

NWT CIMP Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Ideas

NWT CIMP collects cumulative impact monitoring and research information to inform northern resource management decision-making. The program focuses on three valued components: caribou, water and fish. Please see the monitoring and research Blueprints for each valued component's priorities. Many of NWT CIMP's funded projects are successful because they value both scientific data and Traditional Knowledge. For all program information, visit our [website](#).

NWT CIMP places a high priority on the use of Traditional Knowledge in cumulative impact monitoring and research. The goal is to apply what we learn from Traditional Knowledge to inform northern resource management decision-making. For Traditional Knowledge funded projects, communities choose the focus of projects they propose.

Who informs the Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Ideas document?

This document was developed based on input provided by our Indigenous NWT CIMP Steering Committee partners and supported by the full Steering Committee.

NWT CIMP's Definition

Traditional Knowledge - Facts, information, skills, values, and beliefs which have been acquired through experience, observations or by oral means from the land or from spiritual teachings and handed down through generations. Where possible, knowledge will be referred to using the preferred terminology of the knowledge holder or community.

NWT CIMP's Key Principles

NWT CIMP's principles guide us in meeting our mandate and to inform project funding allocation. Important principles for applicants to consider are:

- Traditional Knowledge and scientific knowledge are equally important sources of monitoring information and data.
- Community-based monitoring and capacity-building are supported in monitoring cumulative impacts.
- Monitoring cumulative impacts that are **relevant to resource management decisions** is a key focus.

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We encourage projects to work with communities, Indigenous organizations, Elders, and youth to:

- engage and build community-capacity
- promote strong and self-sustaining communities
- involve Elders and Traditional Knowledge holders in decision-making
- help preserve and pass down Traditional Knowledge to future generations
- encourage young people to build careers related to the environment where their work will contribute to long-term monitoring.

How: Approach(es)

NWT CIMP supports several monitoring and research approaches including:

- Gathering and reviewing *existing* information;
- Collecting and analyzing *new* information and data, especially where a knowledge gap relevant to a resource management decision has been identified; and,
- Community-led collection, review and documentation of Traditional Knowledge, including people-environment relationships.

Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Ideas may include:

- Relationships between caribou, water and fish and other parts of the environment.
- How human activities such as mining, affect caribou, water and fish and peoples' connections to the land.
- Providing Traditional Knowledge to specific resource management decision-making.

- **Caribou**
 - Caribou-people relationships and how they are changing.
 - Health, range, habitat, vegetation, predation, behaviours, how climate change is impacting these, and how they interact.
 - Traditional Knowledge on harvest, camp, trail and other important habitat locations.

- **Water**
 - Water-people relationships and how they are changing.
 - Cultural indicators of water, identification of important water bodies, how climate change is impacting these, and how these interact

- **Fish**
 - Fish-people relationships and how they are changing.
 - Fish health, habitat use, distribution patterns and changes in fish species over time and with climate change, and how these interact.

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