



# NORTHWEST TERRITORIES environmental audit

What

is the NWT  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
AUDIT?



## The NWT environmental audit is meant to:

- Review information about the environment to determine whether the quality of the environment is improving, deteriorating or staying the same, and determine what is causing any changes;
- Determine the effectiveness of methods of monitoring cumulative impacts on the environment; and
- Review the effectiveness of regulations (permits, etc.), in protecting the environment from significant harmful impacts caused by using the land and water, and depositing waste.

The audit will cover the Mackenzie Valley and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The findings will be presented in a report, which will summarize the health and future of the environment in the NWT, and make recommendations for ways of improving it and the way it is managed. The audit will use a broad definition of the environment, which will include the social and cultural environment and heritage resources.

Why

is the AUDIT  
taking place?

The *Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act* (the MVRMA) states that an audit of the environment must take place in the Mackenzie Valley, at least once every five years. Similar requirements for environmental audits are described in the Sahtu, Gwich'in and Tłı̨chǫ agreements.

Who

will conduct  
the AUDIT?

The audit will be conducted by an independent auditor, which means a firm or contractor with no involvement in Aboriginal organizations, government, resource management or environmental programs in the NWT within the last two years. The auditor will be appointed by the Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development following a competitive bidding process and review by a committee composed of representatives from regional Aboriginal, territorial and federal governments.

Who

will participate in  
the AUDIT?

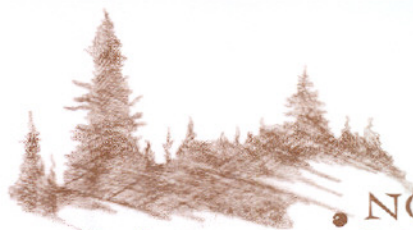
Generally speaking, the parties directly involved in the audit will be Aboriginal organizations, boards established under the MVRMA, other co-management boards and the federal and territorial governments. Industry, non-government organizations and the public may be asked to provide comments or contribute relevant information. The auditor will be responsible for identifying the specific issues and topics to be investigated, and for obtaining information. The auditor may collect scientific, traditional or local information from people and organizations by conducting interviews or site visits.

When

will the AUDIT begin?  
HOW long will it take?

The auditor will carry out research and preliminary interviews with key people and organizations to develop an audit plan. This audit plan will include the methodology, key issues and timelines. This audit will begin in 2004, and is expected to be complete within one year.





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Will

the auditor's report be available to the public?

Yes. The Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development will make the audit report available to the public after the auditor has submitted it. This report will include the auditor's observations, conclusions and recommendations regarding the issues and topics that were investigated.

Who

will benefit from the audit and its recommendations?

The audit's recommendations are intended to be used by decision-makers to improve environmental and resource management in the NWT. All citizens of the NWT who have an interest in preserving or improving the quality and health of the environment for present and future generations will benefit, because the audit is intended to reflect the principles of sustainability, protection and conservation.

Who

is responsible for ensuring the audit is meaningful?

Throughout the audit, a committee consisting of Aboriginal, territorial and federal government representatives will provide assistance to the auditor. This committee will also review progress reports to ensure the audit is meaningful and timely, and that interested parties have the opportunity to provide input during the audit, as appropriate.

## The Audit Sub-Committee:

Gwich'in Tribal Council  
Dogrib Treaty 11 Council (Tłıchǫ)  
Sahtu Secretariat Inc.  
Inuvialuit Game Council  
North Slave Metis Alliance  
Northwest Territory Métis Nation

Deh Cho First Nations  
Department of Resources, Wildlife  
and Economic Development - GNWT  
Department of Indian Affairs and  
Northern Development

For more information contact:  
Audit Sub-Committee Secretariat,  
867-669-2595, or [cimp@inac-ainc.gc.ca](mailto:cimp@inac-ainc.gc.ca)

