

Spring 2025 



COMMUNITY

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The Northern Affairs Newsletter



Spring Into A New Fiscal Year

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BUDGET 2025

Budget 2025: What It Means for Northern Affairs Communities

On March 20, 2025, Manitoba's Finance Minister delivered the 2025 provincial budget. This year's budget, titled *Building One Manitoba*, focuses on rebuilding healthcare, creating jobs, growing the economy and supporting communities.

This impacts Northern Affairs Communities in the following ways:

Increased Core Funding for Communities

- Municipal Operating Grant (MOG) is increasing by 3.3% in 2025, with a total of \$7.21 million distributed, including base funding for smaller communities.
- Operations & Maintenance (O&M) funding will also see a 2% boost, rising to \$11.3 million.
- The One Manitoba Growth Revenue Fund will provide \$650K in additional support for Northern Affairs communities and First Nations.

These funds help communities deliver essential services like public works, recreation, and community administration. Northern Affairs reviews the O&M funding provided to communities on an annual basis and adjusts funding annually based on changing community needs.

Safer Drinking Water

\$1.2 million investment for continued investments in:

- Tackling long-term boil water advisories,
- Supporting operator certification, training, and recruitment programs,
- Strengthening wastewater and solid waste management policies.

Investing in Infrastructure

A total of \$3.8M will support critical capital projects in Northern Affairs Communities including water, wastewater, and solid waste infrastructure upgrades in multiple Northern Affairs communities.

Protective Services

- \$2.4M to support acquisition of critical fire equipment and training for communities.
- Climate Change Preparedness Fund will continue to support emergency planning and training for wildfire season, flooding, power outages, and extreme weather events.

We remain committed to respectful partnerships and improving service standards to support essential community infrastructure. Through Budget 2025, we will continue working collaboratively to deliver meaningful results to maintain essential infrastructure, and advance key initiatives that will promote healthy and sustainable communities. For more information, visit the [Manitoba Budget 2025 website](#) or contact your regional office.



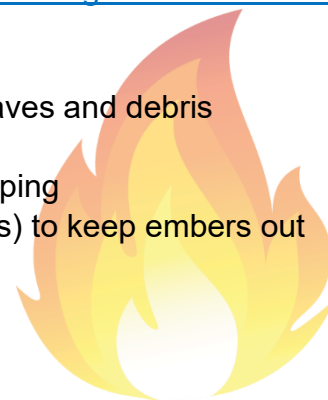
FIRE SMART AWARENESS

FireSmart™ Canada is a national program that helps Canadians increase neighbourhood resilience to wildfire and minimize its negative impacts. With a changing climate, the threat of wildfire has increased significantly for everyone, include those living outside of the wildland urban interface. We all have a part to play when it comes to preventing wildfire and reducing risk. It all starts with where you live. Research has shown that homes and their surrounding areas are particularly vulnerable to wildfire, which is why FireSmart principles focus on specific actions residents can implement in those areas, also known as the Home Ignition Zone.

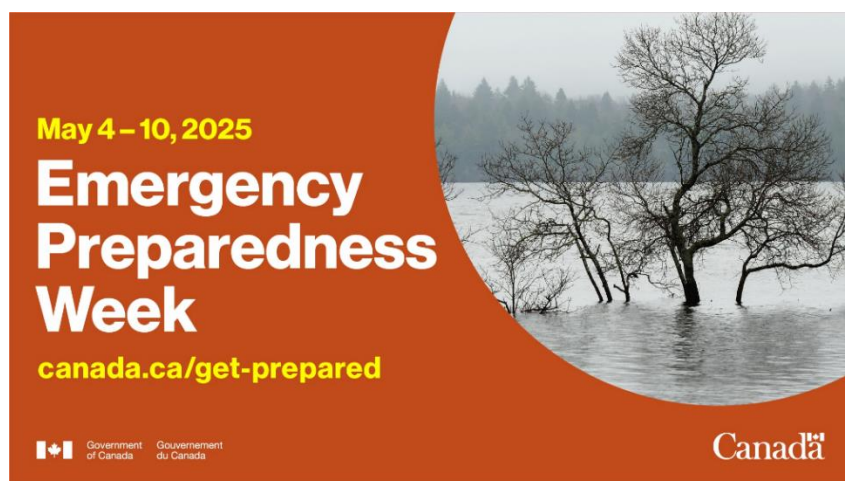
Whether you are a homeowner, resident, business, government, or Indigenous community, you too can take small steps that will have lasting impacts.

Tips to Make Your Home and Property FireSmart

- 1) Download the FireSmart Begins at Home app or print the [FireSmart Home Ignition Scorecard](#) and do a self-assessment of your home and property
- 2) Remove combustible materials from under decks
- 3) Clean/maintain gutters and roofs. Keep decks and balconies clear of leaves and debris
- 4) Keep grass and weeds cut below 10cm
- 5) Plant wildfire resistant vegetation to reduce flammability of your landscaping
- 6) Add non-combustible 3mm screens to external vents (except dryer vents) to keep embers out
- 7) Prune trees to create a 2-metre clearance from the ground
- 8) Move firewood at least 10 meters away from your home
- 9) Hold sheds and other structures to the same standards as your home
- 10) Have a wildfire evacuation plan for your household



Emergency Preparedness Week May 4-10, 2025



Be Prepared. Know Your Risks
Emergency Preparedness Week (EP Week) is a national awareness initiative and an opportunity for you to take action to ensure you are prepared to protect yourself, your family and your community during an emergency. This year, the theme is Be Prepared. Know Your Risks. We encourage you to understand the risks in your area and learn what actions you can take to protect yourself and your household. This year EP week is May 4 – 10, 2025.

Learn more here: <https://www.getprepared.gc.ca/cnt/rsrscs/ep-wk/index-en.aspx>

NORTHERN AFFAIRS EVENTS

Technical Team Staff Training



The Northern Affairs Branch consists of four technical-based teams, including Workplace Safety and Health, Environment Services, Water Operator Consultants, and Technical Public Works. The four program areas get together annually for training and team building. This year's event was held in Dauphin from February 3-6, 2025, and included respectful workplace foundations, policy reviews, program updates, working alone, property assessment services amongst other topics.

Northern Affairs Technical Staff

Northern Affairs Regional Workshop

Dates & Time: May 13-14, 2025; 8:30 am – 4:30 pm

Venue: Holiday Inn Winnipeg - Airport West – 2520 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg, MB

Details: The workshop will include communities from both regions (Northern region and Northern Central region) to provide an opportunity to facilitate overall conversations and better networking opportunities.

Booking information: Northern Affairs has reserved a block of rooms and will be paying for the rooms directly, room and taxes only. Communities are responsible for booking rooms on behalf of up to three (3) participants of your council and CAO.

Contact: Kindly contact your Municipal Development Consultant or regional office with any enquiries.



NORTHERN AFFAIRS UPDATES

Training & Testing Updates for Operators and Communities

💧 Water & Wastewater Operator Training

- Water Treatment Class I (WT1)
📍 Winnipeg | 📅 May 12–15, 2025 | 📄 Register by May 2
- Wastewater Treatment Class I (WWT1)
📍 Winnipeg | 📅 June 16–19, 2025 (for Wastewater Treatment Plant Operators) | 📄 Register by June 6



Training costs for unincorporated communities are reimbursable. Operators must still apply for certification after passing the exam.

Learn more or register at [Manitoba Water and Wastewater Training : RRC Polytech: Technology Solutions for the Workplace](#)

♻️ Landfill Operator Training

Landfill Operations Basics (In Person)

📍 Winnipeg | 📅 June 9–10, 2025

Learn more at: [All Courses | SWANA Northern Lights Chapter](#)

📊 Water Quality Testing

- Lead Testing: Begins in May at residential kitchen taps in 14 communities. Second round of kits will be sent in August.
- Communities that tested for TTHMs & HAA5 in February will test again in May - new kits will be provided.

Drinking Water Week: May 4-10, 2025



Join us in celebrating **Drinking Water Week** by taking a moment to **thank your local water plant operator** for their hard work and dedication in keeping your community's drinking water safe and clean. Their efforts make a difference every day!

NORTHERN AFFAIRS UPDATES



CSO Program Review

The Northern Affairs Branch (NAB) is conducting a review of Manitoba Justice's community safety officer (CSO) program to be completed in 2025. Communities that currently operate a CSO program are being engaged. The goal is to share changes to The Police Services Act, understand community needs, identify administrative challenges, and review funding for the CSO program.



Fire Program Review

The Northern Affairs Branch (NAB) is also conducting a fire program review to be completed on April 30, 2025. Over the last few months, NAB has completed engagement sessions with multiple communities and settlements. Northern Affairs will be sharing a What We Heard Report with communities based on the survey and engagement findings. Thank you to all the communities that participated!



Building Independence Program (BIP)

This program helps create local employment opportunities for individuals receiving Employment and Income Assistance (EIA). Employment opportunities can range from general labour for community improvement to community positions in areas such as public works, administration or recreation. Community councils can submit project proposals directly to their Municipal Development Consultant (MDC) at the regional office. Funding is

available on a first-come, first-served basis, with preference for projects offering at least 420 hours of employment over six months. Councils are reimbursed at minimum wage for supported hours. No application form is required—a fact sheet and contact list were sent to all communities. For questions, contact your MDC.

NORTHERN AFFAIRS STAFF PROFILE

Ian Potter



Ian has joined the Northern Affairs Branch in the Northern Region (Thompson office), occupying a newly created position as a Water Operations Consultant.

His journey in water operations began in 2017 as a public works employee for the Incorporated Community of Cross Lake and later worked for Wabowden Community Council. He has a Level 2 certification in Water Treatment, Small Water Distribution and Small Wastewater Systems. Prior to public works, he was in the construction trades for 15 years.

Ian shares, “When I first started as a Water Operator, I felt overwhelmed overseeing safe water procedures. With a lot of resolve and support from the people I am now privileged to work with, I gained experience, skills, and satisfaction from the job. I grew to understand the impact of safe water on our communities and gained a greater appreciation for the things we sometimes take for granted.”

In his downtime, Ian enjoys camping, sports, drawing, watching movies and spending time with his daughter, cat, and dog.

Tyler Hay



Tyler has joined the Northern Affairs Branch in the North Central Region, based out of the Winnipeg office, in a newly created role as Water Operations Consultant.

His journey in water operations began in 2016 when he enrolled in the Water & Wastewater Foundations and Water Treatment 1 courses at Red River College (RRC). Tyler went on to work in a water treatment plant in Headingley, MB, part of the Cartier Regional Water Co-operative. He has worked in various roles across Manitoba, including RM of Taché, Lorette and Landmark. He worked with the City of Winnipeg and most recently with Sego Canada.

Tyler shares, “I’m passionate about water treatment as it plays a critical role in keeping any community healthy. I’m proud to share what I do with others. When I tell people that I make water, they always ask, ‘How do you make water?’ which leads to a great conversation.”

In his downtime, Tyler enjoys hands-on projects - vehicle repairs, electrical work, carpentry, plumbing, and spending time at his cabin.

NEWLY CREATED POSITIONS TO SUPPORT THE OPERATIONAL NEEDS OF COMMUNITIES.

Welcome Ian & Tyler!

REMINDERS

May 6 @ 1:30pm

Community Townhall (Teams Call)

May 13 & 14 @ Holiday Inn Winnipeg-Airport West

Regional Workshop

Municipal Calendar:

https://www.gov.mb.ca/mr/northern/pubs/na_manual/financial/appendix_f2-a.pdf

General Enquiries

NAB.General@gov.mb.ca

Northern Affairs 24hr Emergency Toll-free Number: 1-866-735-3111

May 19

Victoria Day- STAT

June 2 @ 1:30pm

Community Townhall (Teams Call)

June 21


National Indigenous Peoples Day


"If we had no winter, the spring would not be so pleasant" ~Anne Bradstreet



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Kindly contact us with your feedback and or article suggestions.

We acknowledge that Manitoba is located on the Treaty Territories and ancestral lands of the Anishinaabeg, Anishininewak, Dakota Oyate, Denesuline and Nehethowuk Nations, the ancestral lands of the Inuit, and the homeland of the Red River Métis.