

The Nunavut Permafrost Databank

Developing a centralized databank for Nunavut permafrost data

CONTEXT

The Government of Nunavut's Climate Change Section works with partners to identify impacts of climate change in Nunavut and ways that we can adapt to these changes. Warming temperatures associated with climate change affects the stability of permafrost (ground that has been frozen for more than two years).



Photo: Government of Nunavut

Shifting permafrost is impacting Nunavut's built infrastructure by creating instability in buildings, roads, airstrips, and other structures. As more permafrost data is shared, Nunavummiut can be better prepared to deal with these changes.

OBJECTIVE

Much work is being done in Nunavut on permafrost mapping and characterization; however, the results of this research are difficult to access and are spread across different locations. This results in no clear centralized location for permafrost data in

Nunavut. Due to this, there is a high risk of data loss and inaccessibility when it is most needed by northern decision-makers.

APPROACH

The Nunavut Permafrost Databank will house permafrost data for Nunavut in one central, user-friendly location. The databank will serve to make data more accessible. It will be used by researchers, government staff, sector-specific groups, as well as the general public. This project is not intended to duplicate existing work or databases, but rather to centralize these sources into one location.

EXPECTED RESULTS

Due to the different formats and sources of data, the databank is being developed as a geo-referenced map, linking to other online forums that contain key permafrost data, publications, or references. It will also have raw data currently not available through any other public forum. The databank will be hosted on the Nunavut Climate Change Centre website: www.climatechangenunavut.ca

The Government of Nunavut is still in the development phase of this project and welcomes feedback on its design and data sources before the Nunavut Permafrost Databank is released in 2016.

Significance

The Nunavut Permafrost Databank will provide decision-makers with access to information that can improve how they plan and support infrastructure development in the territory.

Partners

- Centre d'études nordiques, Université Laval
- Geological Survey of Canada
- Canada-Nunavut Geoscience Office
- Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development Canada

FOR MORE INFO

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Pan-Territorial Information Notes
MAR.2015.NU.01
ISSN 2291-3904