision-makers who may use results: NSMA, GNWT, IGIOs, CGC, WRRB, PC, CIRNAC	This project will provide an understanding of how changes to the land have impacted NSMA members' lives, livelihoods, and relationships with the land and one another. Results will support NSMA decision-making related to resource management, mining development and wildlife.
28. **Revisiting the Arctic Borderlands Dataset: Traditional Knowledge of Weather and its Impacts on the Land and Harvesting (CIMP252)** To use and share a long-term Arctic Borderlands Dataset to inform decision-making and honour the knowledge-sharing ethic of Gwich'in participants. • *Gwich'in Tribal Council* *Sharon Snowshoe* *Kristi Benson* *ssnowshoe@gwichin.nt.ca* *kbenson@gwichin.nt.ca*	Project Year – 1 of 2 Region – Gwich'in Type – Traditional Knowledge Decision-makers who may use results: GTC, GSCI, GRRB	This project will support increased understanding of cumulative impacts by identifying specific, actionable ways in which climate change is affecting species import to the Gwich'in. Final reports, trend report analyses and datasets will be made publicly available for use by resource managers, developers, and researchers.

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29. **Gathering Métis Indigenous Knowledge on the Cumulative Impacts of Industrial Activities and Climate Change on the Slave River and Great Slave Lake Ecosystems (CIMP257)** To investigate and document environmental changes, cultural impacts and adaptation strategies related to industrial development and climate change, as observed by Métis knowledge holders. • *Northwest Territory Métis Nation Robbie Gray* robert.gray@nwtmetis.ca	Project Year – 1 of 2 Region – North/South Slave Type – Traditional Knowledge Decision-makers who may use results: NWTMN, FSMC, FRMG, HRMGC, MRRB, GNWT	The project seeks to support sustainable environmental management and policy development within the traditional territory of the Northwest Territory Métis Nation.

Listed Decision-maker acronyms:

AAROM	Aboriginal Aquatic Resource and Oceans Management
ACCWM	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management
ADKFN	Acho Dene Koe First Nation
ARI	Aurora Research Institute
BCWG	Bathurst Caribou Working Group
CGC	Caribou Guardians Coalition
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
DFN	Dehcho First Nations
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DGG	Délı̨nę Got'ine Government
DRRC	Délı̨nę Renewable Resources Council
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
EIRB	Environmental Impact Review Board
EMAB	Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board
FGHRRC	Fort Good Hope Renewable Resources Council
FRMG	Fort Resolution Métis Government
FSMC	Fort Smith Métis Council
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GRRB	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
GSCI	Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute
GTC	Gwich'in Tribal Council

HRMGC	Hay River Métis Government Council
HTC's	Hunter's and Trapper's Committees
IEMA	Independent Environmental Monitoring Agency
IFMPSC	Integrated Fisheries Management Plan Steering Committee
IGC	Inuvialuit Game Council
IGIOs	Indigenous Governments and Indigenous Organizations
IRC	Inuvialuit Regional Corporation
KAA	Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association
KFN	Kátł'odeeche First Nation
KGF	K'áhshó Got'ine Foundation
KGG	K'áhshó Got'ı̨nę Guardians
LKDFN	Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation
LKFN	Łíídlı̨ı̨ Kų́ę́ First Nation
MRRB	Mackenzie River Basin Board
MVEIRB	Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board
MVLWB	Mackenzie Valley Land and Water Board
NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
NSMA	North Slave Métis Alliance
NWTCG	Northwest Territories Centre for Geomatics
NWTMN	Northwest Territory Métis Nation
PC	Parks Canada
RRC's	Renewable Resources Councils
RRWG	Rat River Working Group
SKFN	Sambaa K'e First Nation
SLFN	Smith's Landing First Nation
SLWB	Sahtú Land and Water Board
SRRB	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
TG	Tłı̨chǫ Government
TMB	Tuyeta Management Board
VGG	Vuntut Gwitchin Government
WLWB	Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board
WMAC	Wildlife Management Advisory Council
WRRB	Wek'éezhìi Renewable Resources Board
YKDFN	Yellowknives Dene First Nation