

TERRITORIAL PLANNING UNIT

Newsletter
SPRING 2024







A WORD FROM OUR DEPARTMENT

Spring is in the air, and with it a handful of exciting updates from the TPU!

From the success of our second annual National Environmental Gathering, to beginning the process of restoring Anishinaabemowin place names, our team had a wonderful winter! We are grateful for the productive engagement with many Treaty #3 members on topics such as climate change, Treaty #3 Guardians programming, and more, and loved seeing the knowledge across the Nation brought together.

As we enter this new season, we are also opening the doors to a number of new projects that will continue to strengthen our relationship with Treaty #3 lands and waters. Continue reading to learn more about what we've been up to!

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(807) 548 4214 tpu@treaty3.ca www.gct3.ca

JOIN THE TPU TEAM

The TPU has a number of openings, check out the list below to see if you or someone you know might be a fit for the team.

We're looking for:



POLICY ADVISOR
MINERAL SECTOR SPECIALIST
REGULATORY INTERN
CULTURAL COORDINATOR
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

To apply:

Email your cover letter, resume, and references to hr@treaty3.ca

MEET OUR NEWEST TEAM MEMBER



Say hello to Lindsay Bain, the new Regulatory Manager!

Boozhoo! Kiiwetin Noodin indizhnikaaz, Makwa indoodem, Waabigonii Zaaga'igan Anishinaabeg indonjii. My name is Lindsay Bain (she/her), and I am a proud Anishinaabe'kwe from Wabigoon Lake Ojibway Nation in Treaty #3 Territory. I'm thrilled to join the TPU team as the Regulatory Manager in Compliance. I am currently completing my final semester at the University of Toronto's Munk School of Global Affairs and Public Policy where I am pursuing a Master of Public Policy, set to graduate in June. My academic focus has been onenergy policy, Indigenous rights, and consent-based siting for development projects involving Indigenous partners

which has been recognized with a SSHRC Canada Graduate Scholarship. My background is in social policy, Indigenous policy, and energy and infrastructure programs with previous work experience in policy consulting, leadership roles, think tanks and non-profits as an analyst and consultant. I'm passionate about grassroots activism (particularly BIPOC, mental health, disability, 2SLGBTQ+ and women's rights), and I'm actively involved in volunteerism. I'm an auntie, a daughter, a sister, and a friend, and I enjoy spending time with family and in community as much as I can. I look forward to contributing to our team and learning from all of you!

Miigwech!

NEWS FROM THE COMPLIANCE TEAM

The Compliance team has had a busy winter with organizing events in the community, planning engagement & education strategies, and organizing sessions for Treaty #3 members, staff at GCT #3, and external organizations that help support a better understanding of Manito Aki Inaakonigewin principles.

Recent Engagement

In one of the more recent engagements, Lindsay visited Waabigonii Zaaga'igan to lead a session on "Upholding Anishinaabe Inakonigaawin in Environmental Planning and Compliance". This focus-group-style session had a great turnout of 20 community members including Elders and youth. Discussions centered around inherent rights, traditional governance, territorial jurisdiction and shared lands, Anishinaabe Knowledge and the role of Ceremony, and the role of Guardians and Stewardship officers in upholding Anishinaabe Inakonigaawin. The information gathered will be used to guide pathways for TPU to strengthen and operationalize Manito Aki Inakonigaawin and community laws through regulatory environments, with external governments and industry, etc.

Another opportunity that allowed the Compliance team to share their work was at the National Environmental Gathering that took place in Niisaachewan Anishinaabe Nation in February. Lindsay and Shy joined the event to discuss their current work and initiatives with attendees, and shared the profound significance of Manito Aki Inaakonigewin and Anishinaabeg Inaakonigewin in environmental protection and stewardship. Their presentation centered the current efforts to develop a Treaty #3 Guardians Program, which is aimed at protecting and safeguarding Treaty #3 territory by Treaty #3 members.

Chi-miigwech again for all those who were able to attend!

Restoring Traditional Place Names through Anishinaabemowin



The opportunity to co-lead a new project centered on Restoring Traditional Place Names through Anishinaabemowin was amazing, with the team supporting engagement sessions, summarizing findings, and jointly creating a roadmap for the future of this project.

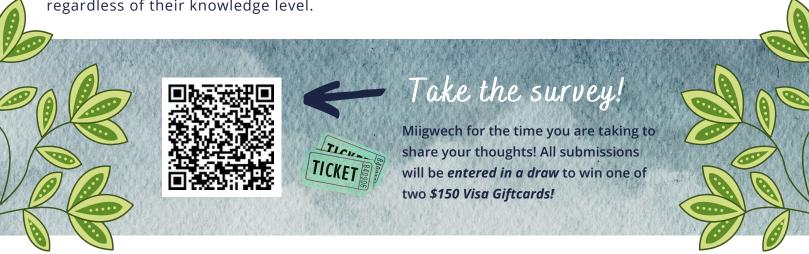
The objective of the project is to revive Indigenous languages and safeguard cultural heritage by fostering meaningful community involvement and is expected to continue full-tilt into the new year.

Future Engagement & Creating an Education Strategy

The Compliance team has been organizing training and educational programs that centre Manito Aki Inaakonigewin. This includes working with both external organizations and other departments at GCT #3. The overall goal for this work is to help those in Treaty #3 and GCT#3 become more knowledgeable of the natural laws that govern all of creation, leading to more respect and better adherence to certain protocols.

The Compliance team and Communications Specialist have begun work to complete a Manito Aki Inaakonigewin communications plan designed to align the strategic goals of the TPU and guidance from leadership. By setting up this plan, the hope is to improve awareness and clearly communicate the values and principles of Manito Aki Inaakonigewin to the Nation and individual communities.

Additionally, the Compliance team invites all Treaty #3 to complete a survey on Manito Aki Inaakonigewin that will help lead to the creation of more education and engagement opportunities in the Nation. We welcome and encourage everyone to take the survey, regardless of their knowledge level.



To help showcase successful adherence to Manito Aki Inaakonigewin, success stories were written that highlight the background and achievements of projects such as BELLFOTS3, Dibaajimowin, and Niiwin Wendaanimok. Having these demonstrated success stories of following Manito Aki Inaakonigewin guidelines helps bring more awareness and encouragement to the Nation.

Lastly, the Compliance team has been engaged in discussions within Nuclear Waste Management Organization meetings, offering insights on regulatory compliance and strategic planning. The contribution of valuable perspectives ensures alignment with regulatory standards and strategic objectives, thereby facilitating informed decision-making processes.



Walks to Honour Nibi

The Compliance team has been organizing and supporting the Spring Nibi Walks, which will bring local opportunities for communities to honour their watershed and water in general, foster community bonds, and raise awareness about the importance of protecting nibi.

Join us on a Nibi Walk in April!

Walk for nibi with us in Kenora, Fort Frances, or Dryden! Please wear your ribbon skirt/attire if you are joining us for the day. You are also encouraged to bring your copper cups, hand drums, rattles, and tobacco.





Kenora April 24th, 2024

April 24th, 2024

Fort Frances

Dryden
April 25th, 2024



Kenora Nibi Walk

April 24th, 2024

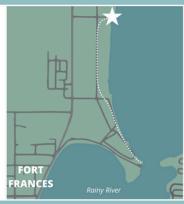
From 10am - 2pm Please meet at the Whitecap Pavilion 1 Bernier Drive, Kenora, Ontario



Fort Frances Nibi Walk

April 24th, 2024

From 10am - 2pm
Please meet at the Nanicost
Building (Gymnasium)
1455 Idylwind Drive, Fort Frances,
Ontario



Dryden Nibi Walk

April 25th, 2024

From 10am - 2pm Please meet at the Royal Canadian Legion 34 Queen St, Dryden, ON P8N 1A1



Have you registered for the 2024 Youth & Elder Gathering?

In June, the TPU is holding a gathering for Youth & Elders across Treaty #3, that will create opportunities for participants to share their insight and knowledge with one another, as well as take part in on-the-land activities. If you intend to join the event, but have not yet registered, please sign up by scanning the QR code or following the registration link:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ZDNH2FZ









June 3-7, 2024 Wauzhushk Onigum Nation

Treaty #3 Youth & Elders are invited to join the Territorial Planning Unit for a week of connecting, sharing knowledge, and learning from one another.

Two (2) Youth & two (2) Elders from each Treaty #3 First Nation will have costs covered to attend.



To register please scan the QR code (or click and hold on mobile) and fill out the form. This event is first come first served, so please be advised your costs may not be covered if the Youth and Elder spots from your community have been filled. If you need assistance with registration, please call Amanda Henry, (807) 548-4214, ext.507.

UPDATES FROM THE POLICY TEAM

Collaboration in the Bush

The final phase of the Collaboration in the Bush project is now complete. Kenora Resource Consultants Inc. and NorthWinds Environmental Services conducted interviews, community meetings, and focus groups that took place over the past few years with many of the First Nation communities in Treaty #3. This has resulted in the preparation of six toolkits to assist communities and community members to navigate the forest management system in Ontario to protect values, build businesses, and meaningfully participate in the forest management planning process. Some toolkits also describe the steps involved for a community to complete an Indigenous Knowledge and Land Use Study.

The Collaboration in the Bush project is part of a larger initiative aimed at gaining insights into the barriers in participation and engagement in the forest sector (i.e. forest management planning) by First Nations in Treaty #3. The input and ideas provided by the First Nation participants in this project will be used to inform a Treaty #3 Forest Sector Strategy.

Mining in Treaty #3

In 2024, the Mineral Development Advisors (MDAs) and Land Managers met twice, February 13th in Kenora; and March 27th in Fort Frances. These meetings give MDA's and Land Managers the opportunity to come together and raise awareness among communities and the TPU about what they see happening on the land when it comes to mining activities and the environment. Meetings provide opportunities for feedback on any number of different issues and topics.

The TPU is currently working on a Mining 101 Guidebook that is tentatively scheduled for release late spring/early summer of 2024. The intent of the Mining 101 Guidebook is to provide Treaty #3 members with a toolkit containing information on: Mining in Treaty #3 including past, present and future; mining legislation and policy basics; stages of the mining process; and supporting informed decision-making (factors to consider with mining projects).

Forest Management Planning Activities

Treaty #3 encompasses 14 Forest Management Units (FMU). Each FMU has a Forest Management Plan (FMP) that is prepared and renewed in 10-year intervals. The newest 10-year plan to come into effect in April 2024 was the Whiskey Jack Forest Management Plan 2024-2034. Planning meetings for this forest unit were completed in the same month. Policy staff participated in the Whiskey Jack Forest planning meetings as well as the Kenora Local Citizen's Committee (LCC).

TPU staff will be guided by the Environmental Chiefs and member communities to decide if there is a need and/or requirement to join additional LCC's and FMU Planning Committees across Treaty #3.

The TPU is continuing research efforts on all 14 FMU's in Treaty #3 and creating files for each. The Policy team carried out the following research:

- Review of independent forest audits
- Analysis of FMU Forest Certification Standards (i.e. SFI, FSC, CSA) to audits
- Historical consultation with Treaty #3 communities
- Annual Work Schedule (AWS) reviews.

Further research will be conducted on Aboriginal Background Information Report's (ABIR) & Protected Values Reports (PVR); Forestry Audits; Proponent Indigenous Policy's; Customized Consultation Approach; and the FMP process.

Wiitanokiindiwin "We Work Together" Policy Working Table

The Wiitanokiindiwin "We Work Together" Policy Working Table is comprised of the Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNRF), Ministry of Mines (MINES) & GCT #3. The purpose of this table is to have an ongoing commitment to work together to facilitate greater participation of Treaty #3 communities in economic development and management opportunities in the natural resources sector in the Treaty #3 territory. GCT #3, MINES and MNRF meet bilaterally and trilaterally two to three times per year.

This commitment also includes forging stronger relationships and partnerships with the Anishinaabe people in Treaty #3. The work of the Table is guided by a Letter of Commitment (LOC) signed by GCT#3 Ogichidaa and MNRF, MINES Ministers. The LOC agrees to:

- Build on the progress made in the working relationships;
- Assist GCT #3 in developing capacity for greater participation by Treaty #3 communities in economic development opportunities; and
- Support communication and networking to facilitate pragmatic approaches to economic development and management in the natural resources sector in the Treaty #3 territory.

In Situ Decommissioning of the Whiteshell Reactor #1

UPDATE: On November 6 or 7, 2024, the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission (CNSC) will hold a public meeting at which CNSC staff will present the Regulatory Oversight Report (ROR) for Canadian Nuclear Laboratories Sites: 2023 to the Commission. The ROR provides an overview of the CNSC's regulatory efforts related to licensed Canadian Nuclear Laboratories sites in 2023, including: Whiteshell Laboratories in Pinawa, Manitoba. For information on how to participate, please contact:

Gabrielle Gracey - Indigenous Engagement Officer Canadian Nuclear Laboratories

gabrielle.gracey@cnl.ca

Improving Water Level Regulation for First Nations

Since November, the TPU Policy team has met with five First Nations along Rainy Lake and Lake of the Woods to discuss regulation of water levels. We learned that communities expect to participate in regulation as equal partners on a treaty-based, Nation-to-Nation relationship with the Governments of Canada and the United States of America. Elders emphasized the need to recover Anishinaabe Nibi Inaakonigewin, the sacred water law of the Anishinaabe, to guide water regulation. This project has been funded by the International Joint Commission and the final report will appear in May

If your community has been effected by hydro dams, you still have time to participate in this study. Please contact <u>johann.strube@treaty3.ca</u> to learn more or schedule a community engagement session.



Treaty #3 Climate Strategy / ICL

The Policy team is facilitating the creation of a Treaty #3 Climate Strategy. The strategy aims to:



Outline the Nation's priorities for climate change adaptation and mitigation



Establish Treaty #3 climate governance



Showcase community-specific projects, challenges, and stories



Provide resources for First Nations and Treaty #3 leadership

So far, we have held initial engagements and coordinated with other First Nation organizations and the Government of Canada on how to reform Federal climate funding to benefit First Nations. This work is funded by Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) and Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada (CIRNAC).

If you work on climate-related projects in your community, we want to hear from you! Contact <u>johann.strube@treaty3.ca</u> to learn more.

Treaty #3 Energy and Capacity Building

In partnership with the GCT #3 Economic Unit, the Policy team coordinates with Ontario's Ministry of Energy, the Independent Electricity System Operator (IESO), and industry to identify opportunities and risks related to the energy sector. GCT3 has received funding from IESO to increase capacity within First Nations to shape the energy sector in Treaty #3. To this end, we will organize energy-related training for First Nations, and facilitate the creation of a Treaty #3 Energy Strategy that expresses the common vision of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3 and outlines opportunities and risks of the energy market for First Nations to consider.

Currently, the TPU and Economic teams are working together to plan an Energy Symposium, which will bring together knowledge from across the territory and provide a space to continue discussions on the the Treaty #3 Energy Strategy as a Nation.

Policy Screening, Review, and Commenting

The Policy team completes policy screening, review and commenting on behalf of GCT #3. This is guided by the values and protocols of Manito Aki Inaakonigewin and the Nibi Declaration, recognizing the significance of Treaty #3's connection to the land and water. The Policy team works with all other TPU departments as well as Treaty #3 leadership (Environmental Chiefs and individual community leadership), to ensure that:



Proposed policy will not infringe on Inherent and Treaty rights of the Anishinaabe Nation in Treaty #3



Government and proponents are following the Manito Aki Inaakonigewin protocols



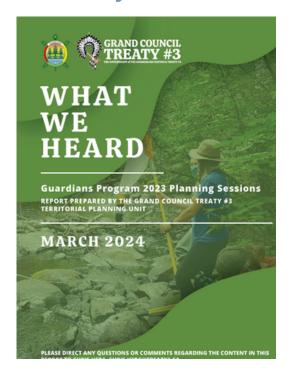
Government and proponents are correctly carrying out responsibilities under duty to consult protocols



Communication is effective and frequent, and issues are being dealt with in a timely manner

STEWARDSHIP NEWS & UPDATES

The Treaty #3 Guardians Program



Across 2023-2024, The TPU gathered valuable input and direction from Treaty #3 members through regional engagement sessions, Land Managers meetings, community meetings, and the Treaty #3 National Environmental Gathering. The TPU has created a What We Heard Report that summarizes the direction given for a Treaty #3 Guardians Program that focuses on long-term environmental monitoring, cultural revitalization, and Manito Aki Inaakonigewin compliance and enforcement. The What We Heard Report can be found on the GCT3 website, access it using the QR code or link below.



Scan to view or download the What We Heard report!

The report is available on the GCT #3 website, you can also access by clicking here.

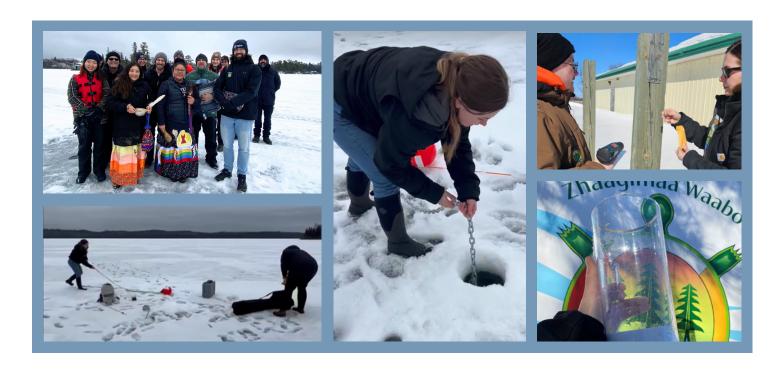
The TPU will continue with engagement for the development of the Guardians Program this year and hold individual community engagement sessions, meetings with community leadership, and get broader input across Treaty #3 through an online Guardians Survey which can be accessed by scanning the QR code below.

If you are interested in learning more and having a Treaty #3 Guardians Planning session held for your community please contact chris.herc@treaty3.ca



Environmental Monitoring Update

Over the fall and winter, the TPU continued to engage with Treaty #3 communities regarding the environmental monitoring priorities and concerns of communities. TPU staff distributed and installed precipitation gauges in some Treaty #3 communities to collect long-term rain and snow data across the territory. In addition, the TPU is in the process of acquiring 3 research-grade weather stations to distribute in gap areas across the territory to better understand long-term climate changes in Treaty #3 and to help Treaty #3 communities lessen climate change impacts. The TPU continued baseline water monitoring and sampling activities throughout the winter around the Lake of the Woods and has been working on deploying long-term water monitoring stations. If you would like your community to participate in the Community-Based Monitoring Program to monitor water and climate, please contact Laine Fyke at laine.fyke@treaty3.ca



The TPU monitoring staff has started preparing for the upcoming field-monitoring season. Planning has begun for projects including the continuation of testing for zebra mussels through collecting water samples from Treaty #3 communities and other areas identified as high-risk based on previous years' results; mapping presence of invasive Phragmites and collecting leaf samples for DNA confirmation; acquiring three seasonally-fixed watercraft invasive species eradication stations (multi-year project); creating a Treaty #3 specific invasive species identification guide, in English and Anishinaabemowin; and, biocontrol of a major purple loosestrife growing location by introducing *Neogalerucella spp* beetles to consume the invasive plants. To report invasive species sightings in Treaty #3 or to learn more about how you can participate in invasive species monitoring please contact Michaela Novak at Michaela.Novak@treaty3.ca

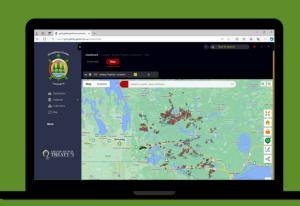
UPDATES FROM THE GIS TEAM

Fall and winter were busy seasons for the TPU, and the GIS team was right in the thick of it! Here are some of the main highlights from the past few months.

Treaty #3 Geoportal News

After some considerations, the Geoportal has now been split into two sides: The public and the private. Currently the public side is open to anyone and gives visitors access to publicly available, nonsensitive, data and documents. Here you will be able to view and download different GIS files, maps, and project outlines. This portal is still in its infancy so if you notice areas where improvements could be made, don't hesitate to reach out to:

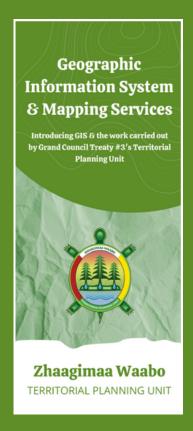








While the private side of the Geoportal is still under development, we are happy to have the public side available for people to access and download non-sensitive data.



GIS News & Announcements

We have also created a pamphlet that outlines what GIS is and how it is used in real-world scenarios, and provides a checklist on the information needed in making a map request. Keep an eye out for a copy of these pamphlets at the next event you attend. We are also excited to announce that in the near future, we will be welcoming a GIS Intern to the team, who will be helping to fulfil even more data and map requests to the communities and people of Treaty #3.

Get involved!

Are you interested in data covering your area? Do you have a map request? If so, or if you have any questions about GIS or how GIS can help you with your project, feel free to send an email to our GIS Specialist, raeshawn.parsons@treaty3.ca.

TRAPPING NEWS

An update from "Wanii'igewin" the Trapping Centre

Presently; the Treaty #3 Trapping Harmonization Agreement (THA) with MNRF expired March 31, 2024. The Treaty #3 Trapping committee and Territorial Planning unit at Grand Council Treaty 3 are in the process of discussing the renewal of the THA. The renewal of the THA will be brought to the Environmental Chiefs for direction on the renewal of the agreement between Treaty #3 and OMRF.

The primary objective of this agreement is to harmonize the administration of trapping and furbearer management between MNRF and Treaty #3 Trappers.



Canada Ontario Resource Development Agreement (CORDA)



CORDA is an agreement between Canada, Ontario and First Nations members in Ontario. It promotes resource and economic development initiatives of First Nations members by providing financial assistance to develope and utilize renewable natural resources.

2024-25 Applications for this funding have been reviewed and the successful applants will be notified. The deadline for CORDA applications is usually the first Monday in October, but in some good news, the deadline date has been extended to the first Monday in November for 2024!

If you have any questions regarding CORDA, the THA, or Trapping within Treaty #3, you can contact:

Dave Lindsay - Trapping Director

<u>dave.lindsay@treaty3.ca</u>

Office: (807) 548-4214 ext. 203

Cell: (807) 464-0018

EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT UPDATES

Planning & Response



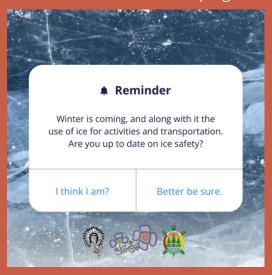
The Emergency Management team worked closely with Treaty #3 communities and regional partners to provide assistance and guidance with the cold winter months and the spring thaw throughout fall-spring 2023-2024. The team quickly responded to sudden flooding in February 2024 caused by the sudden warm temperatures and deployed sump pumps in preparation for rising ground water levels.

As we focused on strengthening partnerships, we continued to meet with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry's Indigenous Relations and Partnerships team. Both parties continue to collaborate on training opportunities for Treaty #3 communities. The team also continues to meet with CE Strategies in collaboration on the 911 and Flood Mapping projects for Treaty #3 communities.

The TPU Emergency Management Coordinator and the Health Emergency Management Coordinator travelled to Gatineau, Quebec to attend the Assembly of First Nations 2nd Annual Emergency Management Forum. At this forum, our team members were able to network and learn from other First Nations leaders in Emergency Management. TPU Emergency Management team also assisted the Health Emergency Management team with the delivery of our Emergency Accessibility Vehicles to host communities.

To advocate for emergency preparedness the team collaborated with the Health Emergency Management team to provide awareness and educational campaigns throughout the season.





The 12 Days of Fire Safety, Winter Preparedness holiday tips, and new warning memos for flood risks and unsafe ice roads are some of the campaigns they worked on this year.



As spring is upon us, the emergency management team has been working to ensure all deployable devices are ready for re-deployment. Deployable devices available include: air purifiers, generators, water pumps & hoses, log splitters, suppression tools, and more.

911 & Infrastructure Mapping Project

Starting in 2022, Grand Council Treaty #3 has been leading the 911 and Infrastructure Mapping project which is an ongoing initiative to complete infrastructure mapping in communities across Treaty #3 to support emergency services and planning. In collaboration with member communities, tribal councils, and local mapping experts CE Strategies, the project has included drone flights for aerial imagery acquisition, infrastructure and address mapping, as well as traditional knowledge interviews with community Elders and land users to inform flood risk assessments.

As of 2024, a total of 24 communities have signed on to the project. With a busy field season in 2022 & 2023, data collection is now complete in 23 of those 24 communities!

Several communities are now in the process of cutting over to the new Next Generation 9-1-1 system of emergency services communication, an important step to improve emergency response times and 911 call routing throughout the territory.

We would like to thank each of the participating communities for their hard work and cooperation in the scheduling and data validation process, and look forward to continuing this ongoing support for future planning and emergency management.



EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS WEEK

May 5th - 11th 2024

Emergency preparedness starts with YOU!

Although the consequences of various emergencies and natural disasters can be similar, it is important that you understand the unique risks in your community. Knowing the unique risks that your community may face is crucial for effective emergency preparation!



TERRITORIAL PLANNING UNIT

Staff Contact List

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Feel free to reach out to the TPU for any inquiries on our work!

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