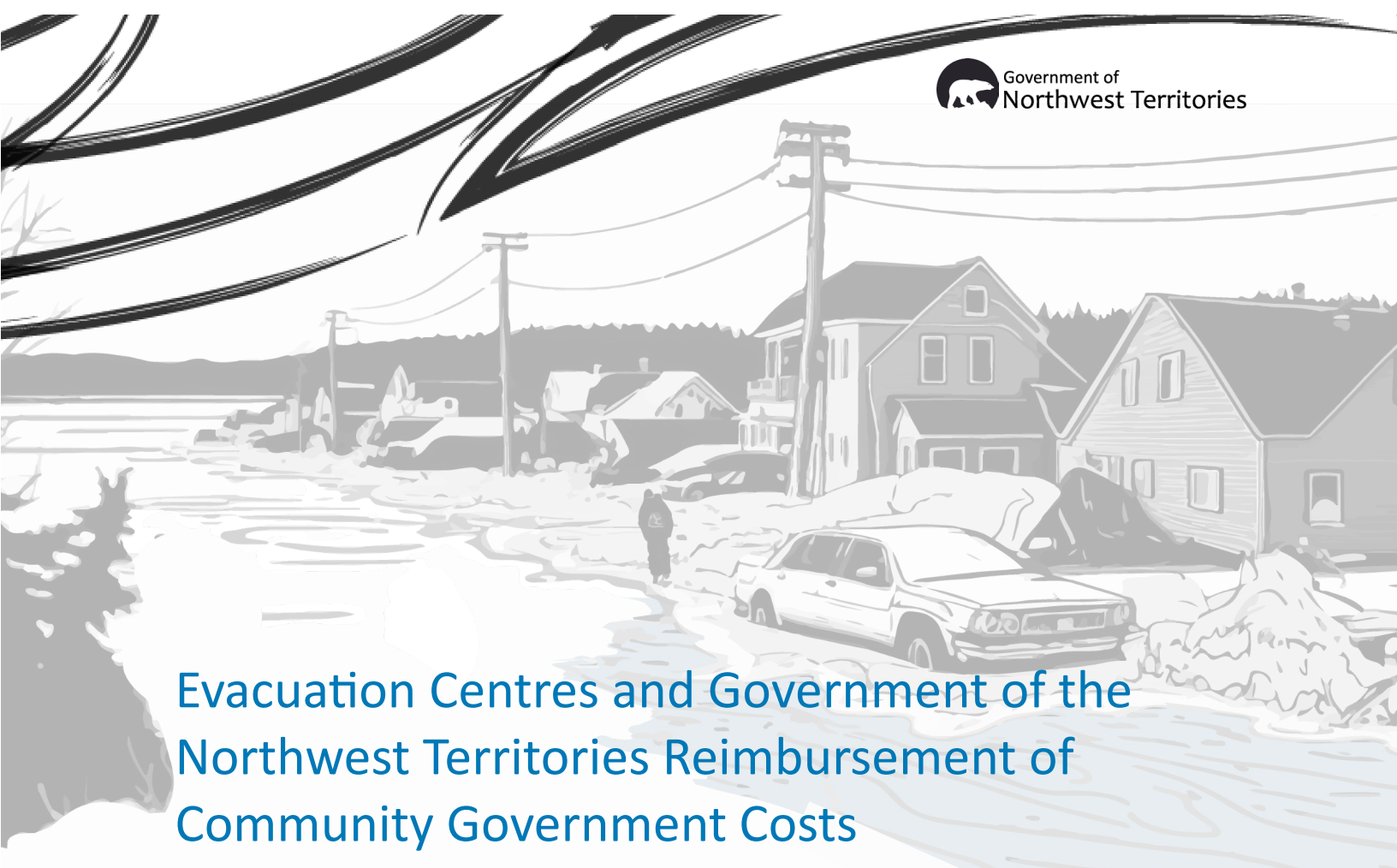




Evacuation Centres and Government of the Northwest Territories Reimbursement of Community Government Costs

The Northwest Territories (NWT) is increasingly facing the possibility of hazards that may threaten the safety and security of residents. The top hazards in the NWT are wildfire, flood, severe weather, transportation incidents and critical infrastructure failure, all of which could lead to an evacuation or partial evacuation of a community.

During evacuation events, while many evacuees will stay with family and friends, some will require support and services. Community government hosting plans describe how individuals who are unable to provide for themselves throughout a community evacuation period will be supported through the establishment of evacuation centres.

- Community Emergency Plans should designate the evacuation centre.
- Evacuation centres are often group lodging facilities, such as school gymnasiums and recreation centres.
- Under the NWT Emergency Plan Annex A – Evacuation and Hosting Guidelines, there are also new options available for hosting.
- Only essential supports are provided, which typically include cots, blankets and food services.
- It is important to ensure that secondary impacts or additional risks are not created by the choice of evacuation centre.

Most community governments in the NWT have plans in place to receive and care for evacuees should a portion of the community require evacuation or evacuees from another community require assistance. Regional centres and Yellowknife have increased capacity to host evacuees from communities. When possible, the host community will be the closest regional centre.

If hosting supports are requested by the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT), the GNWT will reimburse community governments for eligible hosting costs with the required back-up documentation. Reimbursable costs associated with setting up and operating an evacuation centre include:

- Overtime costs for community employees providing hosting services (i.e., setting up cots, registration, operating the evacuation centre);
- Reimbursement of salary for casual staff hired specifically to assist with hosting;
- Contracting costs for services established for the evacuation centre, such as food, laundry, janitorial and security;
- Rental of equipment needed for the evacuation centre; and
- Purchase of essential toiletries (soap, toilet paper) for evacuees.

The following are some examples of expenses are NOT eligible for reimbursement by the GNWT:

- Gift cards or cash allowances;
- Fuel for evacuees;
- Clothing and electronics; and
- Equipment purchased and retained after emergency event.

Community governments in host communities can work with their Regional Emergency Management Coordinators and Regional Superintendents at the Department of Municipal and Community Affairs to confirm the type of documentation required to submit a claim for hosting reimbursement and/or for any questions to determine what additional costs might be reimbursable.

Note: While some individuals may wish to evacuate to locations other than those coordinated by the community government, they do so at their own cost and are expected to provide for their own essential needs.