



Flood Hazard Mapping Public Engagement

What We Heard: Upper Liard

April 2026



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Background

Flooding is becoming more common in the Yukon due to climate change and associated extreme weather events. The Government of Yukon is working to better understand flooding in the territory to help build safer, more resilient communities.

This report summarizes the public input on the draft Flood Hazard Maps prepared for the community of Upper Liard in the Traditional Territory of the Liard First Nation (LFN). The project is being led by the Government of Yukon's Water Science and Stewardship (WSS) branch. The engineering consulting firm, AtkinsRéalis, was retained by WSS to complete the flood mapping study. Input was sought from community members and staff from LFN from February 6 to March 2, 2026.

This 'what we heard' report summarizes feedback and comments we heard regarding the draft maps. Other topics raised during engagement, also summarized in this report, included past impacts from elevated groundwater levels and concerns about the potential for log jams to cause flooding.



Engagement process

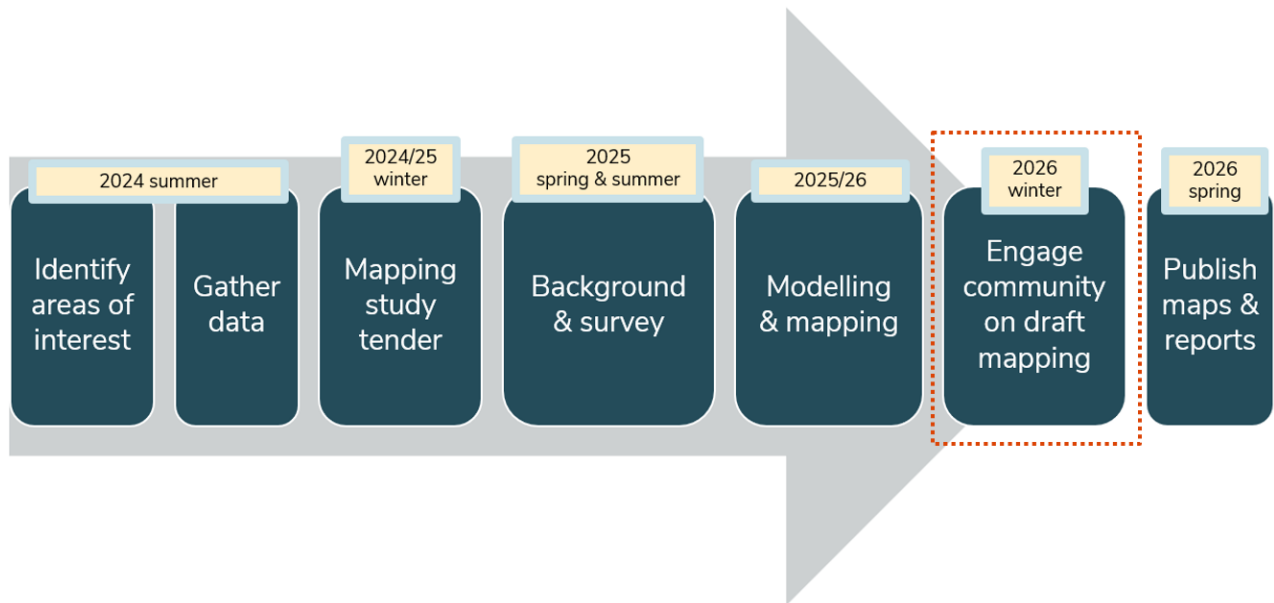
We received feedback from the community through the following engagement methods:

- Online survey from February 6 to March 2, 2026.
- Meetings with LFN staff on February 17, 2026,
- Open house with community members on February 17, 2026.

Purpose

Engagement was completed to gather input on the draft maps that helped inform updates and improvements to the final maps. This engagement followed earlier meetings with LFN staff and local knowledge holders which informed the study scope and analysis.

FIGURE 1: PROJECT OVERVIEW (HIGHLIGHTING STAGE AT WHICH ENGAGEMENT OCURRED)



How we engaged

We engaged the public using the following:

Engagement launch

- The Upper Liard draft flood hazard maps public launch was on February 6, 2026.
- The launch included a [news release](#) on the Government of Yukon website¹ and social media advertisements.
- The news release and advertisements included information about the project, the public open house date, and links to the Yukon Flood Hub website², where the draft maps were published with a survey for online participation.
- The draft maps were shared directly with LFN staff, along with a notification of the on-going public engagement.

Flood Hub

- The Government of Yukon Flood Hub website was updated on February 6. Visitors to the site could view and download the draft maps, complete the online survey and see details on the in-person project open house planned in Watson Lake.

Online survey

- An online public survey was carried out from February 6 to March 2, 2026.

Open houses

- An in-person presentation to community members was held on February 17, 2026.

Government notification

- Hard copies of the draft maps were provided to LFN staff on February 17, 2026.

¹ [Upper Liard draft maps news release](#)

² [Yukon's Flood Hub](#)

Who responded?

The engagement had the following participation:

- There were no respondents to the survey.
- The open house was attended by 13 community members.

What we heard

From the open house, we heard comments on several topics. Respondents included community residents who were present during recent flood events.

Key comments on the draft maps

- Respondents generally confirmed alignment between the maps and their experiences with recent flooding.
- Specific comments were provided about a property that was impacted in 2012 and not in 2022 – this validated the mapping which showed it as impacted in the 1% event (modelled river flow similar to 2012) and not in the 5% event (modelled river flow similar to 2022). For more information read the plain language summary.

How respondents will use information from the maps

- Open house attendees expressed appreciation for the maps and suggested they would be useful for future community planning and emergency preparedness.

Comments related to other types of flooding processes

- Open house attendees recalled parts of the community have been impacted by elevated groundwater levels during flood events.
- One open house attendee expressed concern about the significant log jams that have been observed on the Liard River, and whether there was potential for these to cause flooding.



Next steps

The public engagement on the draft flood hazard maps raised community awareness about the study and provided validation of the draft results.

The project team is thankful to everyone who contributed to this project. This input helped WSS and their technical consultant, AtkinsRéalis, as they finalized the maps.

The Water Science and Stewardship commitments to the community going forward include:

- Informing residents when the final flood hazard maps are released.
- Sharing online the flood extent shapefiles and other data represented on the maps.
- Continuing collaboration with LFN to support interpretation of the flood hazard data in development planning and emergency preparation.

