



FACT SHEET

NWT CIMP PROJECTS (2026-27)

Introduction:

The Northwest Territories Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program (NWT CIMP) currently supports 26 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.

For the second time, NWT CIMP is collaborating with Polar Knowledge Canada (POLAR). This collaborative effort helps to understand cumulative impacts from road development on caribou, water and fish to inform best practices for mitigating these impacts. This new knowledge and information will provide guidance for ongoing environmental assessments and regulatory processes involving road construction in the NWT. The six projects receiving these funds are noted in **brown** font and with a “RDI” designation at the end of their CIMP number. The *Road Development Impacts initiative* is in addition to NWT CIMP’s regular funding for projects focusing on caribou, water or fish.

Approximately \$1.9 million is allocated in 2026/27 to support the 26 projects. This amount includes \$600,000 from POLAR, allocated towards the six Road Development Impact (RDI) initiative projects. It also includes \$375,000 in regular NWT CIMP funding distributed towards new caribou, water and fish projects.

Of the 26 funded projects,

- six are Traditional Knowledge-focused
- seventeen are science-focused
- three combine Traditional Knowledge and science

The following table provides a brief description and intended outcome of NWT CIMP projects for the 2026/27 fiscal year. Overall,

- twelve projects are starting
- five projects are mid-term
- nine projects are in the final year

Table 1. Purpose, status and intended outcomes of 2026-27 NWT CIMP funded projects

Purpose	Current Status	Intended Outcome
Caribou Projects		
1. Ekwò Nàxoèhdee K'è – Boots on the Ground (CIMP94) To monitor the Kokètì ekwò (Bathurst ekwò herd) and Sahtì ekwò (Bluenose East ekwò herd) on their summer and fall range. In addition, ekwò harvest monitoring and assessment of annual harvest levels of the Kokètì ekwò, Sahtì ekwò and Beverly ekwò herds that Tìchq depend on to practice their culture, language, and way of life will be incorporated. <i>Tìchq Government</i> <i>Petter Jacobsen</i> petterfjacobsen@gmail.com	Project Year – 17 of 19 Region - Wek'èezhìi Type – Traditional Knowledge Decision-makers who may use results: TG, WRRB, GNWT	This project continues to provide 'on-the-land' results directly to decision-making processes regarding the Bathurst caribou herd and their habitat, through several caribou management initiatives.
2. Advancing community-defined indicators of barren-ground caribou: Phase 2 (CIMP239) To provide a framework and associated tools that will create a clear, shared basis for interpreting change in caribou health and caribou environment. <i>University Of Calgary</i> <i>Susan Kutz</i> skutz@ucalgary.ca	Project Year – 4 of 6 Region – Sahtú, Wek'èezhii Type – Science & Traditional Knowledge Decision-makers who may use results: TG, DRRC, ACCWM, GNWT, WRRB	Using Traditional Knowledge and community-based sampling, project results will provide better tools to understand and mitigate cumulative impacts on Bluenose-East caribou across their range.
3. Using Traditional Knowledge and camera-trapping to understand the relationship between boreal caribou and the Deninu Kúé First Nation in response to a changing environment (CIMP245) To understand how the relationship between the DKFN people and boreal	Project Year – 3 of 3 Region – North Slave Type – Traditional Knowledge Decision-makers who may use results:	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

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caribou has changed over time due to habitat changes. <i>LGL Limited for Deninu K'ue First Nation</i> Marc d'Entremont mdentremont@lgl.com or lands@dkfn.ca	DKFN, Tech Metals Ltd., Pine Point Mining Ltd., GNWT, MVEIRB	the southern NWT boreal caribou regional range plan.
4. 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. <i>GNWT – Environment and Climate Change</i> Brad Woodworth Brad.Woodworth@gov.nt.ca	Project Year – 3 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.
5. 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. <i>GNWT – Environment & Climate Change</i> James Hodson James.hodson@gov.nt.ca	Project Year – 3 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.
6. 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)	Project Year – 2 of 3 Region – All NWT Type – Science Decision-makers who	This project will inform federal and territorial recovery strategies, range and management plans, and other land use planning initiatives for both boreal caribou and

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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. University of British Columbia Eliot McIntire eliot.mcintire@nrcan-rncan.gc.ca	may use results: GNWT, GRRB, SRRB, WRRB, TG, NSMA, NWTMN, DFN, DRRC	barren-ground caribou.
7. NSMA Winter Road Caribou Monitoring Program- A Guardian-led initiative to investigate cumulative impacts to barren-ground caribou in the NWT (CIMP258-RDI) To collect biological samples to explore sex and age distribution as well as health metrics of harvested caribou. To integrate anthropogenic sound models with caribou movement data to assess whether road traffic is altering caribou movements. North Slave Métis Alliance Orna Phelan orna.phelan@nsma.net	Project Year – 1of 3 Region – North/South Slave Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: NSMA, IGIOs, WRRB, BQCMB, GNWT	Project results will directly support decision-making of cumulative impacts on barren-ground caribou through contributing to assessments of new development proposals such as the Arctic Economic and Security Corridor.
8. Ekwò Harvest Monitoring Program (CIMP259-RDI) To expand the existing program by including: a mobile monitoring camp, enhanced caribou behavioural observations in relation to winter road conditions and traffic, expanded documentation of predator activity, and the collection of biological samples. Tłıchǫ Government Stephanie Behrens Stephanie.behrens@tliche.ca	Project Year – 1of 3 Region – Wek’èezhìi Type – Traditional Knowledge Decision-makers who may use results: TG, WRRB, BQCMB, BCAC, ACCWM	From a Traditional Knowledge perspective, project results will strengthen understanding of how winter road, traffic level, environmental conditions, predation and harvest pressures interact to affect ekwò (barren-ground caribou) for informed decision-making.

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9. Understanding and predicting the impacts of roads on barren-ground caribou in the NWT (CIMP260-RDI) To provide a clear and detailed assessment of how current and proposed roads affect migratory caribou. To predict the impacts of proposed roads and identify effective mitigations strategies. <i>Laval University</i> <i>Dr. Steeve D. Côté</i> <i>Dr. Benjamin Larue</i> benjamin.larue.1@ulaval.ca	Project Year – 1 of 3 Region – Multiple Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: ACCWM, BCAC, WRRB, GRRB, TG, NSMA, YKDFN, EMAB, GNWT	Project results will contribute to management decisions including the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan and providing information relevant to environmental assessments such as the Arctic Economic and Security Corridor.
Water Projects		
10. 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. <i>University of Alberta</i> <i>David Olefeldt</i> olefeldt@ualberta.ca	Project Year – 3 of 3 Region – North/South Slave, Dehcho Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: LKFN, Dehcho AAROM, KFN, MVLWB, GNWT	Project results will improve understanding of controlling processes, and the 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.
11. Wildfires and contaminated landscapes: The impact of wildfire on the mobility, transport and fate of metal(oids) in a subarctic shield landscape (CIMP250) To investigate how wildfire influences metal and metalloid stability in contaminated and pristine environments.	Project Year – 3 of 3 Region – North/South Slave Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: YKDFN, TG, GNWT, MVEIRB, MVLWB	Project results will help inform how environmental baselines of surface water near legacy mining contamination are changing with increased severity and frequency of wildfire.

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<i>Aurora Research Institute</i> <i>Mike Palmer</i> mpalmer@auroracollege.nt.ca		
12. 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. <i>York University</i> <i>Jennifer Korosi</i> jkorosi@yorku.ca	Project Year – 3 of 3 Region - Dehcho Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: SKFN, Dehcho AAROM, DFN, GNWT, MVLWB	Project results will improve understanding linkages between cyanobacteria blooms and nutrient cycling, providing new baseline data on discharge and nutrient loading in the Island River.
13. Great Bear Lake Water Quality Monitoring (CIMP254) To study the effects of thawing permafrost and legacy sewage on water quality in Great Bear Lake. <i>Wilfrid Laurier University</i> <i>Homa Kheyrollah Pour</i> hpour@wlu.ca	Project Year – 2 of 3 Region – Sahtú Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: DGG, DRRC, DFO, GNWT	Project results will improve understanding of how climate and historical contaminants influence water quality and carbon and nutrient cycling in thawing permafrost regions.
14. 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 permafrost regions. <i>Queen's University</i> <i>Stephanie Wright</i> stephanie.wright@queensu.ca	Project Year – 2 of 3 Region – North/South Slave Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: DFN, ECCC, GNWT, LKFN, MVLWB, NWTCG, NRCan, SKFN, TG, WRRB	Project results will improve streamflow prediction and understanding at the catchment scale, contributing to flood mapping and water management.
15. Cumulative Impacts of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway/Climate Change on Water Quality, Fish, and Fish Habitat (CIMP261-RDI)	Project Year – 1 of 3 Region – Gwich'in, Inuvialuit	Project results will improve understanding from the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway,

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To quantify and document the impact of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway on water quality, fish and fish habitat in the Husky Lakes drainage. <i>Fisheries Joint Management Committee</i> <i>Lauren Aarts</i> Fjmc-rb@jointsec.nt.ca	Type – Science & Traditional Knowledge Decision-makers who may use results: FJMC, DFO, GNWT	climate change and range expansion of beavers on water quality, fish and fish habitat. Products will help decision-makers to prioritize short and long-term remediation of issues on the Highway.
16. Have erosion mitigation measures been effective for lake and stream ecosystems along the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway affected by multiple stressors? (CIMP262-RDI) To evaluate how erosion mitigation measures and stressors such as permafrost thaw are affecting water quality in streams and lakes adjacent to the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway. To evaluate how invertebrate and fish communities are affected by water quality changes associated with erosion, climate change, and permafrost thaw. <i>Wilfrid Laurier University</i> <i>Derek Gray</i> dgray@wlu.ca	Project Year – 1 of 3 Region – Inuvialuit Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: THTC, IHTC, IGC, FJMC, ILA, MVLWB, GNWT	Project results will inform Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway decision-making, such as mitigation measures, and improve understanding of environmental change to better protect ecologically or culturally significant bodies of water.
17. Impacts of road development in permafrost landscapes on water quality (CIMP263-RDI) To enhance existing monitoring partnerships, apply existing datasets and develop new ones to examine road-permafrost interactions, and to assess the influence on water flow and quality along the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway. <i>Aurora College</i> <i>Erika Hille</i>	Project Year – 1 of 3 Region – Inuvialuit Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: IJS, ILA, ARI, Imaryuk Monitors, GNWT	Project results will help inform future planning, design and maintenance of northern roads, and environmental assessments and may assist with identifying mitigation needs of the Inuvik-Tuktoyaktuk Highway.

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Erika.Hille@auroracollege.ca		
18. Sediments as archives to understand long-term changes in freshwater ecosystems of the Mackenzie River Basin (CIMP264) To identify long-term biochemical changes at freshwater sites selected by Gwich'in and Sahtú communities. To evaluate relationships between thermal properties at key sites and levels of metal and metalloid contaminants. Environment and Climate Change Canada Kirsty Gurney kirsty.gurney@ec.gc.ca	Project Year – 1 of 3 Region – Gwich'in, Sahtú Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: GRRB, SRRB, GLWB, SLWB, GLUPB, SLUPB, GNWT	Project results will improve understanding of the vulnerability and resiliency to NWT lake conditions for decision-making and developing strategies to mitigate water sustainability pressures.
19. Transforming Cyanobacterial and Cyanotoxin Research and Monitoring in the Canadian North, a partnership with Indigenous communities (CIMP267) To examine the cumulative impacts of increased nutrients from diverse sources and climate change on Great Slave Lake by characterizing cyanobacterial and harmful algal blooms. Environment and Climate Change Canada Arthur Zastepa arthur.zastepa@ec.gc.ca	Project Year – 1 of 3 Region – North/South Slave Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: NSMA, Akaitcho AAROM, Dehcho AAROM, GNWT	Project results will provide a baseline from which changes in cyanobacterial and harmful algal blooms can be tracked in response to anticipated development, environmental change and management actions.
Fish Projects		
20. Understanding and predicting spatial variability in fish mercury levels in the Dehcho region lakes (CIMP154)	Project Year – 14 of 18 Region - Dehcho	Project results are determining areas that are most vulnerable to changes that increase

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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. • <i>Wilfred Laurier University</i> <i>Heidi Swanson</i> hswanson@wlu.ca	Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: DFN, Dehcho AAROM, GNWT	mercury concentrations in fish, and are helping to better understand the impacts of environmental change on fish health.
21. Community-Based Monitoring of Cumulative Impacts to Dolly Varden Char Habitat within the Gwich'in Settlement Area (CIMP253) To develop a community-based monitoring program to identify environmental changes affecting Dolly Varden distribution and/or abundance. • <i>Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board</i> <i>Leigh-Ann William-Jones</i> lwilliamsjones@grrb.nt.ca	Project Year – 2 of 3 Region – Gwich'in Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: GRRB, GTC, RRCs, RRWG, IFMP SC, DFO	Project results will support a predictive understanding of cumulative threats to fish habitat and inform development of a monitoring protocol for use by Guardian programs or other community-led monitoring initiatives.
22. Developing reference points that reflect declining productivity in Arctic subsistence fisheries (CIMP265) To document Traditional Knowledge related to past Dolly Varden harvest and to evaluate harvest control strategies that can be used to guide annual harvest decisions. • <i>Simon Fraser University</i> <i>Brett van Poorten</i> Brett_van_poorten@sfu.ca	Project Year – 1 of 3 Region – Inuvialuit, Gwich'in Type – Science & Traditional Knowledge Decision-makers who may use results: RRWG (FJMC, GRRB, DFO)	Project results will improve understanding of how Rat River Dolly Varden has likely changed and inform long-term harvest strategies to maintain the fisheries over future fluctuations.
23. Linking Lake Trout genetics and contaminants to support fishery stewardship and enhance food security in Great Slave Lake (CIMP266)	Project Year – 1 of 3 Region – North/South Slave, Dehcho	Project results will address community concerns regarding Lake Trout contamination risks, support local fishery

Purpose	Current Status	Intended Outcome
To examine cumulative impacts of climate warming and mercury on populations of Lake Trout in Great Slave Lake. Concordia University Dylan Fraser dylan.fraser@concordia.ca	Type – Science Decision-makers who may use results: KFN, DKFN, DFN, DFO, GNWT	stewardship of Lake Trout populations, and raise awareness of genetic diversity for climate change adaptation. This information will help commercial, recreational and subsistence fisheries management decision-making, including possible revisions to human consumption guidelines related to mercury.
Traditional Knowledge Projects		
24. 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 – 3 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.
25. 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 Kristi Benson kbenson@gwichin.nt.ca	Project Year – 2 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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26. 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 Lacey Miersch or Lorne Napier lands@nwtmetis.ca	Project Year – 2 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
ARI	Aurora Research Institute
BCAC	Bathurst Caribou Advisory Committee
BQCMB	Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board
CGC	Caribou Guardians Coalition
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
DFN	Dehcho First Nations
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada
DGG	Déłıne Got'ıne Government
DRRC	Déłıne Renewable Resources Council
DKFN	Deninu Kųé First Nation
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
EMAB	Environmental Monitoring Advisory Board
FJMC	Fisheries Joint Management Committee
FRMG	Fort Resolution Métis Government
FSMC	Fort Smith Métis Council
GNWT	Government of the Northwest Territories
GLWB	Gwich'in Land and Water Board
GLUPB	Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board
GRRB	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
GSCI	Gwich'in Social and Cultural Institute
GTC	Gwich'in Tribal Council

HRMGC	Hay River Métis Government Council
HTCs	Hunters and Trappers Committees
IGC	Inuvialuit Game Council
IJS	Inuvialuit Joint Secretariat
ILA	Inuvialuit Land Administration
IGIOs	Indigenous Governments and Indigenous Organizations
IHTC	Inuvik Hunters and Trappers Committee
KFN	Kátł'odeeche First Nation
LKDFN	Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation
LKFN	Łı́ı́ı́ı́ Kúę 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
RRCs	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
SLUPB	Sahtú Land Use Planning Board
SRRB	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
TG	Tłı̨chǫ Government
THTC	Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee
WLWB	Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board
WMAC	Wildlife Management Advisory Council
WRRB	Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
YKDFN	Yellowknives Dene First Nation