



## Traditional Knowledge Monitoring Ideas

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NWT CIMP collects cumulative impact monitoring and research information to inform northern 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 more information, visit our Action Plan and Funding Guides at [www.nwtcimp.ca](http://www.nwtcimp.ca).

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

### 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 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 land and water use decisions** is a strong focus.

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 Indigenous 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.

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### **How: Approach(es)**

NWT CIMP supports several monitoring and research approaches including:

- Gathering and reviewing *existing* monitoring or research information;
- Collecting and analyzing *new* information and data, especially where a knowledge gap has been identified; and,
- Community-led collection, review and documentation of traditional knowledge, including people-environment relationships.

### **Ideas may include:**

- Connections between caribou, water and fish and other parts of the environment.
- How large-scale human activities such as mining, affect caribou, water and fish and peoples' connections to the land.
- How relationships are affected between areas of the environment.
- Ways to incorporate traditional knowledge in resource development 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.
  - Information on hunting activity, camp and trail locations.
  - Establishing and expanding winter track monitoring programs.
- **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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