



IDENTIFICATION

Department	Position Title	
Environment and Climate Change	Advisor, Water Stewardship	
Position Number	Community	Division/Region
23-12868	Yellowknife	Water Monitoring and Stewardship/HQ

PURPOSE OF THE POSITION

The Advisor, Water Stewardship (Advisor) ensures that strategic Northwest Territories (NWT) water stewardship initiatives are integrated and undertaken in a timely and effective manner, resulting in clean, abundant and productive NWT waters and benefits to NWT residents. The position is responsible for providing expert advice on water stewardship approaches to senior management, Directorate, Minister or partners.

SCOPE

Located in Yellowknife and reporting to the Manager, Watershed Programs & Partnerships (Manager), the Advisor, Water Stewardship leads the development and implementation of the Northwest Territories (NWT) water stewardship strategy, providing expertise to Division staff, senior management, Directorate, the Minister, and partner agencies. The Coordinator recommends strategic Department and Government of Northwest Territories (GNWT) approaches and positions related to water resources stewardship and augments partnership opportunities. The Position leads or coordinates GNWT water stewardship interjurisdictional matters through initiatives of the Mackenzie River Basin Board, the Western Water Stewardship Council and Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment.

To benefit NWT residents, the incumbent must have knowledge of innovative approaches to legislation, policy, agreements and programs that promote participatory stewardship of water resources.

The Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) works to promote and support the sustainable use and development of natural resources and to protect, conserve and enhance the NWT environment for the social and economic benefit of all residents.



The Water Monitoring and Stewardship Division bears the primary roles and responsibilities related to water-related research and monitoring, providing advice to co-management partners, water quality and quantity data analysis and interpretation, and water stewardship and planning. The GNWT has a mandate to steward the environment and protect water resources to support both current and future generations. All Division initiatives have NWT or national implications and therefore require timely and effective analyses to enhance GNWT and partner decision-making and actions. The Division, in cooperation with Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and other federal and territorial departments, is responsible for collecting and interpreting information about water quantity and quality in the NWT. The Division works with its water partners on a collaborative approach to water stewardship and planning in the NWT, including transboundary water management agreements.

The Northwest Territories (NWT) is the ultimate downstream jurisdiction in the Mackenzie River Basin (MRB), understanding the hydrology and water movements in the basin and its upstream tributaries is critically important for understanding the availability and health of water in the NWT. The MRB drains an area that consists of a fifth of Canada's land mass and it is one of the largest river basins in the world. The flow of the Mackenzie River plays a significant role in regulating oceanic circulation and maintaining arctic climate systems. The MRB is subject to industrial activity which has the potential to influence water flow and quality and it is experiencing the brunt of climate change as one of the nation's northern watersheds. The Senior Hydrologist is responsible for coordinating and leading research and monitoring programs across the NWT to facilitate a better understanding of the regional hydrology. This includes understanding extreme conditions such a low and high water including flooding within the basin and potential linkages to a changing climate.

Water resources stewardship requires a broad spectrum of knowledge related to participatory approaches of management, resource valuation, and integrated watershed planning. Expertise is drawn from international experiences as globally water stewardship emerges as a primary focus. To advance water stewardship within the NWT, the Minister of ECC relies on the significant expertise and consulting services managed by the incumbent.

The incumbent manages an annual budget of approximately \$1,200,000 of GNWT funds, supplemented with partnership funding. The incumbent supervises casual staff on occasion and serves as project manager for contracted services related to water stewardship.

RESPONSIBILITIES

- 1. Develops implements and evaluates strategic NWT water stewardship initiatives and strategies to ensure NWT water resources are conserved to benefit present and future NWT residents.**



- Assesses the current political environment and researches innovative NWT, national and international strategic initiatives to ensure an NWT Water Stewardship Strategy remains current, recommending initiatives to improve NWT water stewardship.
- Provides advice on current and innovative approaches to water resources stewardship to ECC's senior management, Directorate, the Minister, and other government departments, as well as partner agencies.
- Advises on innovative participatory water stewardship methodologies for the NWT, recommending means to carry these out effectively within the framework of a multi-partnered water stewardship strategy.
- Working with GNWT and federal government departments and agencies, researches, and recommends as well as implements strategic instruments, including policy, legislation and program, that enable GNWT integrated watershed management decisions, within and adjacent to the NWT, in a manner that conserves water resources, protects ecosystem and human health, and respects water rights.
- Examines transboundary watersheds, community public water supply sources, and other significant NWT land and resource values; and recommends actions for ECC or the GNWT.
- Working with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations and other jurisdictions, enables negotiations and implementation of transboundary waters management agreements or other implementation agreements to which the federal government is party.
- Recommends enhancements to and implements ECC and GNWT roles and responsibilities within interdepartmental, Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment, the Western Water Stewardship Council, the Mackenzie River Basin, and other partnership venues to promote NWT water stewardship.
- Ensures knowledge and advice regarding complex matters related to water stewardship are strategically communicated to both GNWT and partner agencies.
- Presents strategic water stewardship matters through informative briefings, comprehensive reports, Decision Papers, or other materials in appropriate formats for a variety of audiences such as senior management, the Minister, ecosystem scientists and water managers from other jurisdictions, interagency working groups, the general public, or others with an interest in ecosystem-based management.
- Advocates GNWT positions or actions to ensure sound integrated water stewardship is undertaken within the NWT and neighboring jurisdictions.

2. Leads ECC or GNWT participation on departmental, interdepartmental, regional or national working groups and committees to collaborate on national, western Canadian, Mackenzie Basin or NWT water initiatives, especially in a manner that promotes the NWT water stewardship strategy.

- Collaborates to enable strong ECC or GNWT participation in departmental, interdepartmental and intergovernmental initiatives and working groups related to water stewardship.



- Leads the activities of GNWT, NWT and regional advisory or working groups in place to develop, implement and evaluate an NWT Water Stewardship Strategy.
- Initiates strategic undertakings to inform and facilitate multilateral water management agreement negotiations to manage transboundary waters within the Mackenzie River Basin.
- Plans and manages initiatives to lead intergovernmental and interagency teams that establish and undertake priority activities to promote water stewardship. This includes setting of purpose, objectives and outcomes; preparation of Terms of Reference for teams; facilitation and co-ordination of planning exercises, meetings or workshops, or issue identification and resolution exercises, as well as other work planning and liaison activities related to water stewardship.
- Enables ECC mandate within GNWT interdepartmental initiatives or national strategic initiatives related to community drinking water and municipal wastewater management, participating in the interdepartmental technical committee and supporting senior committees in these regards.
- Working with departmental or interagency teams to ensure water stewardship and watershed management perspectives are effectively considered in decision-making. This requires active participation in management and work teams, as well as providing in-depth support to senior committees.
- Manages departmental, interdepartmental and intergovernmental initiatives related to water stewardship in a manner that strategically coordinates all water stewardship decisions and initiatives undertaken by ECC, ensuring synergies of agendas, scheduling, and priorities.
- Working with the Manager, Watershed Programs & Partnerships, identifies, investigates and instigates funding or program partnerships to promote water stewardship opportunities that advocate or advance agreed upon water stewardship priorities.

3. Manages contracts or additional personnel assigned to water stewardship initiatives from time to time.

WORKING CONDITIONS

Physical Demands

No usual physical demands.

Environmental Conditions

No unusual environmental conditions.

Sensory Demands

No unusual sensory demands.



Mental Demands

Public and interagency presentations on complex and sensitive issues at diverse tables can lead to mental stress.

Out of town travel is required, approximately 6 times for year, for up to 3-4 days at a time.

KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS AND ABILITIES

- Knowledge of current and emerging water stewardship approaches, particularly with respect to water rights and transboundary waters interests, including effective legislation and regulatory processes.
- Knowledge and experience in water management planning, policy and program development, preferably within a northern environment
- Knowledge of NWT legislation, Indigenous governments, institutions, government systems, and communities.
- Ability to integrate water stewardship knowledge into planning, policy and programs, including support for negotiations of multilateral water management agreements.
- Oral and written communication skills and proven ability to express concepts of integrated watershed management effectively to political and senior government members, interagency and public audiences. Ability to coordinate many projects with strict deadlines.
- Ability to manage and operate in a team environment with multiple partners, as well as work independently towards partnership outcomes. Management of interdivisional or interagency groups often involves diverse and competing interests requiring the incumbent to devise innovative, consensus-building solutions.
- Organizational, project management, risk assessment, analytical and critical thinking skills to enable good judgment and priority setting.
- Ability to manage politically sensitive and controversial matters related to land and water management, where tact and diplomacy are required.
- Supervisory skills to manage casual personnel, consultants and departmental or other water stewardship advisory or working groups.
- Knowledge of computer software including word processing, database, and electronic mail. Modeling experience and/or GIS working knowledge would be an asset
- Ability to take broad direction, setting priorities to maintain strategic initiatives of the Division.
- Ability to commit to actively upholding and consistently practicing personal diversity, inclusion and cultural awareness, as well as safety and sensitivity approaches in the workplace.



Typically, the above qualifications would be attained by:

Completion of a master's degree in environmental science or resource management, with at least three (3) years' experience in environmental stewardship or watershed management policy or planning, preferably, in an NWT setting with both government and private industry.

Equivalent combinations of education and experience will be considered.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Position Security (check one)

- ☒ No criminal records check required.
- ☐ Position of Trust – criminal records check required.
- ☐ Highly sensitive position – requires verification of identity and a criminal records check.

French language (check one if applicable)

- ☐ French required (must identify required level below)
Level required for this Designated Position is:
ORAL EXPRESSION AND COMPREHENSION
Basic (B) ☐ Intermediate (I) ☐ Advanced (A) ☐
READING COMPREHENSION:
Basic (B) ☐ Intermediate (I) ☐ Advanced (A) ☐
WRITING SKILLS:
Basic (B) ☐ Intermediate (I) ☐ Advanced (A) ☐
- ☐ French preferred

Indigenous language: Select language

- ☐ Required
- ☐ Preferred