



June 24, 2024

GEORGE NERYSOO
MLA, MACKENZIE DELTA

ORAL QUESTION 205-20(1): CLIMATE CHANGE

This letter follows up on your oral question about educating youth about climate change and alternative energy solutions during the May 29, 2024, sitting of the House. I committed to providing that information to you.

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) takes a comprehensive and coordinated response to climate change through its 2030 NWT Climate Change Strategic Framework, led by the Department of Environment and Climate Change (ECC).

The GNWT recognizes that climate change is a complex, cross-cutting issue that requires clear information about current and future challenges, and the options available to address these challenges. We also recognize the key role that youth play in addressing climate change now and in the future.

In the 2019-2023 NWT Climate Change Action Plan, ECC committed to information sharing and education initiatives, including public outreach to increase understanding of climate change issues. Several successful resources and events have been developed and delivered. For example, this year, in association with Ecology North, ECC hosted a public panel and presentations on “Earth Day” that were recorded for broader online distribution.

Recognizing the importance of youth perspectives to inform climate change actions, and on the recommendation of the NWT Climate Change Council, ECC has established a Youth Climate Change Council, bringing together the critical perspectives of youth from all NWT regions.

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Regarding funding for alternative energy solutions, I can confirm that the GNWT supports the Arctic Energy Alliance (AEA), a not-for-profit society whose mandate is to assist consumers and producers in working together to reduce the cost and environmental impacts of energy and utilities in the north. AEA offers funding and programs for residents and businesses to assist with alternative energy and heating solutions.

ECC will continue to develop resources that can be used to engage youth in understanding climate change and informing potential actions. More information on the GNWT's approach to climate change can be found on ECC's website at <https://www.gov.nt.ca/ecc/en/services/climate-change> with links to AEA program and funding information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Macdonald". The signature is fluid and somewhat stylized, with several overlapping loops and a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jay Macdonald
Minister
Environment and Climate Change

c. Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

Director of Legislative Affairs and House Planning