



Photo: Jennifer Luckay. Fall view of downtown Yellowknife from Frame Lake Trail.

Recovering from the summer of 2023

Since May, many NWT communities battling forest fires, flood threats and other major crises were forced to set aside their priority projects to focus on emergencies. By mid-August, over 65% of Northwest Territories residents were displaced. There is now much work to do to help individuals, communities and small businesses recover from incredible loss.

The North also lost several current and future community leaders this year. As a team, we continue to send our love to the many people who feel grief and loss. Our hope is that this autumn has ushered in a shared reprieve from the already infamous Summer 2023.

We know NWT communities and organizations are working hard to make up for lost time and complete projects. The Territory is also gearing up for the November 14th election - a hopeful time in which returning and new candidates engage communities about the many ways to effect change. Here at PlanIt North, we are feeling the added pressure that this summer has caused, but we are also feeling privileged to progress projects that will make lasting changes to individuals, families and communities.

From the PlanIt North team, we hope you are enjoying a safe and rejuvenating fall.

A STRATEGIC PLAN FOR REGISTERED NURSES

PlanIt North supported the Registered Nurses Association of the Northwest Territories and Nunavut (RNANTNU) with developing their new strategic plan.

"The final product got rave reviews from the Board and me, too. It just looks good and is easy to read. I think it's relevant to our work and hopefully it will guide the Association in the next few years. You facilitated our meeting so that people felt heard and you kept us moving. The plan writing reflected what we said, and the additions made later also read well. I'm happy you were able to take our meanderings and bring it together in a cohesive format."

- Denise Bowen, RNANTNU Executive Director

The 2023-2026 Strategic Plan can be found on RNANTNU's website: rnantnu.ca/about/documents/strategic-plan/



Growing Stronger

PlanIt North is excited to welcome new team members! Check out our website to learn more about them, and reach out if you want to see how we can help you with your next project.



Dr. Jon Weller joins our team as a Senior Project Manager. After three years in Yellowknife working with the territorial government on protected area establishment and management, Jon moved to Whitehorse, where he will now help build PlanIt North's presence in Yukon while continuing to assist on a variety of environmental and social projects in the NWT. Jon has extensive experience tackling the intricate challenges of community development, sustainability, land use planning, and natural and cultural heritage conservation. His expertise spans academic institutions, non-profit organizations, and various levels of government. Outside of work, whether on skis, bike, foot or canoe, Jon enjoys exploring new parts of the North and continuing to learn about the history and communities in those areas. Jon can be reached at: jon@planitnorth.ca



We were thrilled to welcome Tineke Kippers to the team this summer. She is assisting on several projects, including community housing and strategic planning projects. Tineke holds a Bachelor of Arts, Honours specialization in International Relations, and a Master of Arts in Global Development. Among her many interests, she is passionate about supporting women and applying a gender equity lens to her work. She looks forward to working with the diverse and vibrant communities of the Northwest Territories. In her spare time, she can be found with her art supplies, painting the north's beautiful landscapes. Tineke can be reached at: tineke@planitnorth.ca

Welcome to the team Jon and Tineke!

DFN NATURE FUND PROJECT

Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas Legal Pathways Workshop

Last year, Dehcho First Nations (DFN) was awarded \$9.5M through the federal Indigenous-led Area Based Conservation program to establish four Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas (IPCA) by 2026. The four IPCAs have developed over the last 15 years and have been ushered to this stage by the dedication, hard work, and advocacy of Indigenous leaders and members in each community. PlanIt North is now working with DFN to provide regional coordination for four Dehcho communities.

In May, PlanIt North's Ryan Planche and Carrie Breneman worked alongside DFN legal counsel Larry Innes of OKT Law to co-facilitate a two-day, in-person IPCA Legal Pathways workshop in Yellowknife. The workshop was attended by Dehcho member communities and surrounding regional Nations. The purpose was to collect and share resources on the legal and legislative tools available to Dehcho communities pursuing permanent protection of their respective IPCAs. Larry Innes and representatives from Dehcho First Nations, Grand Chief Herb Norwegian, Dene National Chief Gerald Antoine, and other invited



community representatives shared their knowledge and views about the available tools. It was also an opportunity to ask questions about the legal protected areas process in the Dehcho through scenario planning and community-led decision-making exercises.

PlanIt North created a *Pathways to Decision Making Information* booklet to use as a guide throughout the workshop for participants to bring back to their respective communities. This highly visual booklet succinctly summarizes all available tools centered on Dehcho Dene IPCA goals and values.

Participants shared with us that they enjoyed and valued the workshop!

ON THE ROAD: FORT GOOD HOPE, NWT

In May, PlanIt North's Korry Garvey spent three weeks in Fort Good Hope working closely with the K'ásho Got'Inę Housing Society (KGHS) and Ne'Rahten Development Ltd. Korry assisted with hosting KGHS's Annual General Meeting, hosting a local Interagency Committee meeting to discuss Safe Homes options for women in the community (in partnership with the NWT YWCA), meeting with the District Housing NWT Director and Technical Managers to discuss further partnership opportunities and collaboration, completing a financial review and presentation of KGHS's 2022-2023 projects alongside Senior Manager Wanda Grandjambe, and supporting business development, organizational planning, and succession planning for Ne'Rahten Development Ltd. She and Christine Wenman returned in July, with similar goals. They:

- Facilitated an all-leadership workshop to coordinate housing goals.
- Held interagency meetings on the Women's Safe Home.
- Supported more work to submit reporting to funders.

Christine also enjoyed working with a Fort Good Hope Guardian to document high water marks from the 2021 flood and this year's high water. This federally-funded project will build information about community hazards in Fort Good Hope and communicate them to residents and leadership. Together, the community can plan where to construct homes in the future and how to support residents whose homes are at risk because of erosion or flooding.

Community visits are great opportunities to pack in as much on-the-ground support as possible. We love the opportunity to strengthen connections and make new friends. Both Korry and Christine are looking forward to their next visit in November.



From left to right: Tom Ashley (Phoenix Construction, Ne'Rahten Development Ltd's interim construction manager), Sarah Baker (Housing NWT, Sahtu District Director), Korry Garvey (PlanIt North, Project Coordinator), Edwin Erutse (Yamoga Land Corporation, President), Arthur Tobac (Ne'Rahten Development Ltd., Business Manager), John Kivi (Housing NWT, Sahtu Technical Director), Wanda Grandjambe (K'ásho Got'ine Housing Society, Senior Manager), Rosa Grandjambe (Yamoga Land Corporation, Housing Program Manager)

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Clean Energy in Indigenous, Rural, and Remote Communities

Natural Resources Canada has announced an additional \$300 million for clean energy projects. This funding supports projects that help advance Indigenous-led climate action, support local economic development, and create skilled jobs while reducing pollution and improving air quality. **This fund is quickly running out. Applications are accepted any time.** For more information, visit:

canada.ca/en/services/environment/weather/climatechange/climate-plan/reduce-emissions/reducing-reliance-diesel.html

Funding for projects that help communities adapt to climate change.

What is the funding for?

To help communities and regions in the NWT deal with effects of climate change and become stronger and better prepared for future changes.

Communities have received this funding for many kinds of projects, such as:

- Doing riverbank slope stability assessments and coastal erosion studies
- Studying food security and developing community food networks
- Using Traditional Knowledge and Western science to make travel safer on the land, ice, and water
- Sharing knowledge and traditions to strengthen culture and resilience
- Mapping hazards and changes to the land
- Developing plans and strategies to adapt to climate change impacts

Who can apply?

Community governments, Indigenous governments and organizations, non-profits, and researchers who work with communities can all apply. Other applicants, such as consultants and companies, may also be eligible, depending on the project details.

Contact Christa Domchek at (867) 873-8359 or christa@nwtac.com. www.nwtac.com



HAY RIVER STRATEGIC HOUSING PLAN

Hay River's Strategic Housing Plan is the result of a collaboration with the Town of Hay River and Housing NWT. Its goals and objectives reflect the needs and priorities shared by community members through multiple community engagements and reviews. A community Advisory Committee, consisting of representatives from local Indigenous governments, organizations, and stakeholder groups, guided and informed the Housing Needs Assessment and the final Strategic Housing Plan.

PlanIt North's Tom Parker and Sophie Maksimowski teamed up with Phillpot Consulting to lead the planning and Housing NWT provided project funding. Plan implementation will now be led by the Town with support from Housing NWT and community partners. The planning process began with the community Housing Needs Assessment (released in May 2022), which presented an overview of the current housing situation in the town of Hay River. The Assessment was the first step in developing the Housing Plan and was developed through both a desktop review and a mix of in-person and virtual community engagements. We collected and

analyzed community data and feedback to understand strengths, challenges, opportunities, and barriers to safe and affordable housing. We then built on this information to draft goals and objectives for the Housing Plan. In October 2022, we hosted a two-day Community Housing Forum, community open house, and meeting with West Point First Nation to further build the Community Housing Plan.

In March 2023, the final plan was presented to, and approved by, Town Council. Following approval, implementation partners met to identify key work planning priorities.

The Housing Plan includes an Action Plan which details how the goals of the Plan will be achieved. We identified timelines, lead partner responsibilities, potential partners and resources for each action item. We also developed a separate Monitoring and Evaluation Framework to be used by the Town and partners to review and evaluate implementation progress over the next 5 years.

The Hay River Housing Strategic Plan can be found on the [Housing Northwest Territories website](https://www.housingnwt.ca).

PLANIT NORTH IS HIRING!



Join our fast-paced team and make an impact in our client communities. Current opportunities include:

- Bookkeeper
- Community Planner
- Community Economic Development Specialist

In school for community planning or a related field? Consider PlanIt North for your internship or summer placement.

For all opportunities, visit: planitnorth.ca/jobs

PLANIT NORTH is a professional planning firm located wholly in Canada's North. For more information, or to discuss how we can help you with your planning needs, please email info@planitnorth.ca

