



# Yukon's Groundwater Program

## Taking action on groundwater

As an outcome of the Yukon Water Strategy, the Government of Yukon established a permanent groundwater unit in the Department of Environment's Water Science and Stewardship. The unit is made up of a Senior Scientist and two

Technologists who, with support from other colleagues:

- administer the Yukon Water Well Registry;
- coordinate the Yukon Observation Well Network;
- technically review projects affecting groundwater that are undergoing environmental assessment, water licencing, or post-licencing processes;
- chair the Groundwater Interdepartmental Working Group (GWIWG), which brings together staff working on groundwater across the whole of Government; and
- partner with First Nations, researchers, municipalities, and others to advance targeted projects.



The Government of Yukon's groundwater team collects a groundwater sample.

## Why is groundwater important?

Most of Earth's available freshwater is groundwater.

Groundwater is water that is found beneath the surface of the Earth in saturated conditions, whether in pores in soil and rock or in fractures and weathered areas of bedrock. Groundwater is an essential source of water in the Yukon for people and for nature. Approximately 97 per cent of Yukoners rely on this resource for their domestic needs and it is essential to many aquatic ecosystems in the territory. Investing in groundwater is critical to avoid groundwater contamination, which is much easier to prevent than to clean-up!

## Ongoing groundwater work

- Improving the groundwater regulatory framework by requiring the submission of water well information and standardizing water well drilling practices and construction standards.
- Strengthening the Yukon Observation Well Network by drilling new wells and repurposing existing wells in strategic locations and by identifying trends as the data record continues to grow.
- Continuing to populate the Yukon Water Well Registry and interpreting the rich data in this growing source of groundwater information.
- Conducting regional groundwater assessments and working towards aquifer mapping and groundwater modeling initiatives in key areas.

### Program Partners

The Government of Yukon's groundwater program has been working in partnership and collaboration with various other Governments and organizations including:

- Kluane First Nation
- Champagne and Aishihik First Nations
- Yukon College
- Association of Yukon Communities
- Environment and Climate Change Canada

### FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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