

Hazard Identification Risk Assessment

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) Department of Municipal and Community Affairs (MACA) undertook a hazard identification risk assessment (HIRA) to determine the risks that pose a threat to the people, property, environment and economy of the NWT, with specific consideration of climate change and its role.

CONTEXT

As climate change advances in the north, the hazards that impact the people and infrastructure of the NWT will also change, and potentially worsen. In order to better protect the people of the NWT, their property and the environment, the GNWT must further its understanding of how the current hazards are predicted to change as a result of the changes to the climate of the North. As such, a HIRA was undertaken, to examine the hazards of the NWT through the lense of climate change.

Government of the Northwest Territories



OBJECTIVE

MACA, in association with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), completed the HIRA in order to provide a detailed examination of the various hazards within the NWT, including their likelihood and potential impact on the people, property, environment and economy of the NWT. This broad assessment considers predicted impacts of climate change and how they will affect the risks to NWT communities.

APPROACH

MACA has released a HIRA document, which outlines the results of the assessment on a territorial and regional basis. This document is the result of multiple stakeholders meetings, research, six regional workshops and an online survey.

The HIRA document separates the hazards into categories based on the likelihood of the hazard impacting communities in the NWT. The document outlines the guiding principles of the HIRA document, which are: define and classify the hazard, explain the hazard including the type of events included within the hazard type, describe the relevant circumstances surrounding the hazard, report on the history of the hazard, include qualitative and quantitative information and utilize scientific information as well as local knowledge.

RESULTS

The guiding principles of the HIRA document have resulted in an accessible and informative instrument which fully describes the hazards that NWT communities and residents should be aware of, how they are changing due to climate change and how those being impacted can effectively prepare for the impacts of such hazards.

Using this document, the people, organizations, and communities of the NWT should be able to properly predict changes in hazards due to climate change, and proactively address them in order to limit their negative effects.

Significance

The identification of hazards to people and property in the NWT, as well as an understanding of how climate change will impact them has been completed and is now available to residents and communities.

Partners

- Municipal and Community Affairs
- Environment and Natural Resources
- Northwest Territories Association of Communities
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

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VISIT THE HIRA WEBSITE:

<http://www.maca.gov.nt.ca/hira>

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